

NORTH NEWS

August 27, 2021

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

www.mynorthnews.org

TRUMPETING SUCCESS

Page 16

North Minneapolis HBCU-styled marching band gets in formation just 10 days after first picking up instruments

De'Anthony Jackson grabbed a trumpet and, less than two weeks later, played it on stage.
Photo by David Pierini



ALSO INSIDE

The road to a revitalized North Minneapolis must be paved by those who live here
Page 10

Urban League Family Day celebrates 31 years
Page 17

SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC

REIMAGINE YOUR FUTURE

SAOIC.ORG

f in t v o

Northside STEM

stem fest 2021

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

September 18, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring your family and join us for a FREE community event. Engage in hands-on experiences in the world of STEM! Design robots, fly drones, launch rockets and meet and interact with STEM professionals and college students from across the region.

Event Location
Harvest Best Academy - 1300 Olson Memorial Hwy. Minneapolis, MN 55411

Register Today!
Register online by visiting NorthsideSTEM.org.

Questions?
Please contact Jalonda Combs at jcombs@saoic.org or call 612-424-6717.

Presented by **SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC** in partnership with **STEM NOLA**

f t o in v



Letter from the Editor Harry Colbert, Jr.

The Northside is changing rapidly. There's construction up and down most of the major thoroughfares of North Minneapolis ... Olson Memorial Highway, Plymouth Avenue, West Broadway Avenue and 44th Avenue North. And of course, the pending riverfront development, Upper Harbor Terminal. But with the changing landscape comes concerns of a changing demographic. To put it plainly, gentrification.

Now nothing is wrong with diversification. In most instances diversity is welcomed. It's when the increasing "diversity" starts to resemble a takeover. Thus, it's understandable that the much-needed investment in the 55411 and 55412 is being met with a healthy dose of skepticism.

Again, the development is needed. But what is the cost of progress? Historically, when cranes begin to dot neighborhood skies, they come with increases in housing costs and a displacement of residents and longstanding neighborhood businesses.

This time around (as has been the case in other neighborhoods that have succumbed to gentrification) the talkers are saying all the right things. "We're seeking community input." "Our first priority is the current residents of the Northside." "We are partners in this."

Time will tell if this "partnership" is mutually beneficial. I hope so.

Truth be told, I'm looking forward to a world-class outdoor amphitheater in walking distance from my home. As a homeowner, I appreciate the rising value of our home due to development and the renewed desirability of living on the Northside. But our windfall cannot be at the peril and mass displacement of others.

Investment doesn't have to come with the caveat of displacement ... of gentrification.

In this edition of North News, staff reporter David Pierini offers a comprehensive look at several Northside developments and the potential long-term impacts. I hope you find it informative and insightful.

As always, together in community, Harry

NORTH NEWS
2021 Issue #8

Circulation: 10,000 in North Minneapolis.
Delivered free on a monthly basis to public places & homes in Near North & Camden.

3650 Fremont Ave. N,
Minneapolis, MN 55412
Phone: 612-701-3883
Website: www.mynorthnews.org

Harry Colbert, Jr.
Editor/Publisher/Advertising

David Pierini Staff Reporter
Thomas Toley Graphic Designer
Anya Johanna DeNiro Copy Editor
Lyle James Delivery

Additional support is provided by The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Foundation.

Story ideas and letters to the editor under 300 words are always welcome. Unsigned letters will not be run.

If you want North News on your doorstep NOW, subscribe for \$30 per year.
Email harryc@pillsburyunited.org or call 612-701-3883 to sign up.

Next issue delivered: September 24, 2021

North News is an enterprise of:

PUC PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES

INSIDE OUR "O"

North Minneapolis celebrated its creative side with the three-day art crawl aptly named FLOW.

Twenty-two Northside sites hosted homegrown art of all genres, from painting and photography to dance and spoken word. Juxtaposition Arts was a major hub with a youth gallery, ceramic demonstrations, a youth arts gallery and a pop-up performance by Vivid Black Paint. FLOW took place July 29 - July 31. Photos by David Pierini



Harmonee Harrison creates a one-of-a-kind t-shirt with spray paint.



Amir Kinara performs an aerial routine in the middle of the skate park at Juxtaposition Arts.

Highest-ever reward offered for information on the shootings of 3 kids

By David Pierini, Staff Reporter

Law enforcement officials announced they would offer up to \$180,000 in reward money for information bolstering the investigations of separate shootings of three children in North Minneapolis.

It is the largest Spotlight on Crime reward ever offered in Minneapolis and is featured in a billboard campaign. The billboards are positioned in the areas where the children were shot.

The new reward offer was announced at an Aug. 9 news conference outside the Fourth Precinct headquarters on Plymouth Avenue. Attending were family members of the three children shot, Aniya Allen, 6, Trinity Otton-Smith, 9, and Ladavionne Garrett

Jr., 10. Allen and Otton-Smith were shot in May, the victims of crossfire from warring gangs according to police, and both later died. Garrett remains hospitalized in critical condition after being struck by gunfire on April 30.

Tip sources will be completely anonymous. People with information can call the Crime Stoppers hotline at (800) 222-8477, report it online at www.CrimesStoppersMN.org or through a mobile app, found in the app store under P3 Tips.

Minneapolis police spokesman John Elder said dozens of tips came in after the announcement, but no arrests have been made.

"Today marks 100 days; my grandson has been fighting for his life for 100 days," Garrett's grandmother, Sharrie

Jennings, said at the Aug. 9 news conference. "We haven't received justice. We haven't received anything. This silence is killing our family.

"Please someone say something. We've got \$180,000. Money talks. Money is the root of all evil. Somebody is gonna say something. These were kids, babies, why are you keeping a code of silence."

In addition to the families, Minneapolis police Chief Medaria Arradondo, the state's assistant Commissioner of Public Safety, Booker Hodges, Superintendent Drew Evans of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Crime Stoppers of Minnesota Chairman Robert Dennistoun spoke at the press event.



A mockup of the billboard that will be seen around North Minneapolis to motivate tipsters. Photo by David Pierini



Minneapolis police Chief Medaria Arradondo speaks with a backdrop of photos of the three children shot this past spring. Photo by David Pierini

New Black-owned bank comes to Minneapolis

How will it benefit North Minneapolis?

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

Access. It's as simple as that. According to S&P Global Market Intelligence, in 2018, 64 percent of majority Black neighborhoods – regardless of income levels – lacked a branch bank location in their community. North Minneapolis, which is one such community that is majority Black (45 percent Black, 30 percent white, 13 percent Asian, 8 percent Latinx, and 1 percent Native-American), has just three banks (standalone U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo locations and a TCF/Huntington National Bank inside of Cub Foods on West Broadway) servicing more than 50,000 people. Conversely, there are double the number of high interest predatory check cashing locations servicing the same geographic area. The need for access to traditional retail banking cannot be overstated.

