HAIL TO THE CHIEF
North Minneapolis’ Sara Hollie named chief public health officer of Ramsey County

Page 8

Sara Hollie started a new job as head of Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health.
Photo by David Pierini

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Letter from the Editor, Harry Colbert, Jr.

You can’t put a price on peace. For a year and a half, I (we) have been in a state of chaos. We have been in a state of ills. It’s no coincidence that disease and ills share the same spelling. When you’re at all-seeing, you’re sick. You’re sick. The mental affects the physical.

But for the first time in a long time I am at peace. As a community we seem to be at peace. The ills remain and must be continually addressed, but they seem to have eased a bit. Yes, COVID still exists, but we’re working hard as a community to eradicate this insidious virus. The community is still at odds with police violence and how to properly address it. There are several differing opinions on how to address it, but with one notable exception (the unfortunate altercation between Minneapolis Councilman Anderson [garden and community activism], the conversations around policing have been civil. And the nights have been quiet. The shootings have lessened. The evening air is calm. The peace we feel in community is reflected within this edition of North News. Hopefully you will enjoy this month’s offering from our new award-winning publication. We thank you for reading and look forward to more peaceful, powerful and uplifting editions to come.

Together in community, Harry.

NORTH NEWS

NEWS

NORTH MINNEAPOLIS at a glance

North News brings home four SPJ “Page One” awards

North News walked away with four Minneapolis Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) “Page One” awards for its 2020 coverage.

North News was awarded first place Page Design for its “Boundless Waters” story and spread (Aug. 28, 2020) and first place for Best Social Media Account for the publication’s Facebook page.

David Pierini earned awards for both writing and photography. Pierini’s photos of Malinda Xiong, Miss Hmong Minneapolis (Feb. 28, 2020), and Sustainable North Minneapolis Councilor Andrea Jenkins (April 30, 2020 [online]) earned second place honors in the Best Portrait Photography category and his stories on youth hooligan on the Northside (Jan. 31, 2020), and profiles on Ankh Henderson — comedian pushed into community advocacy — following last summer’s uprisings (July 31, 2020) and peace activist K.G. Wilson (Sept. 29, 2020) garnered third place award for feature writing.

Journalists from the Los Angeles Press Club judged this year’s SPJ “Page One” contest. Professional and student stories run in North Minneapolis News were distributed in September at an event at Fenway’s Central Park.

During these challenging times, NorthPoint’s Behavioral Health providers are here to support you. With appointments now available by phone, people seek support for:

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- Inpatient and outpatient care

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INSIDE OUR "O" Deep Roots, delicious vegetables

By David Pierini, Staff Reporter

Visitors on July 10 plucked ripe eggplant and stripped beans off their stalks in the state-of-the-art transformation of a new community garden at 2310 Lyndale Ave. N.

A vacuum in a local community, one year after the site was a vacant lot. Youth Farm and art-student Jordan Valeski transformed the space, which includes a rain garden, boulders ideal for sitting and two mirrored basketball-hoop-like sculptures that collect water for a pivot garden mound.

Organic kale, carrots, herbs, vegetables and wildflowers. Youth Farm organized local youth to help care for the garden.

From vacant lot to art and fresh vegetables, the Deep Roots Community Garden flourishes at 2310 Lyndale Ave. N.
Yes 4 Minneapolis gets public safety model on the ballot

By David Pierot, Staff Reporter

There’s a long history of scholarship and discussion among intellectuals and civil rights activists around the concept of defunding American police departments. But the idea picked up mainstream momentum in 2020 in the wake of the video of George Floyd dying beneath the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, which went viral and shocked the world.

Now, a proposal that could bring Minneapolis one step closer to that idea has reached the ballot stage. The ballot initiative seeks to remove a long-standing police department by changing charter provisions that allow the mayor to fire the police chief and allowing the city council to redirect money from the police department to other programs.

The ballot initiative removes an negotiations under what is required by law.

The violence has created political momentum in 2020 when a cellphone video of George Floyd dying beneath the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, which went viral and shocked the world. Now, a proposal that could bring Minneapolis one step closer to that idea has reached the ballot stage. The ballot initiative seeks to remove a long-standing police department by changing charter provisions that allow the mayor to fire the police chief and allowing the city council to redirect money from the police department to other programs.

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continued
West Broadway business owner bus land, hopes to raise salon from the ashes

By David Pinelli, Staff Reporter

Flores Westbrooks, whose West Broadway Ave. beauty salon burned down during the unrest following the police murder of George Floyd, said June 25, 2021, she didn’t come this far to hold into a piece of land. I want to rebuild and rebuild big.

