Rochelle Washington went from rental housing and Section 8 to owning her own home after going through the Build Wealth MN program.

Photo by David Pierini
Letter from the Editor

David Pierini

The American Dream, as it was first imagined, describes a nation where everyone, regardless of class or country of origin, could achieve success. Anything is possible to anyone. But there is a cold reality to this dream. This land is not a level playing field for all, especially when it comes to one of the recurring images of the dream – owning the “little house with a white picket fence.”

African Americans get their piece of the American dream. David McGee’s Build Wealth MN focuses on closing the equity gap by helping Black Americans get their piece of the American dream. Building up credit scores and creating savings strategies for a family. But the path to homeownership can be too lengthy, too expensive, or simply closed to Americans who are not white. According to the Minnesota metropolitan area’s statistics, about 77 percent of white people own the homes they live in, but only 25 percent of Black people do. African Americans can encounter numerous barriers, many of which are cemented place by institutional racism.

This cover story for this edition features a Northside non-profit organization working to close the equity gap by helping Black Americans get their piece of the American dream. David McGee’s Build Wealth MN provides workshops and counseling on creating a budget, building up credit scores and creating savings strategies for purchasing a home. Building wealth can help with the down payment.

You will meet two graduates of the Build Wealth MN program taking their version of the American dream. Speaking of cover stories and graduates, Ashirwaad Hansom appeared on the front of this May 2018 edition of North News for earning the honor of valedictorian at North High. Soon, she will write cover stories and make photographs for her hometown’s paper. She will also lead our youth journalism programs. Hansom just graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans Summer Camp Leaders with heroes and a degree in history, I couldn’t be more excited about working alongside her. A more formal introduction to Hansom will appear in the next issue.

May 27, 2022

El-Amin named director of McKinley Community

Sharon El-Amin was recently named executive director of McKinley Community, the neighborhood association for the area. In North Minneapolis, the executive director on the Minneapolis Board of Education representing District 2, has lived in the McKinley neighborhood with her family since 2004. The neighborhood’s board is Lorey Avenue to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, Dunning Avenue to the north and DuPage Avenue to the west.

Sharon El-Amin will lead in efforts to build a sense of community and place by institutional racism.

Three farmer’s markets bring fresh food to the community

North Minneapolis will host three of the city’s 20 farmers markets during the 2022 season. All three markets operate June 1 to September 4. The market will be closed July 3 and Sept. 17 and be open weekends through the fall from 11 a.m to 3 p.m.

The West Broadway Farmers Market will run Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m. from June 17 to Oct. 14. A Plant Based Popup Market every second and fourth Saturday since the fall from 11 a.m to 3 p.m at 811 Greenway Ave. N. For more information, visit Facebook.com/thewestbroadwayfarmersmarket.

Fellow farmers markets will be open every single Saturday from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. at the West Broadway Farmers Market.

North Minneapolis at a glance

Hall STEM receives Dream Court from NCAA

Hall STEM Academy recently received a legacy basketball court for the dedication of the new Dream Court on campus.

Several local dignitaries joined Basketball Hall of Fame Nancy Lieberman for the dedication of the new Dream Court on the June 24.

"I am always so proud to partner with the NCAA on what they do for young people," Lieberman said. "This is our fourth Legacy Court with the NCAA and on every Dream Court we put in cities, it is vital to our passion and commitment to change lives.

This year’s Women’s Final Four was held in Minneapolis. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Lieberman said, "It is so important to bring the women's Final Four from NCAA to Hall and near and playground equipment.

$10,000 grants available for small business owners of color

The Comcast RISE Investment Fund is awarding $1 in grants to small businesses owned by people of color in the Twin Cities.

Comcast RISE launched in 2020 to invest $10 million in Black, Latinx and Asian American small business owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two North Minneapolis businesses, Jammz Avenue Eatery, 1101 W. Broadway Av. N. and Dton, which quarter weekly statistics, will receive $10,000 grants to invest in the Twin Cities.

Colleges can apply for a $10,000 grant online at www.ComcastRISE.com.

The application period runs June 1-14.

