



We build Pride on the Southside

**POWDERHORN
EDITION**
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
**March
2021**
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Monuments



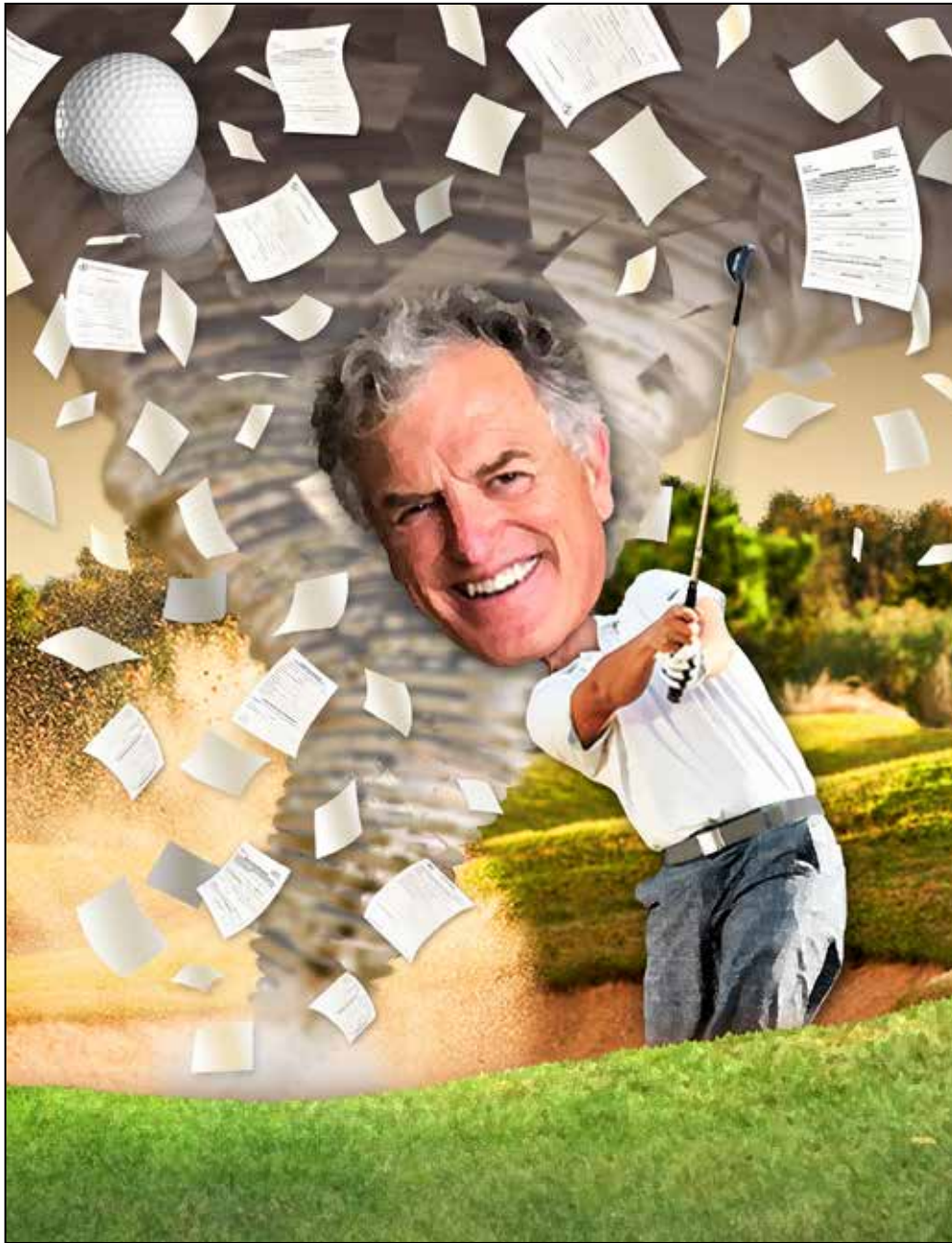
BY TONY BOUZA

Our—or any—so- ciety is driven by values. We repeatedly extoll the virtues of truth tellers and honest dealers. Our airways are clogged with boasts of integ- rity. Our morality defines us and we emphasize these beliefs in the artifacts of culture. There are not too many statues left of Adolf Hitler in Germany or any- where. Civilizations collapse because of moral decay.

Secession was a profoundly traitorous act—and done for the cause of preserving the power to own an- other human's life and service. Locally, Lake Calhoun reminds us of this folly. Luckily it is correctible and it has been. Anyone who thinks Charles Lindbergh was a great hero hasn't read Phil Roth's "The Plot Against America." Dig it.

Though he has his adherents—and so does Adolph, for that matter (attesting to the infinite gullibility of the human ani- mal)—J. Edgar Hoover was the worst thing ever to happen to American policing. His papers—which would have revealed the sick

See Bouza, page 4



Reject the plan: testimony before the Park Board

BY PETER MCLAUGHLIN

- Your job is to create a park system for all of Minneapolis. Your plan will destroy a vital, viable historic resource that has served the community for

almost a hundred years. You may not like golf, but there are people who do, people who get great pleasure from this course just as you might by biking, hiking, swimming or skating. It is essential for the

park system to maintain a rich mix of opportunities for the residents of Minne- apolis. This will diminish that richness, particularly in South Minneapolis.

- Financially, this plan is a disaster. You are cut-

See The Plan, page 11

10th Ward City Council race

BY DAVID TILSEN

This year, Minneapolis will have elections for city offices. This means the mayor, all the City Council members, Park Board and Board of Estimate and Taxation. With the multiple crises that the city has gone through and is still going through, I expect the debate and discussion on these races to be illuminating, and hopefully healing and helpful.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 24, there was a candidate debate between six candidates running for the 10th Ward City Council seat. The 10th Ward includes most of Uptown, Whittier and the Wedge.

First impressions were that there was a lack of specifics. Everyone wants "to change the culture of the police," more police accountabil-



Aisha Chughtai

ity, build more "affordable housing," provide better public transportation and is against racism and hunger.

No one talked about the upcoming Chauvin trial or the deployment of the National Guard.

Candidates

*Aisha Chughtai - Child of immigrants, longtime city political progressive. Former campaign manager for Ilhan Omar, union organizer, Take Action Minnesota staff. Very impressive, talks a lot about equity and justice, wants to do regular town halls in the ward.

*Steven Frisch - Calls himself a Democratic Socialist. Wants free public transportation, no cash bail, \$15 minimum wage now, free school

See Ward 10, page 12



**2021 Summer Camp Section
Pages 2-3**



**2021 Education Section
Pages 7, 8 & 9**

Summer Camp!



Summer camps 2021: some in-person, a lot of virtual options

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

summer camp.

The state of the COVID-19 pandemic is still pretty uncertain for summer 2021. Therefore, not surprisingly, there are more virtual options than ever before available. But there are still some in-person day camps and even residential traditional camps. There is actually a huge variety of choices, and so though we'll cover (briefly) a lot of them, we'll also provide you some tips for searching for exactly what you want in a

Guides

Of course, you can always just Google for it, but as you may have noticed, paid advertisers now hog all the top pages of search results, no matter what you're searching for, and sometimes you might not have the time to get down to what you really need. So here are some tailored searchable "directories" online dedicated just to summer camps.

The biggest database is probably at www.summercamps.com, with its straightforward, easy to remember name. Once on this site, which covers the whole U.S., you can enter a search term like "swimming," "college prep," or "arts," or you can enter a location, or you can enter both, and get targeted results. Here again, the paid ads have a link to click right through, but if your preferred result is unpaid, just Google its name for the link. If your kid wants to explore the Pacific Northwest and also learn coding, for instance, this can take you straight there.

The next three are close to home. There's Minneapolis-St. Paul Out and About for Kids (msp.kidsoutandabout.com/). To find the summer camp section, use the menu bar to navigate to LOCAL LISTS>CLASSES & CAMPS>In-person Summer Camps, and click. (It actually contains two lists, in-person and virtual.) Then there's Family Fun Twin Cities, which offers year-round guides for all kinds of free, cheap, unique or fun things for kids. The dedicated summer camp guide is at www.familyfuntwincities.com/guide-twin-cities-summer-camps. And then there is SummerCamp.org,

which, as its name suggests, is nothing but Summer Camps. They have two separate websites, one

able—you'll just have to check it out) and Virtual 4-H Camp.

For the rest of the options, we're only giving the name of the camp or program and the city, to save space. But we have spot-tested that Googling the name as given should take you straight to the web page to get more information, including a phone number if you prefer to talk to them first. We recommend calling the organizations if there are any doubts about the information offered here, especially for scheduled in-person camps, just in case there are changes.

Sports

Both cities offer summer tennis day camp and/or tennis coaching for kids through their parks departments (or a partnership, in the case of Minneapolis). For Minneapolis, look for Inner City Tennis, and for St. Paul, it's called Urban Tennis.

Classic TaeKwonDo on Chicago Avenue is now enrolling kids for Summer Day Camp, which includes not only daily classes in the Korean martial art of TaeKwonDo, but also daily field trips, crafts and other activities. Attendance options include all-day sessions Monday through Friday, or only pay for the days you need.

Twins Baseball Camps are happening again in summer 2021, as they had a safe and successful run in 2020. In fact, a lot of the more popular sites are sold out. They're offered in many cities around the state as well as the metro area.

This one could have gone under performing arts, but I decided to put it in sports. Circus Juventas in St. Paul offers a world-renowned summer day program in all manner of circus arts. There are two choices of camps for ages 6 to 15 and the high-flying adventure camp for ages 13 to 18.

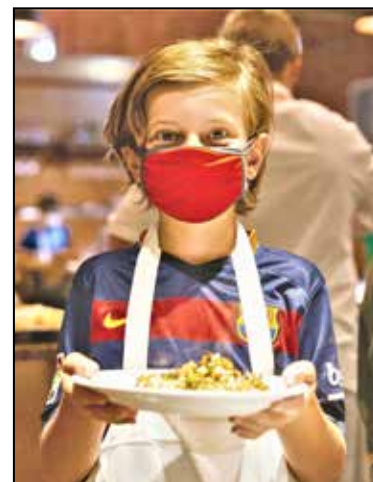
Arts including Performing & Music

Artculture is an arts nonprofit linking art with healing and growth for all ages and abilities. They are offering summer day camps in week-long modules over three age cohorts. Their fees are very reasonable, and they have a great variety of themes.

Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis offers a virtual class this summer called Clay-Along. After registration, you'll be given a date window to pick up a kit, and then the instruction will be live and



Timberwolves & Lynx Basketball Academy in a previous year



Cooks of Crocus Hill

for each city area: minneapolis.summercamps.org/ and saintpaulsummercamps.com/.

Finally, here's a guide that's only free and virtual summer camps. The search site at summercamphub.com/free-online-summer-camps has an amazing variety of ideas like Camp YouTube, Target-sponsored Maker's Camp (a combination of tech and crafts), Wonderopolis (indescrib-

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2213 Snelling Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404



Summer Camp!



online. It looks like there will be adult, youth and kid versions.

Adventures in Cardboard is the local organization that combines two things the Twin Cities are known for—fantasy and cheap art. Kids of all ages imagine their own fantasy worlds and then build them, mostly from cardboard. It's wildly popular, and it's outdoors for the most part.

School of Rock in St. Paul operates year-round. They do vir-

summer, look into the virtual enrichment classes offered by the Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth. At the time of writing, the class list for the Summer Session for grades 5 through 7 was not up yet, but the older cohort, grades 8 through 12, is only summer, and is open for registration now. Some of the classes at this level include creative writing, forensic science, and genocide and human rights.

This one isn't local, but it's vir-

says registration information will be available in March (so not in time for this article).

Minneapolis Parks Department does not appear to have 2021 summer camp information up yet, except for a single event in early June. If you're interested in that, I would suggest just checking back now and then, or maybe call your nearest park.

YMCA North is offering an array of day camps in several locations in the outer metro. The further out ones include bus transportation from selected stops.



Tanadoona, Camp Fire Minnesota, in Excelsior

tual classes for kids and youth, teaching Rock 101, songwriting, performing and specialist classes. For 2021 they will have short half-day in-person day camps. Register on their website.

Cooks Camp for Kids is offered by Cooks of Crocus Hill in St. Paul. Their Teens and Kids Summer program offers modules like Global Top Chef, Restaurant Copycat, and Baking and Decorating.

Technology & Academic

Snapology is a private company with franchises in various cities including Minneapolis. They offer online classes year-round, private parties with kids, and week-long day camps in the summer. Since it's mostly playing with Legos, albeit mixed in with learning about technology and science, it's more for the younger ages.

Saint Paul College offers career exploration day camps on campus for high school students, in areas such as "scrub camp" for kids interested in health care. There are camps for video game design, cosmetology, and more.

Groves Academy is a specialist school that supports bright students who struggle with learning disabilities and attention disorders, as well as promoting evidence-based literacy instruction for all. They will have a summer camp program in 2021.

iD Tech usually has a campus-based program at Macalester College in a wide range of tech and STEAM areas. Their website says: "With the ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID, most of our university partners are delaying their decisions about on-campus programs until later this spring. We'll keep you informed as plans unfold. In the meantime, we invite you to join us for 1-on-1 or small-group online learning."

If you have an "indoor kid" who actually misses school in the



Circus Juventas toddler balance

Academy North Campus (3100 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis) for Korean Culture Camp." The website will be updated when they open registration.

Tamahay Camp for Girls is our last item. As the name suggests, this is an all-girls camping experience.

Located in Akeley, Minn., it was founded by four women in 1969. The camping is all-residential, and immersive, with no cell phones or other electronic devices. There are two-week or four-week sessions and registration is now open.

Cultural & Traditional

Minnesota JCC at the Sabes Center in Minneapolis offers Camp Olami for campers entering grades K through 6. Registration is open now. They also have "partner camps" for older kids, which include ArtRageous Rock of Ages, Snapology, Timberwolves & Lynx Basketball Academy, and more.

Camp Woodbrooke is a traditional countryside camp near Richland Center, Wis., colloquially called "Quaker Camp" as it is owned and operated by a Quaker-oriented nonprofit. They describe it as "Simple outdoor living in a non-competitive, ecology-oriented camp."

Korean Culture Camp is a local institution that was started in order to serve Korean adoptees cut off from the birth family culture, but now is a part of the Korean-American family tradition. They posted the following COVID-19 notice: "We've held the dates of July 19 - 23 at Minnehaha



Korean Culture Camp

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Gimme shelter (cont.)

BY KAY SCHROVEN

*Oh a storm is threatening
My very life today
If I don't get some shelter
Oh yeah, I'm gonna fade away*
— "Gimme Shelter," The Rolling Stones

In the 1980s when many mental health facilities were closing, 14 local churches became involved in addressing homelessness and providing services. Three of these still exist today: Our Saviour's Lutheran, St. Stephen's Catholic and Simpson United Methodist. These, in addition to the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities, form the largest continuum of services for the unsheltered and homeless communities in Minneapolis.

Simpson United Methodist has been a leader for nearly 40 years, providing shelter to those in need in the basement of their church. The not-for-profit employs 115 individuals and has an operating budget of \$10 million. The CARES Act has recently provided funding, which allows the shelter to remain open 24/7 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization navigates approximately 100 individuals per year into housing. Having sold their Bell House on Pillsbury Avenue in the Whittier neighborhood, the organization purchased its own building at 160 Glenwood Ave. and plans to move its administrative offices this summer (2021).

In addition, Simpson is very excited about a new project!

They continue to raise funds to build a 70-bed short-term shelter and 42 units of permanent supportive housing at the Simpson United Methodist Church site (1st Avenue South and 28th Street). Given the age of the building (139 yrs.) and a dwindling number of urban parishioners, the congregation donated the building to Simpson House. The new shelter project has been accepted by the Minneapolis Planning Commission and supported by the Whittier Alliance and Council President Lisa Bender (Ward 10). It is expected to open within the next few years. LHB Architects and Project for Pride in Living are engaged in the design and development of the project. The plan is to create a five-story modern and dignified facility with a commercial kitchen, a medical clinic, sleeping areas, showers, laundry rooms and common spaces with plenty of natural light, as well as very affordable apartment units.

While the church's basement shelter is not modern or dignified, it is dear to many for a variety of reasons. One resident put it simply: "hot meals, clean sheets and people who care." For nearly four decades, the 66-bed shelter has been a stable temporary home "where you stay for a night or for weeks, as needed, and are treated like a human being."

Simpson offers three key programs: Shelter, Family Housing and Single Adults Housing.

In addition to providing beds, the shelter provides three meals a day but uses caterers now during the pandemic rather than volunteers. They serve 100 per night and alums are welcome. While the church is closed due to COVID, they continue operating a food shelf.

Family Housing is coordinated with Hennepin County, and pro-

vides housing to approximately 300 families and 600 children, working with landlords and developers to secure appropriate housing. In addition, Simpson offers educational programs designed for breaking the cycle of homelessness by supporting early childhood development through programs addressing education, financial stability, wellness, child care, language and literacy, and employment. In 2018 this program was awarded \$2.5 million toward expansion by Amazon's Jeff Bezos. They are one of 24 nonprofit agencies selected in the U.S. for this award. This award will allow them to expand their services by 20 percent.

The Single Adults program is designed for adults who have experienced long-term (four or more years) homelessness. It is built around support and advocacy and provides services to over 200 adults annually. This program supports The Women's Housing Partnership, Opportunity Housing Partnership and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The Women's Program focuses on forging ongoing relationships with women to help them develop independence and stability. The Opportunity Partnership is a collaboration amongst Simpson, AEON and Avivo to support two housing communities in downtown Minneapolis. They offer efficiency apartments and opportunities for community engagement. The Rapid Re-Housing Program is a short-term intervention program designed to provide financial assistance and services to individuals experiencing homelessness in order to quickly re-house and stabilize them.

Those in need of services can report to the basement of St. Olaf's Church in Minneapolis (215 S. 8th St.) where intake is conducted. Those looking to con-

tribute to ending homelessness can learn more on the Simpson website, www.simpsonhousing.org, under Ways to Help. Under Volunteer you will find current opportunities and an application. Donations can be made in the form of funds or commonly needed supplies such as toilet paper, school supplies and electronics. Mark your calendar for May 12 for the 11th annual Art-4Shelter event. This year's event will be virtual and will feature many local artists. Original art will be available for purchase (\$35) and all proceeds will go to the Simpson Shelter and Housing programs. You can access the event on the Simpson website.

Four Men from St. Paul

*Hey God, it is not working
out too well
This business of being alive
You never said it would be
easy
But I never thought I'd see
children on my street going
hungry.*

*Or four men freezing to death
after being turned away
from a shelter for homeless
people
So what happened God?
Didn't those four men rate
that night?
Did being drunk make them
disposable?*

*Oh, I still believe in you
But it's getting hard to find
you in the city
And those four men who froze
to death
didn't see your Light of com-
passion shining that night
So God be straight with me—
Is there no more room at the
inn?*

--Pam Wynn, Home Words,
St. Stephens Shelter, 1991

Wanted: travel size toiletries

Kay Grace from the Bancroft neighborhood wrote on Next-door:

"Hello, my 88-year-old mom, Gale, is now staying with us here in South Minneapolis. She used to be an amazing seamstress but now has dementia and cannot do very much. My sister and I are starting a project with her to make simple small cloth drawstring bags so we can fill them with travel-sized items like toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, bodywash, little soaps, lotions, shampoo, combs, etc., including good things for people with different kinds of hair needs.

"We hope this will help people who need the items and who will enjoy the bags too, and we also know it will help our mom feel useful again. For many years she made hundreds of duffel-type

bags for kids who had to leave their homes and would otherwise have used a garbage bag for their belongings. If you have any new or unopened items to donate, or can pick some up when you shop, we would gratefully accept them.

"Items can be dropped off in our front yard in a box we'll put on a blue Adirondack chair. We'll check and empty it each evening: 4024 14th Ave. S. House is blue, across from the condos."

Grace, her mom and her sister started the project in the middle of February. Here's their report on Feb. 22:

"Thanks so much for all the donations! We've got a few bags ready and are making lots more new bags, mostly printed cloth (not see-through). Here's a photo."



Bouza, from page 1

purpose of his instincts—will never see the light of day. His targets will surface in 2027 as the FBI files on Hoover's #1 bugbear—the Reverend and revered Martin Luther King, Jr.—are released. They will probably reflect an active libido, and so what?