Westbrooks faces a multi-billion dollar judgment, a trial and appeal. The City of Minneapolis has moved to sell the neighboring property on which it sued YP Corp., an unrelated company that owns and operates the former Purple Plaza parking lot.

When asked how she plans to raise money to buy the land, Westbrooks said she is planning to sell two things: her hair and her beauty. She said she is looking for a partner who will share the risk of buying the land and helping to fund her beauty salon.

Westbrooks said she is not looking for a quick fix. She said she plans to put in a lot of work to make the land a reality.

Westbrooks said she is not looking for a quick fix. She said she plans to put in a lot of work to make the land a reality.
New Ramsey County public health chief brings Northside values to the job

By David Pierini, Staff Reporter

Robert Hollie understood he would not see his daughter grow up. A relentless non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma infused urgency into the fatherly wisdom he dispensed in nightly talks with his little girl. Work hard. Get a good education. Remember where you came from and thank the people who helped you along the way. Always serve your community.

Sara Hollie lost her father before her 12th birthday, but not before he set her feet upon a path. She absorbed the advice of the father and of teachers, coaches and other relatives, not knowing that serving her community would one day put her squarely in front of a historic pandemic.

Sara Hollie, who continues to live in the very North Minneapolis that raised her, was recently named director of Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health. The promotion, which took effect July 26, comes after she co-led a team to address impacts of COVID-19 on the county’s racially and ethnically diverse communities.

Now in her 17th year in public health, Hollie moves into a corner office with a large desk and a title that comes with a certain amount of power. But power is most transformative when it is shared with a team and with community members most impacted by county policies, she said. Leadership, Hollie’s kind, will not be done with a fist but with sensitive ears and a tender heart.

“This is your health department,” Hollie said, referring to taxpayers. “I may be leading the health department, guiding it, figuring out how to get new ideas, encouraging staff to be innovative and engaging in difficult conversations. There’s a way of doing things that is more community centered, more community driven.

“I really want to make sure people not only understand public health, but also how they can own it,” said Hollie.

The new director set her sights on a career in health care not long after her father’s cancer diagnosis. She asked questions each time he returned from doctors appointments, spent as much time with him as possible when he was hospitalized and observed the many health care professionals who helped with in-home care.

Sara Hollie was always a part of the care plan, her mother, Donna Hollie said. She was inspired by her father’s gentle care providers and alarmed over relatives who shied away from doctor’s visits because of negative experiences. This put her in earnest pursuit of becoming a doctor one day.

Hollie graduated from North High School in 2000 and with the encouragement of teachers, like Natalie Rasmussen, excelled in the school’s Summatech program. From there, Hollie enrolled at the University of Minnesota. She majored in women’s studies.

Sara Hollie’s North Minneapolis story guides her as she serves the public health needs of Ramsey County. Photo by David Pierini

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From Olympic Trials to Olympic dreams: New pool in North gets warm welcome

By David Pierini, Staff Reporter

The 50-meter swimming pool is paid for but it remains boxed, wrapped and in pieces.

So Erika Binger, the founder of V3 Sports, was hosting a public event and had to come up with a replacement for the usual ribbon cutting ceremony. Thus, the unveiling of a starting block on July 14 was an apt beginning to transform not only an old warehouse at 701 Plymouth Ave. N., but the lives of untold numbers of North Minneapolis residents.

Many will learn to swim. Some will dare to dream of standing on a starting block in future Olympics. V3 Sports and Northsiders welcomed the arrival of what is just the third 50-meter swimming pool in Minnesota. The pool comes complete with history. In June it was used in Omaha, Neb., for the U.S. Olympic time trials, so its delay in getting to Minneapolis was understandable.

Binger founded the nonprofit V3 Sports in 2007 to teach kids to swim and train for triathlons. At the time the only year-round pool in North had just closed and Binger began dreaming of a center where local residents could learn to swim.

Some 64 percent of Black children have no or low ability to swim, compared to 40 percent of white children, according to a recent study conducted by USA Swimming. Black children drown at three times the overall rate, according to that study, disparities directly linked to racism and a lack of public pools in communities of color.

Early this summer, a young boy drowned after climbing a fence to cool off in the outdoor swimming pool at North Commons Park.

"The young man was simply trying to cool off on the first hot day of the summer," Calvin Littlejohn, whose Northside construction company will help build the V3 community center. "Never again, should our kids have to pay with their life."

Littlejohn said he grew up without ever learning to swim and he made a vow to learn once the pools are in place.