So, when it was announced that a new Black-owned bank is coming to Minneapolis, a logical thought would have been the bank would be geographically located in North Minneapolis, but that is not the case. However, through a unique partnership, residents of North Minneapolis will have access to the new First Independence Bank set to open this November at 3430 University Ave. S.E.

Five banks — Bank of America, Bremer Bank, TCF Bank (Huntington Bank), U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo — are supporting First Independence Bank's arrival with capital, research, marketing and other services. The established Twin Cities banks' support of First Independence should not be seen as charity according to representatives of the established five.

"We're all working to bridge the wealth gap, and bringing in an established full-service Black-owned bank to the Twin Cities will go a long way in helping to do that," said Laurie Nordquist, president, Upper Midwest region, Wells Fargo.

"This collaboration is not a diversity

initiative, it's an initiative to do what's best for America," said Greg Cunningham, chief diversity officer for U.S. Bank. "The wealth gap is not a Black problem, it's an American problem."

Born as a response to the 1967 Detroit riots, First Independence's introduction to Minneapolis comes under similar circumstances.

"The parallel with what happened to George Floyd (and the cause of the Detroit riots) is just frightening," said Kenneth Kelly, president and CEO of First Independence, one of 18 Black-owned banks in the nation.

The May 2020 murder of Floyd by Minneapolis police officer

Derek Chauvin led to days of unrest that saw the destruction of much of Minneapolis, including in North Minneapolis where one of its few banks, the U.S. Bank on West Broadway Avenue, was targeted. It was just this past July when the branch again became fully operational.

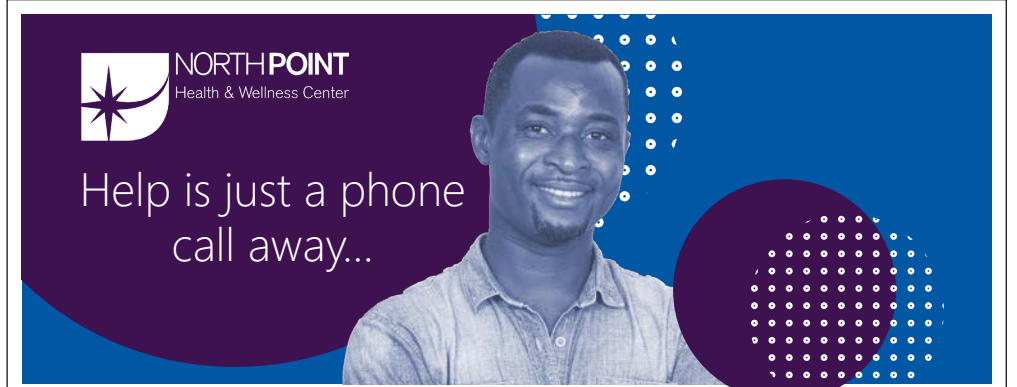
The decision to locate the inaugural First Independence Bank in an area just east of the University of Minnesota campus was less about the demographics of the surrounding area, but more about opportunity. The location – a former Wells Fargo branch – was gifted to Project for Pride and Living (PPL) and PPL offered a favorable lease to First Independence. Kelly said locations in North Minneapolis were scouted, including along West Broadway and Lowry avenues, but walking into an already existing bank building and the terms of the lease were reasons North Minneapolis was not selected. To offset not having a branch in North Minneapolis, First Independence formed an agreement with Wells Fargo and TCF/Huntington to allow its customers to use Wells and TCF



This former Wells Fargo at 3430 University Ave. S.E. will be the site of the inaugural Minneapolis branch of First Independence Bank. Photo from Google Maps



ed. It was just this past July when the branch again became fully operational.



During these challenging times, NorthPoint's Behavioral Health providers are here to support you.

With appointments now available by phone, people seek support for:

- Depression
- Controlling anger & moods
- Anxiety
- Physical and sexual abuse
- Grief & loss
- Fear and obsession
- Parenting and relationships

We provide a wide range of services for ages 6 & up including: individual and family therapy, support groups, teen therapy, chemical health support & psychiatric care

Call 612-543-2500 to get started...

Continued on page 18

RENTHELP MN

Has COVID-19 made it hard for you to pay your bills?

GET RENTHELP MN TODAY



If you are experiencing a financial hardship because of the pandemic, **RentHelpMN** may just be your answer.

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance is available to all Minnesotans who qualify. You could receive up to 15 months total assistance for:

- Rent payments
- Utility payments (gas, electric, water/sewer, garbage/recycling and other utilities as approved by RentHelpMN)

We care about getting you the help you need, when you need it most.



Apply today. Visit renthelpmn.org or call **211**.



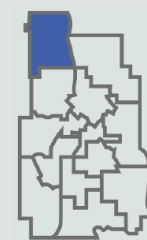
It is the policy of Minnesota Housing to affirmatively further fair housing in all its programs so that individuals of similar income levels have equal access to Minnesota Housing programs, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, familial status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

catch up with our Council Members

Minneapolis City Council members Phillipe Cunningham (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) were inaugurated in January 2018. We have invited them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.

WARD 4:

Phillipe Cunningham



Neighbors,

Summer is coming to an end, but so many exciting changes are just beginning! Since knocking on doors in 2017, one of the things I hear the most frequently from Ward 4 constituents is... "We need more businesses in the area!!!" and I could not agree more. That is why we have focused so heavily on supporting small business development over the last three years.

Our community lacks storefronts and business buildings by design. The zoning in place meant that only single-family homes could be built with very few exceptions. However, that zoning of the past does not meet our current and future needs as a community. We want a community where we can safely walk to our favorite neighborhood café and watering hole. Folks want to get their essential goods and services in our community rather than going to the suburbs or other parts of the city. Therefore, I worked hard to make sure Ward 4 had impactful zoning changes through the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan. As a result, businesses and housing can be built on Lowry, Penn, Fremont, Lyndale, and 44th. This has opened real opportunities to Northside entrepreneurs.

Right now, we have NINE different business development projects underway at varying steps in the process. For example, Houston White of H White Men's Room at 44th and Humboldt Aves N is hiring a General Manager as he turns the corner to open Minneapolis' first and only Black-owned coffee roastery. In addition, the City Council approved a different

project at 3707 Fremont Ave N led by Good Neighbor Homes (a small Ward 4-based development LLC owned by Thomas Hertzog). It will be a live/work development with a live/work studio and two one-bedroom apartments, all with affordable rents. It means a small business owner will be able to save on housing costs while operating their business! There are such good projects underway that will make a world of difference in our community once their doors open.