Every sensible historian has known and evaluated Hoover's true worth—or lack thereof. Curt Gentry's biography is the best. The FBI's current building in D.C. bears Hoover's name. That is even more shameful than our Lindbergh Terminal. Now there is a new FBI

building in the works, and we are likely to perpetuate the atrocity. His are not the values that should perpetuate our worth.

When the King files are released, some will claim justification for their antipathy—which is really just another expression of racism.

What will not be asked is why—in a sea of Mafia violence and addiction pandemics—did Hoover train his obsessive powers on a Black clergyman fighting for human rights?

It is in wrestling with such questions that a civilization is defined.

What will history's judgment

be of ours?

It all—on the surface—looks pretty harmless. Robert E. Lee was a great general and very likely a really nice guy. "Gone with the Wind" gave us a great view of the idyllic life of plantation darkies. D.W. Griffith was a brilliant director who created the most blatantly racist tract Hollywood ever made, "The Birth of a Nation."

Every monument—in whatever form: flag, song, book, film or even, yes, buildings—is an expression of our values. They are ways of conveying to our children the things we hold most dear.

Swastika, anyone?



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EVENTS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

**Augsburg University's
Centered Life Series**
**'Stepping into 2021: Hearts
Rekindled, Hope Awakened'**
Wednesdays, through March 17
11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Online
Church and education leaders reflect on the theme "Stepping into 2021: Hearts Rekindled, Hope Awakened." Speakers include David Tiede, Lois Malcolm, Terry McGonigal, Martha Stortz, Kelly Chatman and David Stark. Visit www.augsburg.edu/centeredlife/ to learn more and to register for this free event.

**2021 Collegeville Connections
Virtual events**
Join us for Collegeville Connections – a one-hour, weekly virtual event that features the work of Collegeville Institute alumni. Grab a cup of coffee or a bagged lunch and Zoom into our events on Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m., CST. Consider it your mid-week warm up this winter, encouraging you to explore faith, ignite imagination, and renew community with the Collegeville Institute. For more info and to register, go to <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/events/>.
Telling Refugee Stories:
Kao Kalia Yang and Jessica Goudeau
Wednesday, March 3, noon
Online
The global migration crisis has displaced nearly 80 million people, the highest number since World War II, yet stories of refugees rarely make headlines. Kao Kalia Yang and Jessica Goudeau are two writers that tell refugee stories in the United States and abroad, showcasing the diverse experiences of displaced people around the world. In this virtual Collegeville Connections event, the authors will read from and discuss their recent books, Yang's "Somewhere in the Unknown World: A Collective Refugee Memoir," which features the stories of refugees resettled in Minnesota, and Goudeau's "After the Last Border: Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America," a book of narrative nonfiction about two refugee women resettled in Austin, Texas. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers at the end of the event. To register, go to <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/events/event/telling-refugee-stories/>.

Breaking, Blessing, Building:
A Call for the Common Good
March 5-7

Online
COVID-19, a pandemic of racism in the United States, economic distress. Our reality right now helps us know that things need to change for the good of us all. Laity and clergy from various backgrounds and traditions are invited to gather together in such a way that inspires action to change the Church and the world. Read more about NEXT Church at <https://nextchurch.net/gathering/2021-national-gathering/>.

JRLC Virtual Day on the Hill
'Make Justice Your Aim'
Thursday, March 11, 6:30 to 8:45 p.m.
Isaiah 1:17 calls us: "Make Justice Your Aim." Join us to examine Justice for Minnesotans of color and those who are unsheltered in the context of the COVID-19 vaccine. Then prepare to meet with your legislators to work for justice. To learn more and to register, go to jrlc.org. Event is free. Contributions welcomed.
Keynote Speaker: Reverend Paul Slack—"Trust, Access and Equity." Rev. Slack brings 30 years' experience as a pastoral and social justice leader and currently serves as the Social Justice Advocate for Lutheran Social Service.
Panel: COVID-19—Homeless Outreach, Housing and Health, with Blair Harrison, Senior Advisor on Health, Homelessness and Housing, Minnesota Department of Health, and Dr. Antony Stately, CEO and Physician, Native American Community Clinics, Minneapolis, and others.
Learn about the JRLC Agenda and How to Advocate for Justice. Prepare for virtual legislative visits to be held March 15, 16 and 17. Sponsored by Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Interfaith Advocacy for Social Justice.

Antisemitism and White Supremacy
Thursday, March 11, and
Thursday, April 8, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Online
Antisemitism is an essential piece of the machinery that perpetuates white supremacy, class hierarchies and other forms of oppression. That's why Jewish Community Action is holding weekly trainings on how to combat antisemitism and white nationalism. These sessions are free, and open to members and allies. Register at <https://jca-mn.medium.com/jca-antisemitism-and-white-supremacy-trainings-a7c0dbe2221>.

It's Cold Out!
Welcome Refugees with Warmth

This month, MCC Refugee Services had the privilege of welcoming 5 people with refugee status from Somalia, including siblings who were finally able to reunite with their father. As we help them settle into life in Minnesota and look forward to more arrivals, we are in need of new bed pillows, large frying pans and cooking pots, and winter coats (toddler boys and girls and men's size small). To arrange a drop-off or for more information, please email rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org. Thank you!

Ecumenical Advocacy Days
April 18-21
Online
Save the date for Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2021, and join us as we gather online to "Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored." Together, we will passionately advocate and reimagine a world that lives out the values of justice, equity, and the beloved community. For more information, go to <https://advocacydays.org/>.

Minneapolis Friends Meeting (Quaker)
4401 York Ave. S., Mpls.
Minneapolis Friends Meeting is looking forward to spring, and joining in silent worship together, in person, as the weather warms and pandemic subsides. We continue to monitor health concerns to determine when this can be done safely. Meanwhile, we gather online. Worship Sundays, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (with planned speaker). Other online activities include: Mid-morning program Sundays at 10:15 a.m., with a discussion of various social and spiritual concerns. First Day School for youth, and get-togethers that include Lectio Divina, a writing group, and other activities to help keep our community connected. Office email: office@minneapolisfriends.org. www.minneapolisfriends.org

Bahá'í Center of Minneapolis
3644 Chicago Ave., Mpls.
Devotions via Zoom, Sundays at 10 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Please visit the Bahá'í community of Minneapolis website at www.minneapolisbahai.org/. Here you will find information about upcoming and past Holy Day celebrations, as well as news, announcements and information.

Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls.
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m., via Facebook Live and Zoom. See our website at www.clchurch.org for instructions.

Catholic Church of St. Albert the Great
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S., Mpls.
In-person Masses with limited seating on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and noon. Masks and social distancing required. Enter through church front center doors only. Please see our website at www.saintalbertthegreat.org/ for more details. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass also streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StAlbertTheGreatMpls/.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
3430 E. 51st St., Mpls.
www.faithlutheranmpls.org
Sunday Worship (with safety measures in place) at 9 a.m. Those who are over 65, have pre-existing conditions, or live in proximity to at-risk demographics are encouraged to remain home. We will continue to post videos online for Sunday morning for those who can't join us yet on YouTube and Facebook www.facebook.com/felcmpls/. Bible classes on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Masks and social spacing required for worship and Bible classes. NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. (Fridays temporarily suspended).

First Free Church
5150 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls.
Sunday service 10 a.m. (in person and online). Visit our website at www.first-freechurch.org for more information.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.
In-person worship services suspended; online services continue via our website. Service recordings, bulletins and news are available at www.holycross-mpls.org.

Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls.
Worship with us from home! Worship is currently being streamed on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings at www.facebook.com/LivingSpiritMN/. The weekly bulletin, children's faith formation packet, and more will be posted to our website; that's also where you can find resources and worship recordings from previous weeks. www.livingspiritumc.org/online

Messiah Lutheran Church
2400 Park Ave., Mpls.
All services now online at www.messiahlutheranmpls.org. Each week we video services, viewable anytime, please join us! Visit our website for online devotions and bulletins.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church
4101 37th Ave. S., Mpls.
Sunday Worship online at 9:45 a.m. All services and programs are temporarily online. Please check the church website for any changes: <https://minnehaha-communion.org/>.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church
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Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
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New Creation Baptist Church
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Jack Ryan: Spoiler alert!

BY ED FELIEN

I feel like Oscar in Sesame Street: “I like trash.”

What’s there to do during the pandemic and forced incarceration but watch trashy action flicks on Netflix? And, after you’ve watched all

mercenaries are sent into the Venezuelan jungle to find out what secret stuff the government is shipping into an isolated area. Jack Ryan finds out it’s mining equipment, and they also discover a prisoner camp. In the process, they kill a lot of Venezuelan soldiers. One



Nicolas Maduro

the James Bond movies and “Ocean’s Eleven,” you’re left with the dregs at the bottom of the barrel.

Season Two of the “Jack Ryan” series is about an evil Venezuelan dictator who is making some kind of secret deal to sell mining rights for tantalum, a rare metal used in computers. Jack Ryan, a CIA analyst, gets involved because a friend of his, a U.S. senator, is assassinated in Venezuela when he is investigating this mining deal. A group of CIA

of the U.S. mercenaries gets killed, and the dictator makes a big deal about it on television, saying the CIA is invading his country. There’s a national election happening, and the woman running against the dictator is billed as a progressive social activist fighting for freedom, so, of course, she needs CIA protection, which the dictator also uses against her by saying she is a puppet of the U.S.

What’s the reality behind this melodrama?

Hugo Chavez was the democratically elected and popular president of Venezuela from 1999 to his death in 2013. He was a revolutionary socialist. He earned the hatred of the U.S. and Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips for nationalizing the oil industry. Obama declared Venezuela “an unusual and extraordinary threat to national security” in March of 2015. The Washington D.C. Center for Economic and Policy Research said that U.S. sanctions have killed 40,000 people in Venezuela.

Mike Pompeo, Trump’s Secretary of State and former head of the CIA, told the Aspen Security Forum in 2017 that he was “hopeful that there can be a transition in Venezuela, and the CIA is doing its best to understand the dynamic there. I was just down in Mexico City and in Bogota a week before last talking about this very issue, trying to help them.” Venezuela’s Foreign Minister Samuel Moncada stated the obvious: “There is a secret operation by the Central Intelligence Agency to split up a democratically elected government.”

Nicolas Maduro, a former bus driver and leader of the Transit Workers Union, was vice president under Chavez. When Chavez died of cancer, Maduro was chosen by the Socialist Party to succeed him. He won the presidential election a month later, but Henrique Capriles, the conservative candidate favored by the U.S., challenged the results. Even after a recount of the pa-

per ballots, Capriles refused to accept the results. He appealed to the Venezuela Supreme Court and they turned him down.