In 2017, V3 purchased land and the building that once housed Muscle Bound Bindery. Two years later, the organization bought a 25-yard instructional pool and land claim to the pool used for the Olympic trials.

The smaller pool is set for installation sometime next year, but V3 will need to raise about $30 million to construct the aquatic center to eventually house the 50-meter pool.

Binger said a larger V3 Community Center will "create a pathway and be a beacon of hope." V3 founder Erika Binger told the crowd the pool could be a "beacon of hope" for North Minneapolis youth to achieve "Olympic-sized dreams."

"I saw records being broken. I saw young people prepared for opportunity," Champion said. "But more than that, we're giving an opportunity. In Minneapolis, we deserve this as much as any other community."

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COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance is available to all Minnesotans who qualify. You could receive up to 15 months total assistance for:
- Rent payments
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Apply today. Visit renthelpmn.org or call 211.
Welcome home

Unique home made of shipping containers is first of its kind in Minneapolis

By Harry Colbert, Jr., Editor-In-Chief

Somewhere in a shipyard a couple of old rusty shipping containers were plucked from obscurity and given a second chance at life. They now sit in North Minneapolis and will soon after another family’s first chance at a fresh start.

The containers – five in total – now form a two-story home on Irving Avenue North in the Jordan neighborhood. The home is the first built in the Twin Cities.

The modern home is unique both because of its look and because of its environmental footprint as it is designed to a Department of Zero Energy Ready Home standard. That was important to the home’s builder, 33-year-old Dave Schiller, owner of Paragon Designs.

“The aspect of being green and repurposing something is what drew me to the idea of creating a container home,” said Schiller. A former resident of North Minneapolis, Schiller said he was intentional about the placement of the one-of-a-kind home.

“Back when I was looking for a location for this home I saw there was an abundance of vacant lots in North Minneapolis – a lot due to the tornado that came through in 2011 – and the lots were owned by the city. This lot is right next to the Boys and Girls Club (Jerry Gamble branch of Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities) and I think it’s really cool to have this home right next to that,” said Schiller.

To further endear the home to the neighborhood Schiller planted 10 apple trees in an adjacent lot that he hopes will soon provide daily community snacks.

So, what’s in store for the home’s future owner?

The two-story home made of four 40-foot shipping containers and one 20-foot container offers three bedrooms and two full baths. The unfinished basement comes with washer and dryer. The detached garage offers two parking stalls. The main level is an open concept design with a center island stove and butcher block countertops. The home is on the market for $280,000.

To ensure neighborhood stability there are stipulations for whomever buys the home. The purchaser must agree to occupy the home for at least five years and their income must fall within 80 percent of the average median income. Those stipulations were a part of Paragon’s land acquisition from the city.

Did you age out of foster care during the pandemic?

You may be able to re-enter care and continue receiving financial benefits through September 2021.

Contact your county or tribal caseworker to learn if this option is available to you. For more information, email dhs_csp_adolescents@state.mn.us

P: 612-964-2386  E: DevondaScott@kw.com

Are you or someone you know looking to buy or sell a home? Contact me today to turn your dreams into reality.

The redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a large-scale, community-building asset in North Minneapolis.

The Upper Harbor Development Team is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified community-based organizations to collectively and collaboratively ensure the project reflects the values of the Northside Community.

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
An Invitation to Community Partners for the Redevelopment of Upper Harbor

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUG. 15TH, 2021

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY AUG. 15TH, 2021
Email EOIs and questions to uhtinfo@uproperties.com
Visit upperharbormpls.com for more information.
Burger King leaves bad taste with abandoned West Broadway site

By David Pietri, Staff Reporter

The Burger King Corporation says it is working to clean up 818 West Broadway, a wreck of an eyesore since a bankrupt franchisee abandoned it in 2018. Since being shuttered, the trash-strewn site with overgrown bushes has been the site of drug activity, shootings and other illegal activities. But after persistent email complaints from local residents, the fast food chain issued a statement promising action to regularly clean up the site and eventually restore it to a working restaurant.

An abandoned Burger King restaurant on West Broadway Avenue has been the source of residents’ complaints and a magnet for dubious activities. Photo by David Pietri

The city’s Community Planning and Economic Development did not respond to a request by North News for comment.

Niki Carlson, who lives near the Burger King, was part of the email campaign to get Burger King to address the West Broadway site. At one point, a Burger King official indicated the site was cleaned up.