Additional support is provided by The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota and the Million Artist Movement.
North High School students went to their prom angry at the news Minneapolis Public Schools administrators had fired their principal, Mauri Friestleben.

But as they took part in the spring ritual on the night of May 21, the district’s Board of Directors was negotiating with administrators for the return of Friestleben. As she was leaving church the next morning, Friestleben was notified she had been reinstated and would be greeting students as they entered the building Monday morning.

It was a rocky weekend with much of the drama playing out on Facebook.

In a May 22 letter to North High families, Superintendent Ed Graff announced the administration was reversing an earlier decision to place Friestleben on leave "in an effort to bring this school year to a successful close for North students."

Friestleben posted a letter on May 20 announcing she had been terminated by the district for participating in a walkout of Arnie Locié in February. She admitted defying protocols but did not apologize for standing with her students.

North parents received a robocall the following day informing them an interim principal would replace Friestleben to finish the year.

Graff said he could not disclose details about the decision to initially place her on leave. He wrote, "We can share that Ms. Friestleben’s employment was not terminated. If Principal Friestleben chooses to end her employment with MPS, her decision will be respected and her leadership will be missed."

School board directors said they were not informed Friestleben would be placed on leave as news spread across social media.

Sharon El-Amin, the director who represents North Minneapolis, said Saturday she was shocked by the news and was confident the board would not support her dismissal.

"Farwell Park will get upgraded playground equipment this summer."

Evie is all-electric, renewably powered carsharing. Trips by the minute, hour or day. Charging, parking, and insurance included. For a limited time, join for $1 and get $25 Drive Credit.

By David Pierini, Editor

North High News
Beating barriers with knowledge

McGee’s program first strikes a blow at the biggest barrier – the belief that homeownership is untouchable for Black families.

“We’ve been conditioned to believe that even if we get a house, we’re already concerned that we’re going to lose it,” McGee said. “Even before you close, you’re already concerned that you’re going into foreclosure. It’s conditioning based on what we’ve seen over the generations.”

Build Wealth walks students through building a family financial plan. Each family has a coach as they go about learning how to budget and develop a savings plan. They learn how to look at credit reports and rebuild their credit scores to reach 640 or better.

The essence of the training is about how systems work, good or bad, and determine how they benefit families. The classes focus on family and challenge students to reposition relationships to make family the single most important part of life.

“We want students to master the process of employment and whether they are earning up to the value they bring to their employers,” McGee said. “If you can get caught up in discrimination and all that or we can make it a thing that you do not have to be concerned about learning how to budget and develop a savings plan.”

“Where students once saw a barrier, they now see an opportunity,” said McGee. “We’re not trying to have them replicate the system. The learning is about how systems work, good or bad, and determine how they benefit families. The classes focus on family and challenge students to reposition relationships to make family the single most important part of life.”

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Continued on page 23
Vegetable garden takes over half the parking lot of Merwin Liquors

By David Pierini, Editor

The parking lot at Merwin Liquors on West Broadway Avenue is regularly perused by police and peace groups that make drug dealers and buyers scatter. But Bryant arm’s quickly returns at times with violence to settle disputes.

Nearby Sanctuary Covenant Church and its non-religious non-profit organization, Love MPLS, have a new plan to run a community garden for good planters full of vegetables. Love MPLS volunteers who walked the West Broadway Avenue entrance to Merwin Liquors on May 14 and filled half of the parking lot with planters filled with fennel, hot peppers, cabbage, collard, dill and more.

The southwest side of the lot, parking spaces where cars would back in to receive frequent visitors, is now cut off to make way for the most daring of all gardens.

“We came up with this plan to creatively and artistically disrupt what is happening. The owners of Merwin said go for it,” said Andreas Lee, Love MPLS board member and the church’s director of operations.

“We want to disrupt with beauty and make it a civic space versus punishment.”

The day after it was placed, one of the heavy cement planters was found tipped over. It was reset upright by WHO and its maintenance personnel.

The parking lot at Merwin Liquors, USA, Thedrauliac Jackson-Nokes, hold the Juneteenth flag during a Juneteenth celebration at Bethune Park in North Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) will kick off Juneteenth weekend.