Maduro was re-elected president in May 2018 by 67.8 percent of the vote. The U.S. and the conservative opposition continued their efforts to delegitimize the election and Maduro. They claimed the election

a coup attempt by U.S. Army Special Forces operator Jordan Goudreau. He led 60 armed men, including two former U.S. Special Forces personnel, in an invasion of Venezuela from Colombia. Juan Guaido denied any involvement in the coup, but Jordan Goudreau said Guaido had signed a contract with him for \$219 million to stage the coup.



Jack Ryan

was unfair because Maduro supporters were telling voters if the Socialist Party lost the election, then people could lose their socialized medicine. On Jan. 23, 2019, Juan Guaido, just 18 days after being chosen to lead the Assembly, announced that he was formally assuming the role of interim president. The U.S. immediately recognized him as legitimate.

Then, on May 3, 2020, Venezuelan security forces stopped

In the fevered ending of the second season of “Jack Ryan,” Jack and his CIA buddies storm the presidential palace, killing a dozen people, to rescue a CIA operative. The Electoral Commission declares that the candidate running against the president (Maduro) has won with 70 percent of the vote, while an angry mob storms the presidential palace. And, in a tearful finale, the new woman president is reunited with her husband—whom the CIA had rescued from the jungle prison camp—as our CIA heroes look down on their reunion from three stories up on the aft deck of a U.S. battleship, like gods smiling down on mere mortals from Olympus.

This farce would be hilarious if it weren’t so tragic.

Aristotle in “The Poetics” says tragedy is the imitation of an action that through fear and pity purges us of those emotions.

We watch Jack Ryan search for justice. We identify with his desire to help his friends. We are afraid when Jack faces danger, and we feel he is justified in killing anyone who threatens him.

The “Jack Ryan” series are training films for mercenaries and mass murderers. They turn history on its head. They create a false narrative that convinces us that killing anyone who gets in our way is heroic, that the good guys always win, and that the good guys are always the Americans.

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2021 Education Section



The Page Amendment; educators' solidarity; COVID-19 and safe reopening of schools

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

A big subject in local educational news has been the struggle between teachers' unions and school districts over when and how it is safe to return to in-person classes. As we explained in the October 2020 Education Section, it's a complex issue. For some teachers, in-person learning is what they want most, and for some families too. But other teachers, paraprofessionals and families rightly fear it, for the many unknowns and great potential to cause proliferation of the COVID illness.

You might want to refer back to the October 2020 article (southsidepride.com/2020/10/05/minneapolis-schools-other-issues-on-the-back-burner-but-not-cdd/) because it explains a lot that is still ongoing six months later.

In general, the majority of school boards and administrators want to get back to in-person learning as soon as possible, and the majority of union members in the system want better guarantees of safety, or hazard pay. Families of students run the gamut. There are some who demand continued in-person learning and move their kids to parochial or other private schools to get it. There are some who demand that virtual (or remote as it's often called in the education setting) is available for all who want it. There are some

who want to keep their kids home, but are dissatisfied with the quality of remote learning and withdraw for homeschooling. School districts struggle and don't fully succeed in balancing all these needs. Previously, I spoke with KH, a school bus driver and member of the Teamsters Union, who continued working when St. Paul went all re-



See *Schools*, page 8

See *Schools*, page 8

See *Schools*, page 8

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2020 Education

Schools, from page 7

mote by picking up routes in White Bear Lake, which was then hybrid. I also spoke to Beth, who left her teaching

job at a charter school then in hybrid mode (a combination of remote and in-person) to take a post in the Minneapolis Public School system which was then all remote.



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For this Education Section, I interviewed another education worker whom I know through Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). They are a technology assistant paraprofessional for Shakopee Public Schools (ISD 702) and their spouse is a special ed teacher.

Teachers in Shakopee, as in most suburban districts, are represented by the union Education Minnesota, but the paraprofessionals or Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are represented by Minnesota School Employees Association (MSEA)—a union that broke off from Education Minnesota about 50 years ago, due to the feeling that Education Minnesota did not represent ESPs adequately. Custodial staff in the Shakopee system are represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Shakopee schools were in hybrid mode from the COVID emergency declaration in March through Thanksgiving week, after which they switched to remote-only due to the surge in COVID. (At the start, they also created an option called K-12 Online Academy for families who wanted to be remote only.) They have been gradually transitioning back to hybrid mode since January, starting with kindergarten through second grade, and

finishing when high school students come back in March, conditions permitting.

My interviewee described the scrambles, complexities and sometimes chaos involved



Nevada Littlewolf

in this ongoing process. Part of their job is distributing devices, hotspots and other electronic gear to students when they “go remote” and then checking it back in when they “return” for in-person classes. It’s a big thing for school kids to be responsible for, but they said the kindergarteners were actually better at it! (Probably got more help from their parents, to be fair.)

They described situations where the district made last-minute structure changes that meant kids weren’t isolated properly. Teachers

and other staff often have to go into quarantine for exposures, even if they don’t get sick, exacerbating the already high shortage of staff. They described situations where ESPs ended up in sole supervision of large classes because there were so few teachers. “Teachers, more than almost anyone, understand the need for kids to get back to classes, but they and we worry about safety. I’m a parent myself, so I understand the conflict,” they said.

More than ever before, solidarity both within and between unions is supporting education workers in these difficult times. Within the Twin Cities DSA Labor Branch, a tight-knit, very active Education Workers’ Working Group has formed. They share information and work together across districts, between public, private, charter and alternative schools, and across unions, to try to improve the situation and stand firm in demanding safety for staff and students.

When, after being all-remote for the 2020-21 year until that point, Minneapolis Public Schools announced they would be transitioning to hybrid learning in early February (and St. Paul Public Schools announced the same thing), both teachers’ unions, MFT59 in Minneapolis and SPFE28 in St. Paul, reacted swiftly, with MFT59 filing a civil injunction. The court did not grant all the demands in the injunction, but did affirm that any staff with a valid accommodation in place or in process could work from home without suffering loss.

There is another big issue facing Minnesotans interested in preserving public education and improving its quality—the proposed Minnesota Constitutional amendment called “the Page Amendment.” It’s sometimes referred to as the Federal Reserve amendment, because the other co-author, besides former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page, is Neel Kashkari, a former Republican candidate for governor of California, now the head of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, which remains neutral on the amendment:

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Section



“To critics, Kashkari’s participation is cause for concern: As the Republican candidate for governor of California in 2014, he campaigned on vouchers and other free-market reforms as a means of improving public schools.

“The Page Amendment’s language does not appear to explicitly mandate the creation of a public school system at all, only that any public schools that do exist meet ‘achievement standards,’” University of Minnesota researchers Myron Orfield and Will Stancil wrote in a 2020 memo.”

The decidedly pro-, almost boosterish, language of the home page of Our Children Minnesota, a group formed

here. I see magic words on paper, but nobody has been able to clearly articulate to me how this would actually work, how does this make a difference?” A union educator writing for Twin Cities DSA sums up emerging leftwing critiques and fears in this article: twincitiesdsa.org/2021/01/a-page-out-of-the-neoliberal-playbook-de-funding-public-schools.

David Schultz, a well-known progressive commentator and legal expert as well as a professor of political science at Hamline University, made a more pointed criticism of the amendment’s gaps and pitfalls in MinnPost, the online news journal. Schultz starts by quoting the entirety of the proposed amendment: “All children have a fundamental right to a quality public education that fully prepares them with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy, and society, as measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state. It is the paramount duty of the state to ensure quality public schools that fulfill this fundamental right.”

He then puts on his legal scholar hat (he’s that, as well) and takes this apart pretty much word by word. After parsing all the shortcomings,



Brooklyn Park, Jan. 19: K-2 students return

he sums up with: “Current constitutional language does not prevent the development of any of this; the problem has not been law but political will. New constitutional language as suggested by Page and Kashkari too will not guarantee it, but instead would potentially push critical decisions about education into the courts, where judges will have to make these decisions. It is not clear that this approach is desirable, and it leaves policy formulation up to the distortions of plaintiff legal strate-

gy—and not one necessarily based on promoting overall sound educational policy.”

Another good critical analysis, more from the standpoint of political power and stakes in the game, is found in Sarah Lahm’s recent article in the Progressive: progressive.org/public-school-shakedown/privatize-education-in-minnesota. And finally, see this PDF document to get a full legal analysis by a team of experts: tinyurl.com/sspedsect.

We will close with an “in

memoriam” to a brilliant educator and organizer who passed away at age 67 on Feb. 8, 2021. Karen Lewis was president emerita of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU.) She was immortalized in the popular book on organizing by Jane MacAlevey, “No Shortcuts.” She led the successful strike against Rahm Emanuel’s school board in 2012. In honoring her, the CTU said, “Karen did not just lead our movement. Karen was our movement.”



Karen Lewis of CTU

around the amendment with support from the Minneapolis Fed and several local think tanks, can be seen here: ourchildrenmn.com/about/. The communications chief of this group is prominent Republican Kirsten Kukowski, but there are also DFL heavy-hitters in the coalition, including Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and Paul Wellstone protege Nevada Littlewolf, former campaign director in Minnesota for Biden. The bill to place the amendment on the 2022 ballot is authored by DFL Rep. Hodan Hassan of Minneapolis, along with several DFL and Republican co-authors, according to KSTP.

But there are equally trustworthy and well-reasoned voices against it, and a consensus against it is forming, if not yet reached, among the left wing of the DFL, progressive academics, and educators’ unions, including Education Minnesota.

In the same Star Tribune piece, Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota, said, “I don’t see the plan



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Virtual caucusing and virtual conventions this year

BY DAVID TILSEN

This year the entire Minneapolis city government is on the ballot—the mayor, all 13 council members, the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Park Board. All of these elected officials have been through a lot as the city has been traumatized by the pandemic, the George Floyd murder and subsequent reaction, the closing down of much of our hospitality industry, the rise of unsheltered people camping in our parks, and a level of poverty, hunger, unemployment and desperation unseen since the Depression of the 1930s. There is already a lot of political activity, and most elected offices will be vigorously contested.

In November, the state DFL asked cities to design a process for caucuses and endorsements that did not include in-person meetings.

I am on the Minneapolis DFL Central Committee and we had a lot of meetings to argue, discuss and iron out a plan. This proposed plan went to the DFL State Executive Committee (SEC) for approval on Monday, Feb. 15.