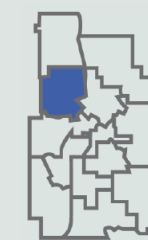
We are working hard to get vacant storefronts redeveloped so that we can put Northsider-owned businesses in them. This is critical for the job and intergenerational wealth creation. We are doing this through the City's Commercial Property Development Fund, which I supported its creation. This Fund has already invested over \$2,000,000 in Ward 4 businesses with approximately \$4.5 million in upcoming projects. This is unprecedented! But we're just getting started.

Please stay up to date on the Ward 4 Office's work by signing up for our e-newsletter at minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-4/newsletters. You can also check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MinneapolisWard4](https://www.facebook.com/MinneapolisWard4). If you have questions, comments, or want to connect, join me for my weekly open community office hours on Mondays, 12-2 pm at Corner Coffee Camden (4155 Thomas Ave N). Don't forget to wear a mask to follow the Mayor's required indoor mask mandate! Hope to see you there! Peace and blessings,

Councilmember Phillipe Cunningham

WARD 5:

Jeremiah Ellison



Earlier this month, the Minneapolis City Council voted to refer two rent stabilization Charter amendments to the voters as ballot questions at the general election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. However, the mayor vetoed one of the rent stabilization Charter amendments, which would have allowed for a petition process for residents to refer a rent stabilization ordinance to voters in a future election. The veto was sustained after a Council vote last Friday, August 13th.

That means there will be one rent stabilization Charter amendment on the ballot this fall, which would give the City Council the power to write an ordinance and bring that proposal to the voters at a future election.

At the time of writing, there are two other Charter amendments proposed for the ballot this fall: one that would create a new department of public safety, and another that would change the structure of our city government. You can learn more about all the proposed charter amendments for the 2021 ballot on the City's website at www.minneapolismn.gov.

Getting vaccinated is more important than ever. State health officials stress that vaccination, along with masking and physical distancing, remain our best public health strategies for slowing the spread of COVID-19. With the uptick in COVID-19 cases driven by the Delta variant, it's more important than ever that anyone eligible for vaccination get that protection as soon as possible.

Viruses constantly change and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. New data suggests that an

emerging variant, the Delta variant, is different than past versions of the virus and spreads about twice as easily from one person to another. With the Delta variant, fully vaccinated people may be able to pass the disease to others.

However, the vaccines still work. Fully vaccinated people are less likely to get infected, and if a vaccinated person gets infected, the illness will likely be mild. The vaccine also greatly reduces the chance of hospitalization and death.

For more information on how to get vaccinated, visit Vaccines.gov or contact your health care provider. You can also use this map on the State's website to search for providers who are offering the COVID-19 vaccine: mn.gov/covid19/vaccine.

Lastly, I'd like to make sure folks know that my office hours are now on Mondays from noon – 1 p.m. Office hours used to be on Saturdays, because we heard from folks over four years ago that gathering at the start of the weekend worked best. But based on recent feedback, we are trying a new weekly time: Mondays over the lunch hour. You can RSVP to my weekly virtual office hours at minneapolismn.gov/ward5.

Pandemic impacts yet another school year; area principals ready for year of uncertainty

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

The deadly coronavirus has been with us so long, many forget it is COVID-19; the 19 being an indicator of 2019 – the year the virus was first detected.

Thus, the third school-year in a row is being impacted by COVID. The impact is taking a toll on school administrators tasked with both the education of their students and the safety of students and staff. With the school year upon us, principals Mauri Friestleben and Yusuf Abdullah will once again care for their students while trying to remember to care for themselves.

“The fall (of 2020-2021 school year) was difficult, spring was better. But going into the summer I feel I was duped again (by the changing guidance of how to best combat COVID-19 and the new Delta variant),” said Friestleben, principal at North Community High School. “Here I am again feeling uncertain.”

Friestleben’s uncertainty is understandable. Saying the science and resulting guidance surrounding COVID-19 has been fluid would be putting it mildly. Guidance regarding masking, the effectiveness of the vaccines and indoor gatherings are continuously being updated. Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) announced on Aug. 9 that all students, staff and visitors inside MPS buildings must be masked at all times. The district is offering for exceptions for students with physical or behavioral limitations that make mask wearing a burden. For all other students who chose not to mask, they must enroll and attend classes via the MPS Online Academy, as there will no longer be a hybrid in-person/online option.

Friestleben said she supports the decision to not offer hybrid learning.

“Teaching online is not the same as teaching in person,” said Friestleben. “Some teachers are better at teaching online and others are better in the tradition-

al setting. (Hybrid) was difficult for both teachers and students, so I fully endorse the plan not to offer hybrid.”

The uncertainty of the coming year weighs heavily on the mind of Yusuf Abdullah, principal at Patrick Henry High School. He has concerns for his students, staff and himself.

“I found myself wondering about my mental health,” confided Abdullah. “I was questioning do I get vaccinated; do I offer the school as a vaccine site? It’s challenging and your moral compass gets tested. But what focused me is keeping the students at the center of all my decisions. My main concern is ‘are my kids going to be safe?’”

Abdullah said he had many conversations with his wife and with Friestleben, who was dealing with similar dilemmas.

“Mauri and I have a partnership and connection,” said Abdullah, affirming that the school’s rivalry is strictly limited to athletic contests.

The two principals said they have been hearing from frustrated and concerned parents wondering how to approach the coming school year.

“I’ve had parents joking with me saying, ‘don’t have me buying all these school clothes and y’all shut down,’” said Friestleben. “So, we’ve been trying to deal with this with humor.”

It wasn’t humor, but sadness that struck North’s principal when she overheard her teenage daughter talking about the return to mask wearing.