Juneteenth celebrations aplenty planned for North Minneapolis

By David Pierini, Editor

Looking for a Juneteenth celebration? North Minneapolis residents need not travel far.

Several events to commemorate the end of American slavery are planned for the Northside.

In the lead-up to Juneteenth weekend, the Summer Liberty, 611 Van Mneh Memorial Blvd, will host a program entitled Honoring America’s Dressing Frontline Workers from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 9. There will be poetry, dance, music, food and storytelling from local groups and performers.

There will be a meza in memory of June 19, 1865, when Major Gen. Gordon Granger and union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce and enforce President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. It ended the south’s last slave holdout and the arrival of troops officially marked the end of slavery. Also on Saturday, Sanctuary Covenant Church, 70 W. Broadway Ave. N., will host a Juneteenth bash on the church lawn from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. that will include a health fair, kids activities, vendors and free food.

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The parking lot at Merwin Liquors, USA, Thedrauliac Jackson-Nokes, hold the Juneteenth flag during a Juneteenth celebration at Bethune Park in North Minneapolis.

Get Lit 4 Life community workouts will run 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. On Sunday, the Black-Owned Businesses owners powwow Club will take over West Broadway Avenue North between Bryant and Emerson avenues for a Juneteenth bash.

Miss Black Minneapolis USA, Thedrauliac Jackson-Nokes, hold the Juneteenth flag during a Juneteenth celebration at Bethune Park in North Minneapolis.

所带来的劳动力或他们赚钱的方式，需要您注意防范。”Lee说。去年，三伏39.1度，比往年的35度，根据明尼阿波利斯市的卫生部门统计。一位女士在2018年7月8日和2020年6月28日的21天内，血压控制良好。这表明，在非洲的一些国家，即使是严重疾病，血压是由于炎热或在手术室外的。自2018年以来，圣殿一直在慢慢地改变教堂，通过将它变成一个社区中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中心。去年春天，圣殿委托了艺术家Kenneth Caldwell在教堂的墙上画上一个孩子和一个女孩，为教堂的中

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Friday, June 17 with a movie at dusk at Creekview Park, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N. The title of the freedom-themed movie has not been announced.

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) will continue its annual celebration on Saturday, June 18, from noon to 6 p.m. at Bethune Park, 1304 10th Ave. N. A parade of dance, music and theatrical acts will take the stage and a variety of vendors, from non-profit organizations to local businesses, will have hand to provide food-gear-with.

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The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) will kick off Juneteenth weekend outside and move indoors if the weather.

Performers.

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Construction begins on Satori Village development

By David Pierini, Editor

After years of planning and bringing in big investors, North Minneapolis business man Tim Baylor finally raised a $58 million shovel full of dirt to officially begin construction of TAP IN, a new retail and residential building on West Broadway Avenue and Bryant Avenue North.

Baylor, the former Minneapolis Viking who leads JADT Development LLC, was joined by partners and civic leaders for a groundbreaking ceremony on May 12 to start the first phase of a $58 million residential and commercial development.

“I see it as an opportunity that we have to expand, that we are going to utilize the opportunity that TAP IN can provide in terms of giving people a full commercial opportunity to provide services,” said Free Press Sc, the owner of TAP IN.

This is a gateway project that will open up West Broadway Avenue to more businesses and development that supports a growing population of people of varied income, said project architect Mohammed Lawal of LSE Architects.

The perspective is that we have an opportunity and a need for more than one kind of new housing, Lawal said, which includes market-quality apartments, including varying income levels to live in our community.

By hand for the ceremony are, from left, architect Mohammed Lawal of LSE Architects, Mayor Jacob Frey, state Sen. Bobby Joe Champion and David Mortenson, the construction chairman of Mortenson Construction.

“This doesn’t just fill in a gap,” Frey said. “This helps to further revitalize a community that, by the way, is coming back in the form.”

TAP IN is a restaurant, bar and space for chefs to grow a business

By David Pierini, Editor

An empty gas station that sat vacant for more than a decade will soon open as a social landmark for Northsiders to gather, have a well-crafted cocktail and eat a meal prepared by an emerging chef.