In the meantime, Mayor Frey's reelection campaign was not going well. It seems that there is a lot of dissatisfaction with his lack of leadership and his inability to work with the City Council and community partners.

Over the weekend, the mayor and a few of the most conservative council members and

Park Board commissioners sent a letter to the DFL state party chair asking that they not allow Minneapolis to do any endorsements this year. They contended that the new process was not inclusive, would degrade the party, and its endorsements would be invalid.

For a mayor who ran without the endorsement four years ago, and may have difficulty getting endorsed this year, the rationale seemed disingenuous. Also, those of us toiling to agree to the best decisions were non-plussed by the end-around to the state. Several of the complaining campaigns had been involved in the process, and they had been supportive in the meetings. The final plan reflected changes that the signers of the letter had requested. If they changed their mind, they could have picked up the phone to text or emailed the rest of us to talk about their issues.

The DFL SEC approved the plan with what some say was a unanimous vote, others say not unanimous. It was a voice vote so we don't have a record of any Nays.

Then on Tuesday night, Feb. 16, the Minneapolis DFL met to approve the final plan. Well over 70 people logged on to our Zoom meeting. Some DFL regulars who wanted to know what was going on, some first-timers who had not been to any of our meetings who had no idea of what the plan was, and critics. There were unnecessary and unfair personal attacks on City Chair Devin Hogan, when he

was just trying to do his (unpaid and volunteer) job.

Some felt the all-online process would be confusing and poor people who do not have phones or computers could be excluded. The city party has set up a phone number for people to correspond with in any language to help facilitate non-computer participation.

The majority felt that this online process would be more inclusive. They felt the old system was a hardship on people with jobs, families and other responsibilities. The caucuses required people to trek to a three- or four-hour meeting in the winter. If elected a delegate, they were then committed to a six- to eight-hour ward convention, and then another six to eight hours for the city convention. The virtual plan simply required a person to log on and cast a ballot—a fraction of the time commitment.

Here are the dates and deadlines in the plan for this year:

*March 17 - The deadline for a candidate to get on the list of campaigns seeking endorsement for the caucuses. You don't need to be on the list to run, but, well, it'll probably help.

*April 1 to April 30 - DFLers who live in Minneapolis have an entire month to log in and join their caucus, declare their candidacy for delegate for the ward convention or the city convention. Delegate candidates will have the opportunity to declare their support for a candidate, issue, or be uncommitted.

*April 27, 7 p.m. - A virtual "caucus night" event for each ward, where DFLers can meet

with campaigns and candidates, discuss proposed rules, and break bread together as Democrats. This is not required to participate in the process.

*May 12 to May 18 - a ballot will be emailed to all caucus registrants. They will vote for delegates.

*May 19 - The last date to declare for endorsement for the City Council, mayor and other races.

*June 2 to June 8 - Online balloting by delegates for ward conventions (City Council).

*"Ward conventions" are the weekend of June 5-6, 2021. One ward starting per hour, every hour. Saturday is Ward 1 through Ward 7, beginning at 11 a.m. Sunday is Ward 8 through Ward 13, beginning at noon. These will feature typical events including a candidate forum and opportunity for longer candidate speeches.

*June 9 to June 15 - Online balloting by delegates for city convention for mayor, Board of Estimate and Taxation and Park Board.

*"City convention" is on Saturday, June 12. Speeches and forums for Park Board, Board of Estimate, and mayoral races.

There will be open tabulation of ballots, in virtual teller rooms, which campaigns can observe. No secret ballots for delegates.

Elections will use ranked choice voting. Delegates will have the opportunity to select first, second, and third choice, for example.

There will be virtual events for caucuses (April 27); for wards (June 5-6); and the city (June 12), in which delegates and candidates can politick, socialize and see each other on Zoom.

There will be ways for people without computers to participate by phone or text or request help.

The DFL will educate people about the process and encourage people to assist others to log in.

This process is new, and will require patience and all of us to work together. The assembling of online ballots for every precinct will be a large task, and volunteers will be needed. This is not as labor intensive as 14 conventions and 132 caucuses, but it will be unfamiliar and still require a lot of time.

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A new Good Grocer does good on Eat Street

BY STEPHANIE FOX

For Kurt Vickman, making sure that everyone has enough food to eat has been a lifelong mission. Once the head pastor of The Upper Room, an activ-



ist church, Vickman ran a food shelf in the church basement. He discovered that many people would ask to pay small amounts of money in exchange for their food. It was a way, Vickman said, for people facing hard times to keep their dignity.

But the rules for food banks would not allow it. His church had been required to sign a contract promising that they would not charge or exchange work for food. Vickman decided then that there had to be a better way.

The Good Grocer opened six years ago in the Whittier neighborhood on Lake Street, Vickman's innovative solution to the problem. It was a grocery store that gave customers a chance to trade a few hours of work at the store for a large discount. But when the 35W project forced the demolition of the building, Vickman focused on creating a new Good

Grocer that would serve even more people, giving them a way to contribute to the cause while allowing them to purchase quality, affordable food.

The store's new home on Eat Street, at the corner of 26th and Nicollet and just five blocks from his old location, opened in late January. It's bright and sunny and at about 9,000 square feet, twice the size of the Lake Street store. And, while the store may be new and improved, the business model is the same—it offers high quality foods for not too much money with a volunteer discount option for those who want it.

Right now, 50 percent of the food sold at Good Grocers is natural and there are large produce, dairy, meat, seafood, imported cheese and ethnic food sections in addition to the standard frozen pizzas and grocery items.

Customers can choose from dozens of cooking and hot sauces, Indian and Asian specialties, artisan pastas, coffees and teas—everything that a higher-end grocery store might carry.

There's more in the works, as well. In March, the plan is to open a Good-To-Go section with ready-to-eat choices such as sandwiches and sushi. And soon after, the store will launch Good Eatery, an in-store coffee shop serving deli-style foods.

Vickman is also planning to begin to label some products as

"Good Certified," vetting companies that are doing good, not just tasting good. "The Good Grocer is defined by the word 'Good,'" said Vickman.

The store manages to keep prices low because of their mostly volunteer staff. There are two prices listed for everything, the regular price and the 20 percent discount price for those who volunteer at least two-and-a-half hours a month. Volunteers do not need to be facing food insecurity to get the discount.

The grocery currently has 600 volunteers, but they could use more, Vickman said. "Prices are low because in grocery stores, the biggest expense is labor. Volunteers lower our costs and let us lower our prices."

"Volunteers are the heartbeat of Good Grocer," he said. "Volunteers do inventory, stock the shelves, cashier and bag groceries, answer phones, data entry and much more."

And at least during the pandemic, curbside pickup and delivery will be available for those who want it, also provided by volunteers.

Part of the money saved by having volunteers staff the store will be funneled to the Food Outlet, a mini-version of the larger store, designed to serve those who have limited or uncertain access to sufficient or high quality foods. Those with the need can apply for a six-month membership. Members will receive a 75 per-

cent discount at the Outlet, which will be launching soon and will be open each Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

People living in Whittier and those from outside the neighborhood are starting to discover Good Grocer. Davin

shop at Good Grocer for the prices, the choices and the quality. The more people who buy at full price, the more those who need discounted foods can get them, he said.

"We are glad they found a space still in the Whitti-



Kurt Vickman in the large fresh produce department at Good Grocer's second incarnation

Branwall, a chef and culinary instructor living in Uptown, took a bus to Eat Street, planning to shop at the Asian grocery store across the street. He saw the Good Grocer sign and dropped in to check it out.

"It's my first time here," he said. "The produce is super, super fresh. It looks gorgeous. I would put this up against high-end grocers. And look at the prices. For most people, food is the number one expense. But that cheese," he said, pointing out a package of BelGioioso mozzarella, "It's \$2.99. At Whole Foods, it's \$3.95. At Cub, it's—I'm not sure, but I think it's \$5.99."

Vickman hopes that more people like Branwall will also

er neighborhood," said Kaley Brown, executive director of the Whittier Alliance neighborhood association.

Brown watched construction of the building and talked with Vickman about the store's mission.

"A number of residents here don't have a car. They could walk to the old location and can still walk to the new location," she said.

"A lot of residents here experience food insecurity, so the Good Grocer helps them, too. And the Good Grocer gives people an opportunity to volunteer, so it's a good community builder. We're glad they were able to stay in the neighborhood."

The Plan, from page 1

ting revenue at a time when the system needs revenue. Does golf pay for itself? Last year it sure did, though it admittedly hadn't always. But trees don't pay for themselves; walking paths don't pay for themselves; and on and on. Golf pays for a lot of its costs. On top of that, the proposed plan will require tens of millions of dollars in additional capital funds that you don't have. Why is this a priority? It will consume resources needed in other parts of the system. They won't be available in North Minneapolis or Northeast. And for South Minneapolis, I ask, where are the resources for Ed Solomon Park? It's got a sign and that's about it, after how many years? So many that I fear people will forget who Ed was and walk away. On top of all that you will have to use valuable political capital to get the funding you need. It's beyond me why this should be such a high priority.

• The water. The pumping limit is a phony artifact! I've talked to the DNR. They are not going to shut down this golf course because of the pumping limit. Come up with a plan, seek a new permit for the level of pumping required, and it will be approved. There are farmers all over Minnesota who pump more water than this golf course. Why should the problem of water storage for a huge chunk of Hennepin County be borne by the people of South Minneapolis, the golfers and others who love this course. You're doing other people's bidding at the expense of golfers and the historic legacy of Black residents' use of this golf course.

• No matter how many plaques and old black-and-white pictures of Black golfers you put up, it will NOT properly recognize the historic role this course played in the tortured racial history of this city and this state. It's tokenism of the worst sort. I can understand some members not knowing

the history, but once you knew it, to relegate it to some memorabilia and a flawed nine-hole design is inexcusable.

What do I suggest? Get a plan that preserves the course, while increasing access, improving amenities, cleaning up the water, cleaning up the pollution, preserving a revenue stream and saving tens of millions of dollars for other critical capital needs including Ed Solomon Park.

That's a path that would benefit all of Minneapolis and properly recognize the history of this course and its importance to the Black community.

I urge you to set out on a new path. Reject this plan. And don't make the only lost priority the historic 18-hole golf course.

Peter McLaughlin is the executive director of LISC Twin Cities (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) and the former state representative and county commissioner representing South Minneapolis.