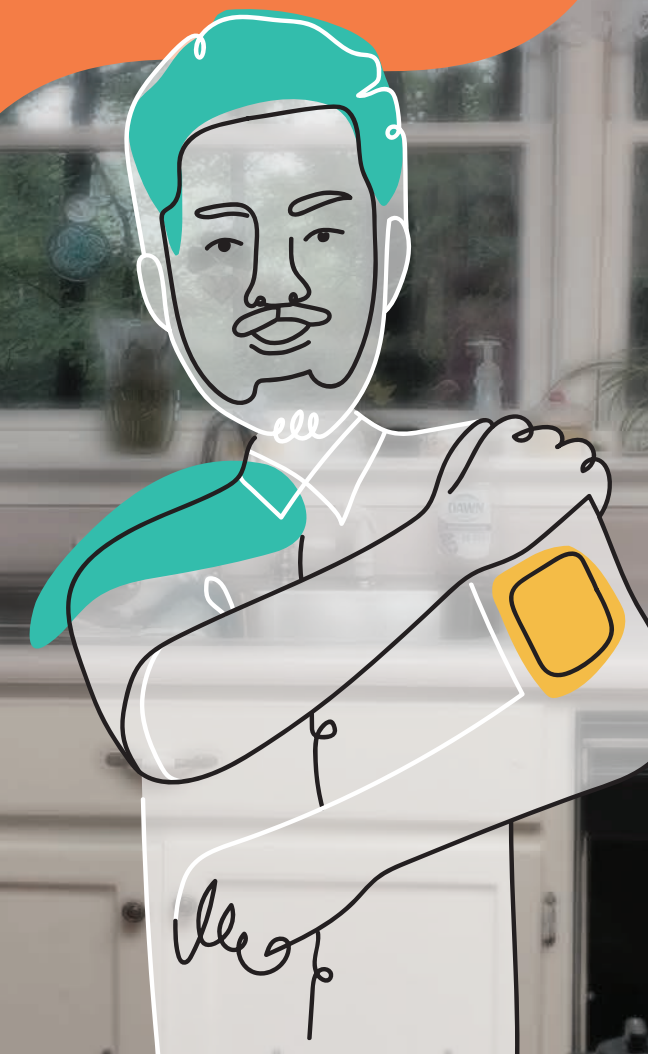
“She was talking to her friends – all Black girls – and they were expressing something I never realized was impacting them. They were talking about the insecurity they felt as a result of wearing masks. They said when they stopped wearing masks in the summer they felt vulnerable – and not about COVID – but about their looks,” said Friestleben. “And to go back

Continued on page 18

Free help to quit smoking or vaping your way

“Patches and texts from Quit Partner are helping me stay on track.”

-Shawn, day 1 of quitting menthols



quit partner™

Whether this is your first time quitting or your tenth, we’re here with free help 24/7. Curious about how to double your chances of quitting smoking for good? Try talking to a judgement-free coach and using patches, gum or lozenges* at the same time. Whenever you’re ready, drop by online or say hello on the phone.

QuitPartnerMN.com
1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)

*18+

Help Slow the Spread so We Can Stay in School Together



Get vaccinated.



Wear a mask.



Stay home if you feel sick.



mi MINNESOTA

health.mn.gov

The road to a revitalized North Minneapolis must be paved by those who live here

By David Pierini, Staff Reporter

Take a look at North Minneapolis in this moment.

Then, look at it 10 years into the future through the lens of investment and development now underway on a scale once dedicated to other parts of the city.

The amenities to follow paint an exciting picture: jobs, more housing, a new music venue, light rail train, a sports training center that includes an Olympic-size swimming pool, a four-story glass building for an expanding Juxtaposition Arts, restaurants for dining in the evening and a growing Black and diverse middle class. The investment is long overdue and North Minneapolis longs for a quality of life enjoyed by other communities. The question on many minds starts with what becomes of North Minneapolis when the dust of construction settles.

Skeptical residents worry gentrification will follow and make the Northside unrecognizable. The fear is outside developers will buy up and demolish cheap homes to make way for tony, high-rise apartments for upwardly mobile whites. Lower income residents, unable to afford soaring rent and property taxes, will flee their homes in search of cheaper housing.

"These changes are for people who aren't here yet," said Lynn Crocket, a longtime Northsider and a reliable seat on various local committees. "I'm skeptical because they (politicians and developers) always paint a pretty picture, then when you hang the picture it comes back insufficient funds. Don't drink the Kool-Aid."

But there are others who see the possibility of creating a real Wakanda where progress is not predatory, but thoughtfully designed to truly benefit Northsiders.

Optimistic community leaders believe that with genuine community input, a thriving North Minne-

apolis will rise thanks to its own creative genius, visionary entrepreneurs and civic-minded activists. Northsiders will see themselves each time they pass some new amenity because they shared in its design.

North Minneapolis will build its own wealth for generations to come.

"We're going to get some of the things we deserve," said Markella Smith, one of the residents active in shaping how the former Upper Harbor Terminal impacts the Northside. "It almost feels like we've been forgotten. There's the lack of healthy food, a lack of shops ... (right now) you have to leave (North Minneapolis) to have any kind of experience. The energy around us is changing."

Fear and optimism

North Minneapolis and many Black city dwellers hold a deep distrust in development after watching "progress" decimate its vibrant communities. North shares a highway with the Rondo neighborhood in



A bird's-eye view shows the future V3 Sports Center, which will house an Olympic-size swimming pool.

St. Paul, a once bustling Black community torn apart to make way for I-94.

North Minneapolis has also seen parts of its community fragmented by road projects, including I-94 and the Olson Memorial Highway. The flow of investment dollars dried up and were redirected to the suburbs growing rapidly from white flight. Black and Brown business owners, the key to creating a local economy, are in constant stall, unable to get loans from banks because of unjust lending practices. Left to struggle with poverty, crime, few jobs and a lack of resources to improve quality of life, gentrification can strike again when outside developers buy up cheap land for projects that price peo-

ple out of their homes.

Projects big and small will soon transform whole blocks and replace vacant buildings, run-down homes and boarded-up storefronts.

One of the biggest is the controversial Upper Harbor Terminal, a 48-acre site along the Mississippi River that is being redeveloped with a park, housing and a performing arts venue ... the latter of which has caused the most angst for many residents. Project planners and residents who support the project say the city is genuinely listening to the concerns of Northsiders. But Sebastian Rivera, an artist who has advocated against the project, is skeptical of developers' intentions when they sit at the table with residents.

"It is so disingenuous when they say we want to involve you in it, when they already have a set of developers with numbers in mind, margins set and dates already in place," Rivera said.

Another transformative project is an extension of the light rail's Blue Line, which would link nearby suburbs and North to the downtown. After a failed effort to locate the light rail extension down the median of the Olson Memorial Highway, transportation officials are now deliberating over two other routes in North Minneapolis, West Broadway Avenue and Lowry Avenue.

"We've already experienced the detriment of the project and now we're not going to receive the benefits," said Harrison Buehler for an article on the Blue Line ex-



A rendering showing a light rail train traveling Lowry Avenue North.

NOW

NOW



Juxtaposition Arts will break ground in September on a new headquarters at West Broadway and Emerson avenues.

Train lines in other Twin Cities communities have spurred housing and commercial developments, and properties in North Minneapolis have been hot investments ever since a Blue Line extension was proposed. Not one shovel of dirt has been turned on the Blue Line extension, yet its mere proposal was enough to spark concerns of gentrification.

Local residents were given opportunities through community meetings to propose ideas for train stop areas and urge officials to protect neighborhoods where many people were spending more than 50 percent of their income on rent. But while that was happening, speculators bought homes and apartment complexes. Property taxes went up 60 percent and in some cases, homes were demolished for high-rise apartments. Renters in some buildings on Glenwood Avenue saw rent increases as high as \$300 per month.