Carlson continued to press, regularly attaching current pictures of the site to her emails to RBI and an unnamed Burger King spokesman who agreed the problem “doesn’t put the brand in the best light.”

Carlson said Burger King has been “very responsive,” and has asked her to be an observer to ensure the site is cleaned up. Carlson said Burger King has been especially active since the February 2020 edition of North News chronicled complaints and a magnet for dubious activities.

“After learning of the current issue this is causing the community, we are in the process of contracting a vendor to clean the location from debris twice a week. Simultaneously, we have selected and are working with a potential franchisee to re-open this location.”

A handful of Burger King restaurants in the Twin Cities were closed in 2019 for the restaurant reopened. The city to operate a drive thru once with the fast food chain issued a 20-year triple net lease for a Burger King chain, Restaurant Brands International (RBI), signaled an interest in operating a Burger King on West Broadway. The owner of the fast food chain, P3, went bankrupt. The owner of the restaurant on West Broadway, a franchisee, P3, shut down the property in 2018 after the franchisee, P3, was sold. The owner of the former Burger King, was part of the email campaign to get Burger King to address the West Broadway site.

“Any long term goal is to re-open a Burger King restaurant at this location,” an unnamed Burger King spokesman said in an email to North News. “After learning of the current issue this is causing the community, we are in the process of contracting a vendor to clean the location from debris twice a week. Simultaneously, we have selected and are working with a potential franchisee to re-open this location.”

U.S. Bank celebrates remodeled West Broadway branch

U.S. Bank celebrated the grand re-opening of its West Broadway branch located at 1030 West Broadway Ave. The branch features a new look and feel along with design enhancements. The remodeled branch includes re-forecasted offices for one-on-one consultations along with an updated teller line. A new interactive teller machine (ITM) is available where customers can cash checks with their choice of denominations, make deposits, pay accounts online and more. The branch café offers coffee and additional beverages for customers. Updates were also made to one outside of the branch.

U.S. Bank partnered with North Minneapolis youth arts organization Juxtaposition Arts to create murals inside and outside of the branch that reflect the culture, people and businesses that make up the community.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the branch incorporates design changes focused on protecting the health of customers and employees, including plexiglass barriers, anti-microbial surfaces, and signage to encourage social distancing. The branch also has a drive-up teller station and drive-up and walk-up ATMs. U.S. Bank partnered with North Minneapolis youth arts organization Juxtaposition Arts to create murals inside and outside of the branch that reflect the culture, people and businesses that make up the community.

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The West Broadway branch was one of three branches damaged as a result of civil unrest last summer. The branches at Emerson and West Broadway Avenues are once again open for business. Photo courtesy of U.S. Bank

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talented, she went back to school for a master’s degree in public health as a MacArthur Fellow and began her career with the Minnesota Department of Health. "I was still in a medical school frame of mind but I was ready into policy change," Hollie said. “I don’t care what or how but I’m ready to get their second dose," said Wilson.

Mobile Vaccine
Continued from page 5

a lot of the brochures and materials didn’t exist then but I couldn’t name it,” Hollie said. “I guess I was all about public health, including reproductive rights. And wrote several papers on women’s health in general, it’s all about education and how you present the information.”

Continued from page 4

"People don’t know that before George Floyd, Chauvin did this (to another person)," Fullman said. “We're not going to have someone come and tell us what they want,” Fullman said. “When we’re talking about this virus, the vaccines and distrust rooted in racism. Some job openings include Full- certified Crisis Counselors, HIV Recovery Coaches who are mentors that Ramsey County is equal in friendly confines, like churches and a local groups to organize vaccine events in friendly confines, like churches and a June 11 celebration there. She has a home in Willard Hay and being around her large extended family there. She has a home in Willard Hay and thousands listen to the host of “Know Your Options” is a new show that airs on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. Hollie’s Northside, in a sense, guides her work, much like a co-pilot. She grew up nesting North Minneapolis is full of unrecognized beauty and brilliance. Her home too often is viewed through a median lens that sees only pain, poverty and violence and this makes her aware of how such perceptions impact the health of the community. Hollie knows from her hometown mentors that Ramsey County is equal in unsung talent who know best what their communities need to be healthy. Hollie’s excitement for these relationships is palpable as she sits, not behind her of- fice desk, but at a small recently table sur- rounded with chairs. The people asked to sit in these chairs will have Hollie’s atten- tion and respect. “It’s a lot easier for me to have faith when I understand the power of the people that want to make a difference around power,” she said. “It was instilled in me by my family. There was no expectation that you live your life as a person of integrity who exhibits em- pathy and care. They modeled that for me. My father was somebody in the communi- ty that people come to. He was a resource. My mom is such a strong woman who in- stilled in me that you can be strong and caring. You have a responsibility to your community to give back.”