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ABOLITION

Enough Is Enough:
A 150-Year Performance Review of the Minneapolis Police Department

www.MPD150.com

The Biden health care plan doesn't go far enough

BY JOHN KOLSTAD

Is President Biden's proposal regarding health care the improvement we need? How does it compare to Universal Single Payer (Improved Medicare for All)?

Biden's plan reads like a campaign promo piece. He speaks in glowing terms about how great the Obama Affordable Care Act (ACA) is and how he'll make it better. The ACA did some good things, but it has not solved our health care disaster, and it has left many millions with no coverage.

Health care policy is very complex and can be intimidating. The cost and complication is primarily caused by the insurance industry. Insurance

companies often get between us and our doctors. your choice of doctor, hospital or clinic. It costs half as much as the U.S. model using insurance, and the cost to you is determined by your ability to pay. It has better health outcomes and there is no annual enrollment.

Biden's plan reads like a campaign promo piece. He speaks in glowing terms about how great the Obama Affordable Care Act (ACA) is and how he'll make it better. The ACA did some good things, but it has not solved our health care disaster, and it has left many millions with no coverage. Health care policy is very complex and can be intimidating. The cost and complication is primarily caused by the insurance industry. Insurance

existing law explicitly barring Medicare from negotiating lower prices with drug companies, but Medicare for All would negotiate drug prices for all Americans, giving them the leverage of the biggest market in the world to reduce the price. Biden also plans to limit price increases on generics and other drugs, allow U.S. citizens to buy drugs from other countries, end tax breaks for drug advertisement and improve the supplies of generics. Maternal and infant mortality rates in the U.S. are at the levels of non-industrialized countries. Biden wants to work on this issue. A Single Payer System would alleviate this problem.

Biden's plan makes many promises. It is complicated and expensive. It will not stabilize this nation or reduce the anxiety across the country. Biden said it himself: "Nothing is going to change." His proposal will only be a marginal improvement.

A universal Single Payer system would be simpler, less expensive and everyone would be covered. This would help all people and would help the small and medium businesses crushed by COVID-19, increase jobs, wages and the economy. The entire industrialized world is already doing it.

call it savings. Biden is lifting the income cap, allowing those with much higher incomes to benefit from the subsidies and tax credits compared to the ACA. He still has deductibles and out of pocket costs. He claims this will end surprise billing for out of network care and end market concentration. Biden will repeal the



ance companies often get between us and our doctors.

The rest of the industrialized world has solved this problem with universal health care through a Single Payer. They do it to make their nation more economically competitive and provide a healthy, happy, productive work force. Single Payer is all in, no one out. You have

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The legacy of Lisa Bender

Thank you for your excellent piece on Lisa Bender, published a few issues back [all February editions of Southside Pride].

I've lived in my own home here in the Wedge neighborhood since 1995 and I'm a semi-retired architect.

I've also been on various neighborhood committees, beginning at the time when Bender got elected to City Council, starting with active membership (ultimately taking me to chairman) in the Zoning and Planning Committee, to being elected as vice chair (and eventually serving as acting chair) of the Wedge Board of Directors.

So, I've had a good chance to watch Bender from her beginning in a city leadership role.

In one of her first appearances, as our Ward 10 rep on the City Council, she came to a neighborhood Z&P meeting to introduce herself.

Soon, as a member of Z&P I noticed a real flip in rhetoric at many of our meetings. Many "new" participants made a lot of "aggressive" statements at those meetings (in Bender's presence), referring to homeowners as holding up the process of development, thereby having a "stranglehold" on any hope of providing people with "affordable housing." At times the rhetoric at the meetings got so heated I wondered if us homeowners might be dragged out into the street like in the Cultural Revolution days in China.

Next, the pro-developer group began to dismantle the NRP program. Fed funded, low interest, and forgivable loans and a grant program to help homeowners keep their neighborhoods in good repair. The program name, NRP, is no longer used, but remnants of it remain, however quite limited in comparison to previous times.

As I participated in the Z&P committee, I took note of some blatant violation of the bylaws re: "conflict of interest." Some on the committee were not disclosing that parties (with development plans) appearing for approvals by the committee were presently or previously "clients" of some committee members. I soon had the bylaws revised to require recusal by any member with association to parties before the committee.

When I was elected, by the neighborhood, to become a board member I found

further inadequacies in city leadership.

The city planning division, by that time, had lost some of its best planners, leaving behind a "stamp and go" group, who mostly showed up at City Council considerations and final vote meetings, to state the Planning Division's support for development proposals.

With the rollout of 2040, the neighborhood was invited to the local VFW, where:

We were given a brief glimpse of what 2040 would entail (and do to our city) ...

We were broken into "discussion groups" and asked to list, in writing, those things that we found "good" about 2040 ...

All were introduced to Heather Worthington (new director of long-range planning) and she asked us where most of us planned to be in 20 years (think dead, or off to Florida, Texas, or Arizona?), and recommended that we should cash out now and leave.

Bender remained in the back of the room, surrounded by plainclothes-types pretending to be bartenders.

To me, 2040 amounts to nothing more than the opening of the (regulatory zoning) floodgates that have regulated land acquisition (by developers). It encompasses all land within an approximate two-mile radius of downtown. It allows for the combining of individual lots and the construction of apartment buildings, without which developers stay away.

Most importantly, it allows, even incentivizes, the transfer of all this land from being privately owned and occupied, to being corporate and investment group owned—never to come back to private ownership. Affordable housing becomes even further off as a hope for many.

Bender has "sold" the heart of our city—to the development and investment community.

There will be no need for a "public" police force in this future inner city. All policing will be contracted out to security firms, hired by corporate property owners.

Bender is the ultimate, and best paid, modern day Pied Piper Minneapolis has seen. And she's taught her tune to many on the City Council, especially those from the most vulnerable communities.

—Tim Dray

Ward 10, from page 1

lunch, mass transit, electric vehicles and free bike rental.

*Alicia Gibson - Went to South Africa to study truth and reconciliation, big supporter of this and also restorative justice. Scholar on racism and conflict resolution. Supports Chief Arradondo.

*Katie Jones - Longtime City Hall insider. Has served on multiple boards and commissions over the years. Says we need to improve public transportation, reduce vehicle miles traveled. Climate change is a major factor in city decisions. Shows up.

*Chris Parsons - St. Paul firefighter captain. The police are understaffed, need to be properly staffed, safety in the city

is hurting small businesses. He did say that police should not be murdering citizens.

*David Wheeler - Former Duluth City Council member and candidate for Duluth mayor. Says we need more police, he supports the mayor and the police chief. Criticizes the current City Council strongly on some specifics.

Police and Charter Amendments

There are a couple of charter amendments, one a citizens' petition, and one by three City Council members. The amendments are so similar that the council members have said they will drop theirs if the petition drive is successful.

Candidates who said they

were for the charter amendment:

Aisha Chughtai, Katie Jones.

Steven Frisch said he wanted an elected civilian council to hold police accountable.

Alicia Gibson believes restorative justice and a neighborhood truth and reconciliation commission would be helpful.

Everyone is for more "police accountability." Other than the amendments and Mr. Frisch's support of a civilian council, no one had any specific recommendations. There was no mention of the recommended research done by the Communities United Against Police Brutality.

(<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cuapb/pages/1/attachments/original/1591595256/>

WHAT_WILL_IT_TAKE_TO_END_POLICE_VIOLENCE_with_Appendices.pdf?1591595256)

Recommendations

The election and the DFL endorsement will utilize ranked choice voting. You can then have multiple acceptable candidates.

Was favorably impressed

Number one, Aisha Chughtai - She's ready, been through the muck and the mire, and has come out wiser and stronger. She would be a strong addition to the City Council.

Alicia Gibson - She expressed support for Arradondo and Huffman, which gave me pause, but the other things she said resonated. I might consider her for a second place vote.

No so impressed

Steven Frisch - I liked everything he said, but he didn't seem to be ready for the City Council. He should spend a few more years as an advocate.

Katie Jones - A good grasp of details and how to get things done. I didn't hear the broad vision that I think a council member should have. Would be a great staff person.

Chris Parsons - Nice guy, didn't seem to understand systemic racism and how to address it. Too uncritical of police.

Unacceptable

David Wheeler - If you love the last three years under Mayor Frey, then you'd love Mr. Wheeler.

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / POWDERHORN EDITION

EVENTS

U of M School of Music Event University Wind Ensemble and University Symphony Orchestra Virtual Performance

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.

Online

The University Wind Ensemble and University Symphony Orchestra will present their next performance recording virtually on Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. We invite you to view the recordings in a live broadcast on our Facebook (@UMNMUSIC) or YouTube (@UofMSOM) pages with your family for an entertaining evening away from the winter weather. The performance will feature works from J.S. Bach, Ruth Gipps, Paul Hindemith, Rob Smith, Igor Stravinsky, Akira Toda, Edgard Varese, and George Walker. Free and open to the public. Event registration is not required to attend, but you will receive email updates about the event with sign-up. Info: z.umn.edu/SOMvirtual. Program: <http://bit.ly/20KzxcJ>.

Cedar Commissions

March 5-7

Online

The Cedar Cultural Center presents the 2020-21 Cedar Commissions, an online show with pre-recorded performances. For tickets and more info, go to <https://www.thecedar.org/cedar-commissions>.

Night One: Beatriz Correia Lima & AJ Isaacson-Zvidzwa

Friday, March 5

On the first night of the 2020-2021 Cedar Commissions, experience two distinct artists, one exploring her journey with mental illness and the other reflecting on “Machismo,” love, and professional ambition.

Night Two: Farrington Llewellyn & Tearra Oso

Saturday, March 6

Tonight’s program explores one artist’s work opening up a door for conversations around mental health and trauma, while the other explores the process of historical storytelling and healing through the traditional Afro Puerto Rican style of music, Bomba.

Night Three: Hassan Shahid & S U N A H

Sunday, March 7

This evening’s program features the work of one artist’s exploration as a Black Muslim father growing up in a Midwestern Sunni, Sufi household while the other delves into the Hmong language’s relationship with the LGBTQ+ community.

Rain Taxi March Event

‘Beloved Beasts’

Author Michelle Nijhuis in
conversation with Jenny Price

Wednesday, March 10

5:30 p.m.