Countless residents left the neighborhood in search of rent they could afford. Last fall, transportation officials scrapped the Olson Highway route to look elsewhere in North Minneapolis.

"We've already experienced the detriment of the project and now we're not going to receive the benefits," said Harrison Buehler for an article on the Blue Line ex-

ension that was published in May. "How are you going to make us whole? Now do we make sure what happened in Harrison doesn't happen elsewhere in North Minneapolis?"

Efforts are underway to write a happy ending to this development story.

Smith said community input has reshaped Upper Harbor Terminal plans to include more affordable housing, jobs for local residents and \$3 for every music venue ticket sold to help Northsiders with wealth creation or if they get displaced.

Community leaders and Northside politicians are trying to bring forward anti-displacement measures that minimizes gentrification. Local groups are also trying to beat speculators to the punch, buying buildings and vacant land.

There is economic activity where Northsiders or Northside institutions call all the shots and focus on serving its neighbors and preserving local cultural identity.

Next month, Juxtaposition (JXTA) Arts breaks ground at West Broadway and Emerson avenues on a glass, four-story headquarters with an overhang similar to the downtown's Guthrie Theatre. The non-profit arts organization has been a Northside pillar for 25 years training and employing young artists in everything from graphic design and screen printing to organizing and community engage-

ment.

JXTA artists have a variety of places in North Minneapolis. A Mississippi River viewing platform recently opened with design and work from Juxta. It also painted a mural at Cub Foods, which had been shutdown for several months after it was damaged in last summer's civil unrest that followed the police murder of George Floyd.

"JXTA sits alongside other organizations in the city, setting an example of the endless possibility of investing in what other folks may deem as undervalued," said Gabrielle Grier, JXTA's managing director.

Up the street, the landmark Capri Theater recently completed a renovation that now includes a teen tech center and community room that can host up to 125 people. V3 sports, founded by Erika Binger in 2007 to teach local kids swimming and triathlon training, took over an old warehouse at 701 Plymouth Ave. in 2017. It raised the money to purchase a swimming pool that was used earlier this summer in Omaha, Neb., for the U.S. Olympic Trials. The 50-meter pool was shipped in pieces to North Minneapolis afterward and will be at the heart of a sports center that will open in a few years. In the Camden neighborhood, Houston White is expanding his HWMR barbershop to include

a cafe, the Get Down Coffee Co. North-Point Health and Wellness Center recently broke ground on an expansion that will double the size of the campus to include dental service, a food distribution center and drop-in daycare center.

A building renovation at 927 West Broadway Ave. will eventually house North Minneapolis-based TRI-Construction and a planned Black-run credit union. The renovation design was done by local architect Jamil Ford and TRI-Construction is contracted for the buildout. The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation bought the building and entered a finance agreement with TRI-Construction to buy out the foundation over 10 years.

Ford also formed a group, Baldwin Group LLC, that purchased 4140-4146 Fremont Ave. N from the city for \$1. A vacant 1920s-era building on site is getting a makeover to host a black box theater, cafe and art gallery. TRI-Construction will also get the contract to renovate the space

Calvin Littlejohn, a lifelong Northsider and CEO of TRI-Construction, says he can drive anywhere and judge a community's health by its business sector. He sees Somali and Latinx businesses on Lake Street springing to life. He sees how the Hmong community in St. Paul has used their businesses to propel forward a thriving Hmong culture.

"But when it comes to the Black experience, our businesses are missing from the economic circle," said Littlejohn. "How do we empower ourselves to afford the changes that are coming?"

"How are we going to improve our Black-owned businesses? Where we need to have conversation is around pushing banks on lending to Black-owned businesses at a reasonable rate. Once we get that focus on that, it starts to turn around, be it jobs, housing, the ability to have a middle class income," said the developer.

TRI-Construction offers "good middle-class jobs" and has a workforce that is 65 percent minority.

"That's \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year going back into those homes and trickling back into the community," said Littlejohn. "That becomes real economic change."

Littlejohn sees Black developers gain a stronger foothold, but it's still a long road because of how "difficult it is to change the narrative" around lending to minority businesses.

"If you don't uplift our businesses, there will be displacement, gentrification and disinvestment," he said.

There are a handful of non-profit organizations also working on solutions.

In 2020, a group of business leaders led by retired U.S. Bank executive Dorothy Bridges formed the African American Community Development Corp. (AACDC) to address inequality, a lack of shared prosperity and expand economic development opportunities for African American across the Twin Cities.

It seeks to advocate and influence economic development in Black communities, bringing residents together to plan commercial and residential development for their areas. It will work to attract investment in these communities to create jobs, wealth in Black households and influence business and political leaders.

"The decisions for what development looks like are made by a few people who have sway and influence in getting a deal made with the city or county," said Bridges, the AACDC founder. "This creates a barrier for African-American developers or developers of color. We want our communities to have the opportunity to shape before the shovel."

Property ownership only increases the negotiating power of a community. Earlier this year, Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) launched a program called Justice Built Communities.

PUC, which owns North News, is in the process of purchasing vacant land and buildings as a way to inform redevelopment plans that are community-centered. The program would guide and help Black-owned enterprises get established and grow.

Like the Phillips Foundation finance agreement with TRI-Construction at the 927 Building, Justice Built Communities would negotiate an agreement to turn the land over to the local enterprise to build generation wealth.

So far, PUC has raised \$6 million for the program and intends to raise an additional \$14 million.

"This is an opportunity for North to set its own trajectory," Adair Mosley, PUC president and CEO said. "The pace will be driven by community and that will allow us to ensure voice, ideas and aspirations are baked into (development projects)."

North 2031

Only time will answer what becomes of North Minneapolis with all that is underway.



NorthPoint Health and Wellness recently announced plans to double its campus to include dental services, a day care and food pantry.

Bridges believes North Minneapolis will "no longer be a community of deficit" or at least headed in a more vibrant direction 10 years out.

Artist and youth worker Akim Anderson said community engagement seems like a box that planners check on a to-do list. The intent seems good on the surface, he says, but when he looks deeper, he doesn't see Northsiders involved in the planning.

"When you're not being asked for your input, you come to the question who are these projects for," Anderson said. "There are things happening on an everyday basis that are not getting addressed; the joblessness, violence, a lack of quality food and then we're talking about these projects. How are we going to get there when we can't get these other things right?"

"Is this what people want or need at this time? I'm not sure the answer is yes."

Anderson says his roots in North Minneapolis go several generations deep. His hometown is a badge of honor that he wears. When he learns of some of the local organizations working to keep North Minneapolis from gentrifying, he says he is encouraged.

"In this capitalist system, it's a start," said the longtime Northsider.



A rendering showing a light rail train traveling towards downtown on West Broadway Avenue.



A rendering of what an elevated light rail track might look like on West Broadway Avenue.