Sara Hollie after receiving her first COVID-19 vaccine. Scott Paul/Ramsey County Public Health photo.
Renee Nasser, Associate of Science, Sarah Joy Lynch, Associate of Arts, Liberal Psychology Transfer Pathway; Pheadra Johnson Honors; Siham Jama Hashi, Associate of Arts, Liberal Education, with Honors; Vanessa Christine Weaver, Associate of Arts, Psychology Transfer Pathway, with Honors; Whitney Nicole Wright-Hadley, Associate of Arts, Liberal Education, with Honors; and Whitney Nicole Wright-Hadley, Associate of Science, Criminal Justice Transfer Pathway, with Honors.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT
National Night Out: The Folwell Neighborhood Association is promoting National Night Out, Aug. 3. The association is offering $500 stipends to all black Party hosts.

campus craft market: The traveling Minneapolis Craft Market will be a stop at the North Market parking lot at 4414 North 4th Ave. with a special National Night Out marketplace on Aug. 3 from 8 a.m. Shop for unique items made by some of the most talented artists in North. Giant yard sale: United Faith Pentecostal Church will host a giant yard sale on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The church address is 1159-Adelph Ave. N. Call Nicole at 763-845-2624 for more information.

dream opening: The Dream Shop, a consignment shop featuring handcrafted gifts from Northside artists, will hold its grand opening Aug. 20 and 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Dream Shop is the creation of entrepreneur Marta Smith. Resources and ice cream: The Folwell Neighborhood Association is hosting its annual resource fair and ice cream social, Aug. 24 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Folwell Park. All residents are invited to enjoy ice cream, and meet with representatives of businesses, educational resources, churches and social services available in North Minneapolis. There will be games, entertainment and food available. There will also be backpacks loaded with school supplies everyone ready for the school year.

anime anyone?: The Folwell Neighborhood Association hosts an anime club every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Folwell Park. All anime enthusiasts, young and old, can join the club for viewing, drawing, sharing and talking.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
free rain barrels: Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is giving away free rain barrels and conversion kits this summer in partnership with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The barrels hold 55 gallons of water and are 4 ft tall and 1.5 ft in diameter. A rain barrel is one of the simplest ways to save water and help protect the watershed. The biggest threat to waterways today is runoff pollution that runs off roofs and streets and into lakes, streams and rivers. Installing a rain barrel is one of the simplest but powerful ways to make a big difference for waterways, to help save a lawn and garden. Email sdowney@fmr.org to reserve a barrel and kit. FMR will share where and when to pick up the kit. A virtual workshop will walk residents through the steps of assembling and installing the rain barrel. To qualify, you must live in the M/W/MO watershed (which if you qualify at unmw.org). Black, Indigenous, and People of Color applicants are especially encouraged to sign up.

Lunch at library: Minneapolis Public Schools is offering free lunch for kids and teens every Tuesday through Friday this summer at the Webber Park Library. Lunch is served on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. All food is wrapped according to COVID-19 precautions. Parents and caregivers can for a meal to bring to a child. Kids are welcome to take the meal home or sit outside to eat.

home improvement help: Rebuilding Together Twin Cities is accepting applications for home improvement projects for low income residents. If you are interested in no-cost home repairs and modifications, call 651-776-0606 or visit https://rebuildingtogether-twincities.org/

Food distribution: The Camden Collective and the Karmen Foundation sponsor a weekly food pickup every Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. in the Salem Lutheran Church Parking Lot, 4150 Dupont Ave. N. Each box contains a meal kit that includes produce, proteins, spices and recipes. Walk-ups are welcome.

Radio updates in your language: Tune into Minneapolis’s cultural radio program, COVID-19 updates by K Pride is broadcasting updates on KM1 89.9 FM (English), La Radio 99.7 FM (Somali), KALY 101.7 FM (Somali) and W005 AM 1280 (Hmong).

Embrace the opportunity to provide a meal kit that includes produce, proteins, spices and recipes. Walk-ups are welcome.
Your neighborhood bank is here to stay.

We’ve just reopened the branch at 1030 West Broadway with the help of some local artists.

U.S. Bank knows there’s still much work to be done after last year’s protests — so we’re also committing $100 million to bring capital and opportunity directly to the communities that need it most.

Find out more about the commitment we’re making to the neighborhoods of our home city, at usbank.com/diversity