Online via Crowdcast

Join us for a special event featuring one of LitHub’s Most Anticipated Books of 2021! “Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction” (W.W. Norton) is a vibrant history of the modern conservation movement by acclaimed science writer Michelle Nijhuis. As the effects of climate change escalate the dangers to our planet, “Beloved Beasts” charts the ways conservation can protect all species—including our own. At this special event, Nijhuis will appear in conversation with acclaimed writer, artist, and historian Jenny Price. Free to attend, registration required. We hope to “see” you there! Books can be purchased during the event, or in advance from Magers & Quinn Booksellers in Minneapolis at <https://www.raintaxi.com/michelle-nijhuis/>. The first 15 people to buy a copy of “Beloved Beasts” will receive a signed bookplate and a specially designed Field Notebook with cover art from the book!

‘The Committed’

Author Viet Thanh Nguyen
in conversation with Bao Phi

Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m.

Virtual Event - Registration Required

The sequel to “The Sympathizer,” which won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and went on to sell over a million copies worldwide, “The Committed” tells the story of “the man of two minds” as he comes as a refugee to France and turns his hand to capitalism. The long-awaited new novel from one of America’s most highly regarded contemporary

writers, “The Committed” follows the unnamed Sympathizer as he arrives in Paris in the early 1980s with his blood brother Bon. The pair try to overcome their pasts and ensure their futures by engaging in capitalism in one of its purest forms: drug dealing. Traumatized by his reeducation at the hands of his former best friend, Man, and struggling to assimilate into French culture, the Sympathizer finds Paris both seductive and disturbing. As he falls in with a group of left-wing intellectuals whom he meets at dinner parties given by his French Vietnamese “aunt,” he finds stimulation for his mind but also customers for his narcotic merchandise. But the new life he is making has perils he has not foreseen, whether the self-torture of addiction, the authoritarianism of a state locked in a colonial mindset, or the seeming paradox of how to reunite his two closest friends whose worldviews put them in absolute opposition. The Sympathizer will need all his wits, resourcefulness, and moral flexibility if he is to prevail. Both literary thriller and novel of ideas, “The Committed” is a blistering portrayal of commitment and betrayal that will cement Viet Thanh Nguyen’s position in the firmament of American letters.

Two ways to join: 1) \$5: Event Access + a \$5 magersandquinn.com discount code, valid for any purchase from our web store! OR 2) Book purchase through Magers & Quinn. Customers who purchase the book from our website will receive an event access email at the address associated with your order. All customers will receive the access instructions on the day of the event. For more info and to register, go to www.magersandquinn.com/event.

27th Annual Eagan Art Festival

June 26-27, 2021

Call for Artists

Now through April 2

The Eagan Art Festival is accepting applications from artists now through April 2, 2021 at www.eaganartfestival.org. Join us for the 27th Annual Eagan Art Festival June 26 and 27, 2021, on the grounds of the Eagan Community Center (centrally located off Pilot Knob Road, close to I-494 and I-35E,) AND in a Virtual Online Event! We are working hard to provide a safe, in-person festival with appropriate spacing and masks required, similar to the 2020 Farmers Markets, along with a new online event platform. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Riverview At Home - Virtual Cinema

If you are interested in supporting us during these hard times while watching great cinema, here’s your chance! A few cinema distributors have created “Virtual Screenings” of some independent films we might typically show. You are able to watch these films at home, and it provides economic support for independent theaters like the Riverview. By using the links we provide at <http://www.riverviewtheater.com/show/show/2791>, you will be supporting us. For each film you rent, a percentage of the cost will go directly to the Riverview. A list of films we are currently offering is below, check back soon for more movies!

We are now offering the following films in our Virtual Cinema:

Zappa—“Zappa” explores the private

life behind the mammoth musical career that never shied away from the political turbulence of its time.

Some Kind of Heaven—Behind the gates of a palm tree-lined fantasyland, four residents of America’s largest retirement community, The Villages, Fla., strive to find solace and meaning.

Collective—“Collective” is a gripping, real-time docu-thriller that follows a heroic team of journalists as they expose shocking corruption in the Romanian national health care system.

Crock of Gold—“Crock of Gold” is the definitive feature documentary on Irish musical icon, Shane MacGowan, exploring the wild and roving life of Ireland’s most beloved punk poet.

Women’s Adventure Film Tour—The Women’s Adventure Film Tour is a celebration of the inspiring women around us, doing extraordinary things in the name of adventure.

A Glitch in the Matrix—What if we are living in a simulation, and the world as we know it is not real?

Two of Us—Two retired women have been secretly in love for decades when an unforeseen event turns their relationship upside down.

Atlantis—“Atlantis” is a gorgeous and visionary sci-fi drama set in the year 2025 in Eastern Ukraine.

Sweded—Zero-budget, amateur, homemade, zany, creative, weird and often downright hilarious: The Sweded Film Festival offers fan-made, five-minute versions of some of your favorite movies.

Nationtime (1972)—“Nationtime—Gary” is a report on the National Black Political Convention held in Gary, Indiana, in 1972, a historic event that gathered black voices from across the political spectrum.



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Cam Gordon convenes Housing Forum

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

The Ward 2 Housing Forum presented by City Council Member Cameron Gordon on Feb. 21 was attended by over 70 people. A lot of the attendees were landlords, mostly small scale. The Zoom meeting was hosted by Gordon's policy aide, Robin Garwood.

Co-presenters for the forum were Gretchen Nicholls from LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a national community development grantor) and Cottrell Doss and Jen Arnold, board member and director respectively of Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia/ United Renters for Justice.

Council Member Gordon opened the meeting with a very good land acknowledgement, giving honor to Indigenous people as past, present and future caretakers of the (stolen) land on which Minneapolis as we know it today is located.

The crux of his opening remarks and slides was to delineate the seriousness of the housing crisis looming in the Twin Cities, as elsewhere; to list steps the city has already taken to ameliorate its effects; and to highlight four very important "next steps" coming up in 2021-22.

The accomplishments to date include incentives and zoning changes to increase stock of rental housing, which have resulted already in thousands of new units of affordable housing; an energy disclosure policy; and a Renters First policy. The four next steps, which comprised the major points discussed in the forum, are:

- TOPA - Tenant Opportunity to Purchase.
- Rent control / rent stabilization.
- Eviction protections.
- SRO (single room occupancy) developments.

Gretchen presented the "think tank" and grantors/lenders case for TOPA and explained what LISC and its partners have done so far to arrive at three proposed options for implementing TOPA in Minneapolis.

She started with a breakdown of current rental housing in Minneapolis. Single-family units (houses) comprise a massive 57 percent of rentals, with 2- to 4-unit buildings making up 32 percent. The remaining 11 percent is broken down to 5- to 20-unit buildings (7 percent), 21-50 units (3 percent), and 51-plus-unit buildings making up only 1 percent of current rental options.

Some property owners who rent out single-family houses, whether one or 50 of them, want houses and duplexes or even fourplexes "carved out" of the rent control, i.e., exempted, so that it only applies to big apartment complexes. But if you look at the numbers, this would leave up to 89 percent of renters unprotected. And the segments it would lean toward leaving out are families, poorer neighborhoods, and North Minneapolis more than, say, Uptown. So it's easy to see that exemptions in future policies based on the size of the building would be very counterproductive.

LISC also conducted a series of studies, including researching TOPA in other jurisdictions (Washington D.C., New York City, San Francisco, Berkeley, Chicago, and manufactured home park TOPAs in New Hampshire and Minnesota) and holding numerous focus groups with landlords, tenants, lenders and others.

LISC proposed that Minneapolis choose one of the following options, of which their highest recommendation was for the second option:

- Right of first offer and refusal to tenant only, assignable, no affordability restrictions.
- Same rights, but for either tenants or organizations, assignable, with rent stabilization rules restricting future affordability.*
- Same rights, but for organizations only, not assignable, with the "4d" program restricting future affordability.**

Note * This option would mean that the unit after purchase could be owner-occupied or rented by an organization or the tenant's assignee.

Note ** The 4d is a state program that reduces landlords' taxes by 40 percent if they follow strict affordability/stabilization rules.

Jen and Cottrell presented the tenants' view of both TOPA and rent control and how they would help tenants stay in their homes, and be a defense against homelessness and gentrification displacement. Inquilinxs has had four separate campaigns to protect tenant rights against landlords, and she said, "It always starts with a struggle over repairs."

They have also done studies, one of which showed that in the great majority of cases where a landlord is forced by the city to make repairs, they respond immediately in one of two ways. One, they put the building up for sale, which can mean abrogation of leases and eviction of all tenants under the current lax laws. A TOPA rule would prevent that. Or two, they respond with a predatory rise in the rents, a move which would not be allowed under a rent control rule.

The presenters from Inquilinxs also addressed the eviction protection piece of the next steps solutions. Jen used their high-profile case with the notorious (now convicted) slumlord Frenz, as

an example. In the two years Inquilinxs was fighting to buy the landlord's buildings and form a cooperative (which has now happened—Corcoran neighborhood's Sky Without Limits Co-op), they were simultaneously forced to fight individual evictions that occurred monthly. Needless to say, this took a lot of energy and money they could have used in building the cooperative.

Rent control will require an amendment to the City Charter, so it's at least a two-step (and probably more) process. A hearing on the proposed charter changes will be held Feb. 24. See the city website for more information.

Council Member Gordon is co-authoring with Council Members Ellison and Bender a pair of eviction protection initiatives. The Just Cause rule would mean that a landlord needs to provide from a selection of allowable causes for eviction, and is based on a recent rule passed in St. Paul. The Notice Requirement rule, based on a St. Louis Park ordinance, would give tenants time to respond and prevent eviction, and reduce the destabilizing, harmful effect of UDs (Unlawful Detainers) on tenants.

In the 40 minutes of Q&A, most tenants and homeowners and some landlords welcomed the proposed initiatives after asking clarifying questions. Some landlords worried that their current practices would become illegal, but the presenters assured them that small rent increases and eviction for non-payment of rent would not be affected and, in fact, the new rules could give them help in running a fair rental business.

For more information check these web pages:

LISC Twin Cities - <https://www.lisc.org/twin-cities/>
United Renters for Justice

(Inquilinxs) <https://www.inquilinxsunidxs.org/en/home/>

Minneapolis United for Rent Control - <https://www.facebook.com/MinneapolisUnitedForRentControl/>

Last month we asked candidates for City Council in the Second Ward three questions. Cam Gordon was ill and could not respond. His answers are here:

*Do you support a full and public investigation into the killing of Terrance Franklin by the MPD?