New group is a voice of 'responsible development'

If Northsiders see themselves as powerless to the forces of gentrification, a team of business and community leaders have emerged to help residents claim a place at the drawing board to decide how best to revitalize their North Minneapolis.

The formation of the African American Community Development Corp. (AACDC) arrives at a critical moment as infrastructure projects search for a home in long-neglected North Minneapolis.

"There's a need for an organization to focus on economic development and wealth building that engages the community so that we have an opportunity to shape before the shovel," said Dorothy Bridges, a longtime banking executive who founded AACDC and now chairs its board. "Whenever North Minneapolis is mentioned, it's about crime, poverty and a lack of resources. I just want the narrative to change. We should be writing our own story."

Community development corporations often get confused with economic development corporations. Each focus on development and wealth building.

Community development, however, intentionally brings local residents into the process of making a better place to live and work. It is more holistic with empowerment, social justice and self-determination baked into the urban planning process.

AACDC seeks to be a powerful intermediary and help residents dismantle barriers and gain influence in community development decisions that bring proper returns on investments in the Black and Brown communities.

It will support commercial and residential development projects that share in the mission of creating jobs for local residents with livable salaries that allow for the building of household wealth.

Among AACDC's goals is to increase affordable and middle-class housing historically Black communities by 500 percent and increase African-American household wealth by 200 percent.

"We have to help create the right en-



Dorothy Bridges



Erin Horne McKinney

vironment, create a Wakanda in North Minneapolis," said AACDC President and CEO Erin Horne McKinney, a North Minneapolis native and a former senior advisor to two mayors in Washington D.C. "How do we put all the pieces in place? Our mission is to make sure we are advocating at all levels."

Bridges, who until recently lived in

the Hawthorne neighborhood for 17 years, is a member of the US Bancorp's board of directors. She has more than 40 years of banking experience and focused largely on commercial and community development lending, including to minority, small business and other markets. Ebony magazine in 2018 named her part of the Ebony Power

100 for her work in banking and community development.

Not long after her 2018 retirement as a senior vice president from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Bridges was on a taskforce to talk about development in North Minneapolis. Everyone at the table shared ideas and Bridges suggested a community development corporation for Minnesota's Black communities.

The idea stuck in the mind of William English, the consulting project director for the North Job Creation Team, who was at the table that day. He called Bridges to encourage her to form what is now AACDC.

The inaugural board, chaired by Bridges, includes Steven Belton, vice chair, Keith Baker, secretary and Kenya McKnight-Ahad, treasurer. English has a seat on the board that includes Tim Baylor, Shannon Lemon, the Rev. Jerry McAfee, Adair Mosely, Anisha Murphy, Ravi Norman, Shauen Pearce, Matthew Ramadan, Markella Smith and Make Zulu-Gillespie.

AACDC formed just before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all non-essential businesses. Horne McKinney, a North High graduate, had returned to Minnesota to wait out the pandemic with family and wound up staying to be the organization's first president and CEO.

COVID-19 exacerbated and shined a light on the disparities in Black and Brown communities. Then on Memorial Day 2020, a Minneapolis police officer killed George Floyd in his custody. Floyd's murder was a signal to Horne McKinney that AACDC formed at a critical time.

"All of those things expedited our efforts, that we need to be ready to go right now to serve our community and be the voices of responsible and intentional development," she said.

Take her word for it

Patrick Henry's Kennedy Rance shines at ThreeSixty Journalism camp

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

Today it's Godwin, tomorrow it's Rance.

This past April, Kim Godwin made history as the first Black woman to head the news division of a major network when she was named president of ABC News. Do not be surprised when a few years down the line Patrick Henry High School's Kennedy Rance directing news coverage at one of the majors – that is if she hasn't started her own.

Rance, 15, an incoming junior at Henry, is a standout reporter of the ThreeSixty Journalism program and recently finished her third year in the program run by the University of St. Thomas. Rance said she was drawn to reporting as a result of the narrative of North Minneapolis being broadcast by major media outlets.

"Anytime you see us (North Minneapolis) represented on the news it's always negative, but living here and seeing so much that's positive, I didn't understand why that isn't also captured," said Rance, who moved to North Minneapolis from Charlotte, N.C. in 2013. "So, that feeds my passion."

Rance's most recent reporting with ThreeSixty is on the mental health of Black men and the effects of generational trauma. ThreeSixty partnered with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to produce a series of reports on health during its most recent journalism camp that took place the last week of July.

Offering opportunities to young journalists of underrepresented communities is the mission of ThreeSixty.

"All voices matter, and it's critical young people uncover their truths, voices and power," said Chad Caruthers, executive director of ThreeSixty Journalism. "ThreeSixty students change narratives while they're in the program and many

continue to do so beyond it. The results are individual empowerment, more inclusive world views and ultimately a more just society."

Rance plans to continue her career in journalism and is mulling over her college choices. Howard University, MIT and Capetown University in South Africa are at the top of her list.

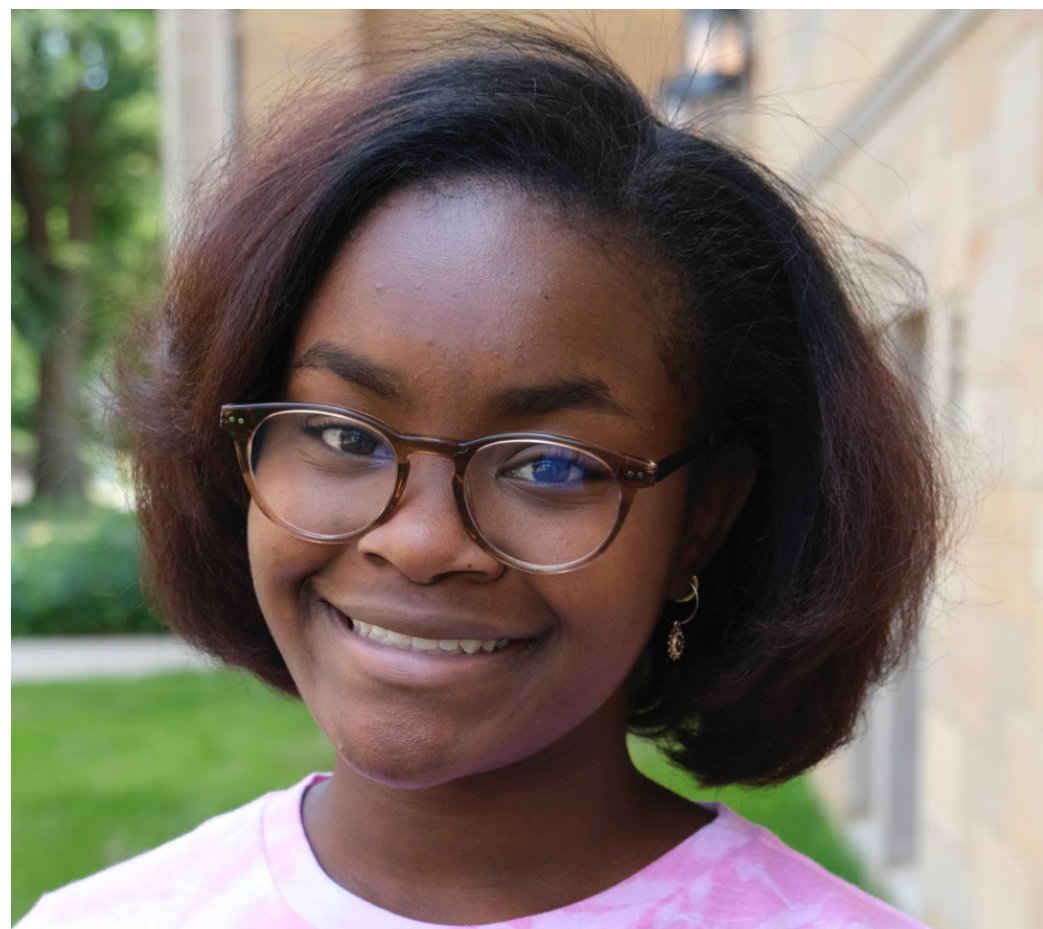
"I consider myself a global citizen, so I've always wanted to attend school abroad," said Rance, who said she toured Capetown during a 2019 family vacation to South Africa.