The aptly named TAP IN is scheduled to open on West Broadway Avenue out of its shell of a building. By early fall, New Rules, a commercial real estate collective and successful incubator of entrepreneurs, will open a small restaurant, bar and social landmark for Northsiders to gather, have a well-crafted cocktail and eat a meal prepared by an emerging chef.

The owner of TAP IN is Californian Christopher Webley, who runs a small restaurant, bar and social landmark for Northsiders to gather, have a well-crafted cocktail and eat a meal prepared by an emerging chef.

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TAP IN hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for TAP IN on May 9. In addition to the usual new building ceremony for TAP IN on May 9, it is an appropriate time to highlight the work of Neighborhood HealthSource and celebrate the progress of the project.

The project is on schedule for renovation. Webley said he will open for business in July and is an initiative of NEW RULES, a commercial real estate collective and successful incubator of entrepreneurs.

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Franklin students creating change with words on a page

The essays below offer a glimpse into the spectrum of violence with which they live. The essays also mark early and innocent explorations in bringing change to an often troubled and complicated world. While these teens aquatic potential solutions to the problems impacting them, their family, friends, and (sometimes), they are reminded that seeing a problem and simply complaining will not result in change. Dwyer says, “However, writing with conviction and passion from personal experiences may result in opportunities to change within themselves well beyond what they considered.” By reading their words, you become a part of the solution.

By Alysehs Davis, 13

Looking around, it seems that the most despair to have your voice heard rather than ignored?” Dwyer says. “These days, sometimes it feels like our futures, they long to help and protect the younger generations from having their lives matter in creating change.

Some of Dwyer’s students have reached out to their own daily lives to share their hopes and ideas with North News readers. They are desperate to have their voice heard rather than ignored?

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Farwell and Hall parks to receive improvements from Park Board initiative

By Matthew Sheehan, Contributor

Two Northside parks, Farwell and Hall, are set to receive substantial improvements this summer.

With construction starting soon and programming on the way, families looking for a place for summer programming for their kids, or just a place their youngsters can play may want to keep these parks in mind.

The plans for the two parks were cemented in 2021, after an extensive outreach program from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The organization hosted open houses at the respective parks to gauge how residents would want each park to be improved. The board heard from more than 100 people through open houses and online surveys.

Improvements to the parks are part of the board’s Parks for All plan, which started in 2020 and guides MPRB’s priorities through 2036. The projects are funded by the 20-year Neighborhood Park Plan, a long-term plan started in 2016 to protect park funding as well as add an additional $11 million a year to funding parks throughout Minneapolis.

Proposed improvements to Farwell Park include a new playground for children as well as improved amenities for park-goers of all ages. The upcoming playground includes a theme of “city life meets nature,” a construction themed play area for toddlers, swings and a new play hill. New amenities include new seating, a new bike rack, a new drinking fountain and improved walking paths.

The improvements to Hall Park also include updates to the playground and amenities, as well as some notable landscaping improvements. Hall Park’s west side playground will get an expanded playground and swings, and possibly a new slipped playground area. New amenities will include benches, a shade structure for the already existing pool, a new children’s play area, and a new seating area at the pool. The improved west side will include play area, landscaping and other improvements. There will be a track for learning how to ride bikes.

While the physical improvements to the parks are being squared away, MPRB and the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) have turned their attention to getting people in the parks after the improvements are finished.

“The next steps after the actualization of the plans is creating long-term programming to keep people engaged,” said Crystal Passi, project manager at the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board for the improvement of Farwell and Hall Parks.

Farwell Park has a rich history of programs. One such program was the We Care Performing Arts Program founded by Lorraine Smaller. Starting in 2010 and lasting over six summers, the program had a focus on the Black musical tradition, and brought professionals involved in the fine arts from throughout Minneapolis to the park to interact with and teach the youth. Debbie Duncan, a preeminent jazz singer, was one of many artists who shared her time with youth by giving voice lessons each summer.

Lorraine Smaller and the program were so prolific, there has been a movement within the community to rename the park after her, a trend that has been common in other parks in Minneapolis recently, such as the petition to rename Sibley Park.

Currently, NRRC is meeting with the Northside Superintendent to plan programs for Farwell Park. According to Martine Smaller, NRRC is currently considering programs like morning yoga and youth classes.