Yes. I called for this investigation at the time Terrance Franklin was killed by police (<http://secondward.blogspot.com/2013/06/the-death-of-terrance-franklin>) and I renew that call. A credible review that could offer insights into how to make sure the horrific and tragic incidents of that day are never repeated could be very valuable.

*Do you support the 2040 Plan that up-zones the inner city?

After making extensive amendments, I voted for the 2040 plan, and believe it offers a path towards racial equity and fighting climate change. We cannot rely on the housing market however for its effective implementation but must continue to create incentives and regulations to ensure quality affordable housing for all.

* Would you support transferring block clubs to the Minneapolis Health Department from the MPD?

Yes. I coauthored the Safety for All budget that moved Crime Prevention Specialists out of MPD, and have long advocated for a change in how the City organizes block clubs. I believe that a collaborative effort from the Health Department and Neighborhood Community Relations Department could yield the best results.

Minneapolis needs rent control – panel discussion hosted by Robin for Minneapolis

BY ALEXANDRA CARTER

Minneapolis needs rent control. It will solve a lot of looming problems but it won't solve all of our problems. And the more it's watered down by the city government, the less it will help. Those were the messages in a Zoom webinar attended by over 70 people on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The rent control panel discussion event was hosted by Robin for Minneapolis. Who is Robin and what is she for in Minneapolis? Robin Wonsley Worlobah is running to be Minneapolis' first Black socialist City Council member. She is opposing current City Council member and Green Party member Cameron Gordon in the 2nd Ward. Robin was very active in the Fight for 15 and later was a community leader in the George Floyd uprising.

The basis and priorities of her campaign are stated thus on the Robin for Minneapolis Facebook page: "We can win rent control and public safety beyond policing by bringing mass movements into City Hall." Robin is a member of Twin Cities Democratic Socialists

of America (TCDSA). (Note that TCDSA says they have not opened up their endorsement process yet.) Three days before the panel discussion, she was walking the picket line with other TCDSA members in St. Paul Park in support of Teamsters striking at Marathon Refinery. So she doesn't just talk the talk.

The panel discussion was lively, informative and inspiring. Robin moderated, and the three panelists were Ginger Jentzen (member of Socialist Alternative and former director of 15Now, the organization that won a \$15 minimum wage in Minneapolis); Nichole Buehler (executive director of Harrison Neighborhood Association); and Vanessa del Campo Cachon (member of Renters United for Justice and Sky Without Limits Housing Co-op Community).

All three women are also leaders in the coalition called Minneapolis United for Rent Control (MURC). Although they all four (including Robin) work very closely together on rent control, the panelists made it clear they were speaking as advocates of that, and not as an endorsement of Robin's campaign.

Jentzen kicked off the discussion with an answer to the first question: What makes for successful rent control policy and what are the most important details to focus on? She referred back to how bad the response to the COVID pandemic was, and invited us to imagine how much better it would have been had it been developed by health care professionals. Similarly, now the city has a housing crisis, which was here well before COVID but is being exacerbated by it. This needs a community-informed response.

What makes a successful rent control policy is that it's based on listening to renters and what they need to be able to stay in their homes. The important detail along the way to achieving it is to recognize that developers and the pundits who love them will lie about rent control and we have to counter those lies. The important detail is to beware of "carve-outs" and developer friendly loopholes.

Nichole expanded on those themes. Examples of carve-outs in rent control include setting the allowable increases at CPI-plus (Consumer Price Index-plus). The

"plus" is there to guarantee profit to landlords and developers. Another carve-out is exclusion of single-family and duplex rentals from rent control. This would exclude much of the rental property in North Minneapolis, where housing is most in crisis.

Vanessa focused on how the COVID epidemic is impacting struggling families. People are having to choose between paying rent and eating. Hours are cut, children are at home all day and need care, and in the background, eviction is a constant threat.

In later rounds, Ginger drew a lot of lessons for future organizing in rent control from the successes as well as setbacks and obstacles in the Fight for 15. Nichole expounded on the (hopefully) upcoming charter amendment votes, clarifying that the charter amendments will only open a pathway to passing rent control, but are not a rent control policy in themselves. Vanessa stressed the need to empower those most impacted by the housing crisis to speak and lead, because they are under threats that often make them afraid to do so.

Here are some key points both from the panel and from the document (www.facebook.com/inquilinxsunidxs/posts/3622947001132613) on the MURC Facebook page:

- Rent control must be tied to the property, not the tenant.
- Rent control must be retroactive, to avoid price-gouging.
- It should not have carve-outs for smaller properties but must apply to all properties in the city.
- It should not allow "CPI-plus" rent increases that guarantee profit.
- It should not have "vacancy decontrol" where as soon as a unit is temporarily vacant, the rent can be increased.
- In campaigning for rent control, a lot of myths need to be debunked. A big one is that "Rent control doesn't work" because rents in rent-controlled areas are "skyrocketing." (If so, they are rising due to developer-friendly loopholes and carve-outs like those described above.)
- Another myth is that rent control suppresses new housing construction. Data shows quite the opposite.

It's just a concept!

BY KATHRYN KELLY

Taxpayers have now paid almost 1 million dollars for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. When the Park Board is questioned about the viability of any feature of their plan, their response is, "It's just a concept."

Well, I have to agree that it is truly a concept, made up in someone's fanciful mind.

I first questioned the realistic nature of their planning when I read their original document. It stated that they were proposing a parking lot on the golf course property at East 43rd Street and 23rd Avenue South. Having grown up two blocks away, the first thing that came to my mind was the steep 30-foot or so drop from the street to the golf course at that location. Were they going to put in an elevator for the cars to get them up and down? An unrealistic concept.

Then, they proposed daylighting of the 43rd Street storm sewer pipe at 43rd and 19th, thus creating an open sewer from there to the lake. Their document said that they had not done any grading analysis to determine if the water in this new channel would actually flow in the direction of the lake. If it didn't, the houses in that neighborhood would be flooded. An unproven concept.

Another important question

has been the protection of the homes to the west from flooding once pumping is stopped at the golf course. Their answer has always been that two pumps placed in the neighborhoods will protect the homes. Experts I have talked to do not endorse this plan. Plus, what really startled me was a statement in the MPRB documents that said once the pumping at the golf course stops, groundwater levels in neighborhoods will rise as far away as Powderhorn Park, requiring increased pumping from Powderhorn Lake. So, this one change will put at risk all low-lying homes between Lake Hiawatha and Powderhorn Lake. And, the City of Minneapolis and the MPRB will have to, somehow, put in place a pumping regime in the neighborhoods that will protect hundreds of homes. I guess, it's just a concept! Who really cares if it works?

And, the new plan will require tons of fill to raise the new 9-hole golf course above the level of Lake Hiawatha. In some places, this will require up to 7 or 8 feet of fill. This will also reduce the floodplain that is so critical to keeping homes dry. At one point, someone asked the MPRB why they couldn't just elevate the 18-hole golf course above the level of the lake. Their answer was that they couldn't do it because they would lose part of the critical floodplain. Now, losing part of the critical floodplain is in their plan. So, which concept about floodplain storage

is valid? I guess it doesn't matter to the MPRB because it is just a concept.

And, when people question the safety of the new plan, which puts golfers, pedestrians and kayakers in dangerous proximity to each other, I guess it is just a concept, so no one should worry.

And then there is the infamous berm. Originally, it was so unsafe that it could burst at any time and drown golfers. Now, the concept is to use it as a trail around the lake for pedestrians. Which concept is real?

How many more millions of dollars does the MPRB need to spend before they put out a real plan that is not just a "concept" full of crazy pipe dreams?

Let's count the lies.

The Park Board will be voting on whether to approve the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan in the near future. But how can the public be confident in this plan when so many lies have been served up by the Park Board to justify it? Here are the lies:

- The golf course is sinking - a lie.
- The berm will break and kill golfers - a lie.
- The golf course was in violation of its pumping permits - a lie.
- The DNR will not let the Park Board continue pumping - a lie.
- The pumping is unsound and is polluting Lake Hiawatha - a lie.
- The new plan will reduce

pollution in Lake Hiawatha - a lie.

• The cost of repair and revenue loss from the 2014 storm was \$4 million - a lie.

• The Black community is OK with a 9-hole course and some historical recognition - a lie.

• The neighborhood supports the plan - a lie.

• The neighborhood can accommodate increased traffic from the plan - a lie.

• The pumping volumes were a surprise - a lie. Since 2012 the Park Board and the City have intentionally dumped millions more gallons of storm water on the golf course every year.

• It costs too much to pump - a lie. Electricity bills show that it costs a few hundred dollars per year, at most.

• The Park Board wants citizen input - a lie. The Community Advisory Committee was disbanded when the members looked like they would vote against the plan that the Park Board wanted.

• The Park Board will restore the property to what it was before Wirth built the golf course. A lie, since they will add tons of fill that will change the property more than Wirth ever did.

• Dredging the outbound creek will not lower the lake level enough. An opinion, since it WILL lower the lake level which WILL reduce pumping.

• The golf course is unsustainable. A statement with little definition or meaning.



Existing golf course pump discharge (Photo/Draft Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan)

• The new plan will protect the homes from flooding. A future lie? They have provided insufficient engineering data to back this up.

• The Park Board will pay for the new golf course with profits from the Minneapolis golf courses. Likely a lie, since the Park Board's mismanagement of the golf courses has produced a profit only twice in the past 10 years.

• A partner (the Loppet?) will pay for the cross-country ski enhancements. Likely a lie, since the Loppet is in debt.

• A partner restaurateur will pay for a new restaurant through their profits over 25 years. Very unlikely.

• This plan will reduce the trash problem in Lake Hiawatha. A future lie? No concrete information has been provided as to how this will be accomplished.

The MPRB has spent almost \$1 million of taxpayer money on a plan founded on lies. Minneapolis taxpayers should be livid that their hard-earned money is being frittered away by the Park Board.

The revised plan will be posted on Feb. 12, with presentation to the full Board in March for approval or rejection.

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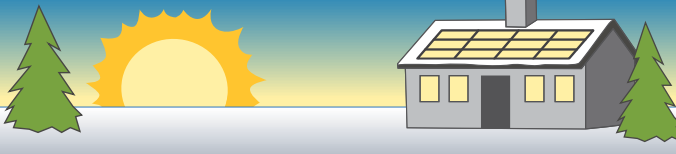
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