In addition to reporting for ThreeSixty, Rance has written for

Continued on page 18



Minnesota Public Radio editor Bill Wareham (right) and student journalist Kennedy Rance make tweaks to her broadcast article on mental health and Black men, which was produced as a part of the ThreeSixty Journalism program. Photo courtesy of ThreeSixty.



Emerging journalist Kennedy Rance, 15. Photo Courtesy Kennedy Rance



NEIGHBORHOOD
healthsource
Fremont Clinic

Now scheduling:

- Well-child checkups
- Immunizations
- Covid-19 vaccines (ages 12+)

No insurance? No problem! No insurance required, public/private insurance accepted. Sliding fee discount available.

612-588-9411
neighborhoodhealthsource.org
3300 Fremont Ave N

The Capri plans weeks of festivities to celebrate reopening

It's seven days of celebration.

That's the plan to reintroduce the community to the Capri Theater, 2027 W. Broadway Ave. A grand opening will be held from noon - 5 p.m. on Oct. 3 with free tours, music on the plaza, food trucks, a ribbon cutting ceremony and more.

Other events planned for the week include "Capri Glee!," Oct. 5, #MPLS in concert, Oct. 6, First Thursday Films Oct. 7, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Oct. 8 and "Legends @ the Capri," Oct. 9 and Oct. 10.

The Capri closed in May 2019 to expand and improve the historic space. Construction was completed in the spring of 2021, with finishing work and a few soft-open events taking place during the summer.

Built in 1927, the Capri is the last of 13 theaters that once graced the Northside of Minneapolis. Improvements include new auditorium seats, more space in the lobby and backstage, the new Paradise Community Hall and a Best Buy Teen Tech Center. Architects retained the intimate feel of the theater and the original stage floor on which Prince performed his first gig as a solo artist. The gallery of treasured Prince photos by Greg Helgeson is still on display as well.

The space was designed to provide the Northside and metro-wide community with countless opportunities to experience and produce art.

The Capri is owned and operated by PCYC, a community-based nonprofit.

The Capri Theatre is set to once again welcome guests. The historic venue celebrates its grand reopening Oct. 3. Photo by Harry Colbert, Jr.





Devonda A. Scott
REALTOR

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



P: 612.964.2386 E: DevondaScott@kw.com

kw KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY
INTEGRITY LAKES

“THERE’S NO SUCH THING AS A VOTE THAT DOESN’T MATTER.”

- Barack Obama

PLEDGE TO VOTE. MAKE YOUR PLAN TODAY.

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

Ballan qaad inaad codeyso. Samee qorshe.	Promete votar y hoy mismo haz un plan para cumplir tu promesa de voto.	Cog lus los pov npav xaiv tsa. Npaj ua.
--	--	---

LEARN MORE AT MNVOTES.ORG OR LWVMPLS.ORG



Young music novices feel the rush of playing like an HBCU band

Text and photos by David Pierini, Staff Reporter

The band stood ram-rod straight awaiting the signal to begin its maiden march onto a stage and into a future not conceivable by the musicians 10 days prior.

That's because, 10 days prior, the collection of wary teenagers knew nothing about music and had never picked up a trombone or drum stick. There was fear, there was confusion and literally no time to panic.

A concert where they would sway, high-step, dance and perform two memorized musical numbers, like the show bands of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), was scheduled for North High's auditorium on July 30.

The 13-member Northside United, which included three dancers, pulled off a life-changing performance, according to the teachers who set them on their musical path during a two-week-long summer camp.

Family and friends hooted their approval and tears welled up in the eyes of grown musicians -- many of whom marched with HBCU bands -- who prepared the youth for what amounted to a successful moon shot.

"When they came to us, they were looking at us like, 'I don't even know how or what to play,' said David Billingsley, who won a grant for the camp and helped organize it. "We said, 'OK, you take the trombone, you take the trumpet, you take the tuba ... and let's go.' They didn't know how to hold the instrument, they didn't know about embouchure (applying a mouth to a musical mouthpiece), nothing."

The summer camp was funded with a \$30,000 Genius and Joy grant from the Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation. It came about when North High principal Mauri Friestleben asked Billingsley, a local musician and educator to start an HBCU-style band.

Friestleben had the right person for the task in Billingsley taught band and choir at North last school year. Still, it was daunting to Billingsley, he said.

HBCU bands have distinctive "show style" featuring geometric maneuvers with straight lines. Between drills, there is high-stepping and energetic dancing, routines known as breakdowns.



Anisa Raheem, left, and Ameer Webster strike the right notes and moves during a summer camp that created the beginnings of a show style band from scratch in 10 years.



Jamroio Roberson graduated from North High School but still took part of his summer to learn tuba.



Jaionne Gibson, Daria Jackson and Angel Tanna Williams danced to a Beyonce song.



Keyondre Caldwell looked for familiar faces in the audience before Northside United took the stage.

Continued on page 18

**First Independence Bank
Continued from page 4**

ATMs at no charge. A second First Independence branch is slated to open along Lake Street near Hiawatha Avenue in South Minneapolis. Kelly said he hopes to have an eventual branch in North Minneapolis, but he does not have a timeframe nor guarantee for expansion.