Farwell Park will get upgraded playground equipment this summer. Photo by David Pierini
Small businesses are the cornerstone of our communities and they need support more than ever. Comcast RISE is our pledge to invest in thousands of small businesses, and it is our hope that these grants will help them not only grow but thrive.

For the second time in less than a year, Comcast RISE will award another $1 million in grants—$10,000 each—to 100 Twin Cities small businesses owned by people of color or women to help grow their businesses, create jobs, and play a vital role in supporting our communities. Applications are open beginning June 1, through June 14, 2022.

If a business is not eligible for the Comcast RISE Investment Fund, applications are open for marketing and technology services.

Learn more & apply for a $10,000 grant today at comcastrise.com

Sierra Carter
The Zen Bin CEO
Minneapolis
2027 West Broadway, Minneapolis 55411

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Sierra Carter
The Zen Bin CEO

FINANCIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT
CREDIT REPAIR
FAVORABLE MORTGAGE LOAN PRODUCTS
DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE
ACCESS TO REPUTABLE LICENSED PROFESSIONALS
Community Resources

The Healing Place: The Healing Place is located at 2620 11th Ave. S., 612-843-4830. It is committed to healing trauma in the Black community by helping to break the cycle of oppression. It is a safe space where you can pray for a conversation or just a place to sit. Every Wednesday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Food Distribution: Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 3230 12th Ave. S., 612-436-7468. The church distributes food on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Food pickup at Salem Lutheran Church, 4150 Dupont Ave. N., 612-324-6036. The church provides free food on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Given who was in the room, Booker T. Hodges wasn’t going to make it through his first official day as Bloomington’s chief of police without some tears. More than 200 people turned out to attend the swearing-in ceremony in April and they represented nearly every step of his journey to becoming that city’s first Black police chief. His wife and children were in the front row. There were fellow colleagues and bosses, including the governor. There were former colleagues and bosses, including the governor. And there were longtime friends who attended Hodges’ department.

“Department of Human Rights about racism in the murder of George Floyd and the uprising that followed. He now helps coach in that same program. Photo by David Pierini

What about the open chief job in Minneapolis? "We're doing law enforcement as a piece of the criminal justice system. We're always one incident away from being in the news. And at the same time, it's incumbent upon us as a government to put resources in place for people who should want to turn their life around. We don't want to return broken people to the street, because they're just going to commit more crime."

Hodges grew up playing hockey on the backyard ice of North Minneapolis parks.

Policing in Bloomington: "We're doing law enforcement as a piece of the criminal justice system. And at the same time, we've also emphasized that it's incumbent upon us as a government to put resources in place for people should want to turn their life around. We don't want to return broken people to the street, because they're just going to commit more crime."

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Election Judges Are Your Neighbors

Joan grew up in the Hawthorne Neighborhood and is following in her mother’s footsteps by serving as an election judge. She helps with same-day registration for people who weren’t able to or forgot to register in advance. When asked what people don’t understand about how our voting system works, Joan says, “There is an equal number of Democrats and Republicans in Minnesota, yet we all vote together—politics and we all get along great. Minnesotans should have faith in our system.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIMARY (AUG. 9) AND GENERAL (NOV. 8) ELECTIONS AT VOTE411.ORG

Neighborhood Healthsource

Fremont Clinic offers free/low-cost STI testing 3 days a week, no appointment or insurance needed.

Private & confidential.

Every Tu/Th/F
1-4 PM

3300 Fremont Ave N
612-598-9411
neighborhoodhealthsource.org

TASTY TUESDAYS

Rosé Wine Sale

May 25 - June 15

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What advice would you give your 12-year-old self?

Simple answer: Everything will work out.

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Black Business Week

JUNE 13TH - 18TH, 2022

NORTHSIDE MARKETPLACE
CAPRI PLAZA
JUNE 18TH
10AM - 3PM

SHOP NETWORK
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

SCAN WITH A SMART PHONE TO LEARN MORE!

SHOP NORTHSIDE BOXES
MNBLACKBOX.COM
AVAILABLE JUNE 13-17TH