"North Minneapolis and the African-American community were at the top of my conversations with Kenneth and his team," said Sandra Samuels, president and CEO of the Northside Achievement Zone and part of the group that worked to bring First Independence to Minneapolis. "I look forward to the bank's success, expansion and reach into our community in the future."

Damon Jenkins, former vice president and district manager with Wells Fargo will lead the expansion into the state as senior vice president and Twin Cities regional market president. The new Minneapolis branch will be the first endeavor outside of Metro Detroit for the 51-year-old bank.

**COVID + Education
Continued from page 8**

to wearing masks again, it's like hiding themselves. That saddens me."

Another concern for the principals and a desire to return to in-person learning are external school factors.

"The pandemic gave students more access to the streets and sometimes that led to negative consequences," said Abdullah.

An encouraging sign for the two North Minneapolis principals is both say enrollment for the coming semester is up, though more accurate numbers won't be known until about the third or fourth week of classes. While enrollment is up, there has been some transition among staff. The reasons for staff transitioning can be speculated.

"No one said they are not teaching because of the pandemic or because of district policy (surrounding masking and vaccines), but I think that's played in some staff's decisions to exit," said Abdullah.

**Kennedy Rance
Continued from page 14**

the Star Tribune and is a regular reporter for the Henry News Hour, a weekly broadcast at Patrick Henry.

Examples of Rance's work can be found at www.threesixty.stthomas.edu/about/kennedy-rance.

**Marching Band
Continued from page 16**

Then there is the music, usually something current and popular. Show-style bands are musically heavy on the brass instruments for bright sounds and loosely tuned, corp-style drumming that resonates in the chests of spectators. There are designated "featured" dancers but the entire ensemble dances.

Northside United learned and performed Lil Scrappy's "Head Bussas" and a Rae Sremmurd arrangement of "Bill Ball'n." The band's drum line also performed a drum cadence and Northside United's dance troupe

danced to Beyonce's "DIVA."

After the performance, their teachers gushed over their students. There was an award ceremony and each Northside United member received a gift bag full of items to encourage a continued interest in music.

"I will use this experience to hopefully continue to play the trombone," said Ameer Webster. "I want to practice everyday at home. I want to get a college scholarship for playing trombone and I will ask my principal if we can start a band program."

Billingsley hopes a full HBCU-style band grows out of the summer camp. That will take more money, he said, but there was palpable enthusiasm for it in the auditorium.

"What if this was a year-long program," he asked. "What kind of difference could we make in their lives, what kind of changes could we see in our city?"

NEIGHBORS

NEIGHBORS

**North Minneapolis
at a glance**

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities receives \$50,000 STEM grant

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities is the recipient of an educational grant of \$50,000 from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

The grant supports the club's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming. An event to celebrate the grant was held at the Jerry Gamble Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs, 2410 Irving Ave. N.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities are incredibly honored to partner with PhRMA in introducing young people to the incredible world of STEM careers available and delivering the impactful STEM programming that make those positions attainable," said Terryl Brumm, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. "Strong STEM programming develops the critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, and technology literacy skills necessary for our youth to succeed in the 21st century."

"PhRMA represents the country's top biopharmaceutical research companies that allow the United States to be a leader in innovation, particularly in the fight to combat COVID-19. This program underscores the importance of STEM while creating pathways for students to develop an interest in STEM careers. We are proud to support the Boys & Girls Clubs and their commitment to offering students quality education opportunities," said PhRMA's Nick McGee.



(Left to right) Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Terryl Brumm, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities and Heidi Mesick of PhRMA speak to kids at the Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club.

MAAHMG youth curators present history and art exhibit

The Minnesota African American History Museum and Gallery (MAAHMG) Youth Curator Program opens its exhibit, "The African American Experience: Protest to Progression."

The MAAHMG Youth Curator Program was a nine-week summer learning experience for high school students held at the museum. The goal of the program was to give youth an opportunity to learn about museum curation and enhance their research, writing and communication skills. The theme for the program was racial justice, and participants explored the history of Blacks in Minnesota while learning various art techniques. The group collaborated to research, design and curate a history exhibit about three historical events in Minnesota involving racial injustice. The historical events featured in the exhibit are the 1920 Duluth lynchings, the 1967 Plymouth Avenue rebellion and the 1969 Morrill Hall student takeover at the University of Minnesota.

The youth curators' exhibit will be on display at MAAHMG, 1256 Penn Ave. N. through Oct. 2. The program was funded by a grant from the Minnesota Vikings.



MAAHMG Youth artists (front Row left to right) Kalani Bunton, Shaudae Edwards, Rayaan Abdulkadi, Latrese Johnson, Eryche Riley, (back row left to right) MAAHMG Youth Program Coordinator Kayla Pollard, Naimah Muhammad, Jayden Young, Kayla Jeter, Chris Yorahee and Markese Seaborn. Not pictured are Kylee Angwenyi-Ojeda and Aaron Woods. Photo courtesy of MAAHMG

Urban League Family Day celebrates 31 years

Music, inflatable play stations, stumping city council candidates and friends greeting one another were just some of the highlights, large and small, at the 31st-annual Family Day sponsored by Urban League Twin Cities. The Aug. 21 event was held on a closed-off section of Plymouth Avenue North, a welcome Saturday afternoon of relative normalcy during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Photos by David Pierini



A pair of masked-up stilt walkers make their way down Plymouth Avenue North.



The Kid Zone at Family Day included an inflatable slide that had a constant rotation of kids.



The UNLlimited Next Level Drill and Dance team march toward the stage.



**VOTE FOR
ALICIA D. SMITH & MEG FORNEY
FOR PARK BOARD AT LARGE**

We support each other's campaigns & invite you to support us both. Ours is a partnership based on our mutual agenda:
Common Sense • Community Co-Creation • Climate Change

Paid & prepared for by Alicia for Parks, P O BOX 7861, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407 & Meg Forney for Parks, 3201 Zenith Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416

**Turning Point Inc.
has many job openings**

If interested please visit
**Turning Point at 1500 Golden Valley Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55411**
to complete an application.

Some job openings include Full-time and part-time positions for Recovery Coaches who are certified, Crisis Counselors, HIV Testers, and Linkage Coordinators.

For inquiries call 612-302-4102



**ADVERTISING IN
NORTH NEWS**

RATES

SIZE
Full Page
1/2
1/4
1/8
1/16

B&W	COLOR
\$1100	\$1100
\$600	\$600
\$350	\$350
\$200	\$200
\$110	\$110

Please inquire for pricing if you'd like a different size than the ones listed.



Your neighborhood bank is here to stay.

U.S. Bank branch mural
by Juxtaposition Arts,
located at 1030 West Broadway,
Minneapolis, MN

**We're reopening branches
across the country 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 neighborhoods near you, at usbank.com/diversity



Member FDIC. ©2021 U.S. Bank