



**We build Pride on the Southside**

**POWDERHORN EDITION**

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**Magical thinking**



BY TONY BOUZA

Another proposed system change to reform the police. How we love gimmicks and formulaic answers. And yet, in our real lives, we mostly tend to be more practical. In the end we usually find that the person matters and the system can be manipulated.

Talented folks make bad systems work and uninterested caretakers let the estate go to rack and ruin.

Now we have a charter proposal to inflate a bloated and dysfunctional bureaucracy. Whence?

The fact is that those worthies so publicly wringing their hands in a paroxysm of despair actually have no interest in reform.

The proposed reorganization is not only wasteful but sure to produce role confusion among responders. How the City parents love to create magical solutions for tough problems. Magical thinking goes hand in glove with such brilliant notions as defunding the police.

The last thing that

See Bouza, page 4



**We can do better than this**

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

Between the record-breaking heat waves, major floods from Michigan to New York, severe droughts throughout the West, and the possibility that the Champlain Towers South collapse was exacerbated by rising sea levels,

you might have noticed the impacts of climate change have officially arrived. We no longer have the time to prevent catastrophes caused by rising temperatures and changing weather patterns. While we absolutely must work to reduce our carbon footprint in the hopes that we can mitigate

and reduce the damage, we must also begin to act seriously towards building resilience.

Climate change costs us the money it takes to rebuild from catastrophic events, it costs us increased respiratory issues, and it costs people their lives. Heat kills people who

See Better, page 4

**The cops started it**

BY DEVIN HOGAN  
MINNEAPOLIS DFL CHAIR

Filing for office in even-numbered years usually opens the Tuesday after Memorial Day. Per Minneapolis DFL tradition, the 2020 endorsed school board candidates met on that first Tuesday – May 26 – to file for office together, take pictures, and send out a press release.

It was the end of the first quarter of the pandemic. The presidential primary was over. Emergency remote school was almost done. Still no live sports on TV – at all – worldwide. Masks were becoming required in public spaces, including the Minneapolis elections office on East Hennepin Avenue.

As the candidates arrived one by one that Tuesday morning, each came to me sick with despair and grief. All four were on the phones



all night long with constituents and community. The Minneapolis police had killed someone again. It was bad. Grotesquely bad. There was a video. A Roosevelt student recorded it. It happened at 38th and Chicago.

That last part hurt. It was unsettling. Things were loaded. I thought of Jamar Clark, Philando Castile, Justine Damond. I thought about the cycles of anger and outrage each of those murders generated. Actions and reactions. Repercussions compounding over the years.

The candidates went in and filed their paperwork to be on the ballot. I took a picture of the group but didn't post it as planned. We drove to the Stone Arch Bridge in a line, care-

See Cops, page 11

**Life is Short — Play Hard!**



Pages 2 & 3

**Our 12th Annual Summer on Bloomington Ave.**



Pages 7, 8 & 9





# Life is Short — Play Hard!

## Local sports and fitness venues begin to resurrect as the pandemic fades

BY STEPHANIE FOX

### Minneapolis YWCA

The YWCA has three Minneapolis locations, Downtown, Midtown and Uptown, and all were busy with activities and events. Then came the pandemic and things changed.

During the governor's shutdown the only thing open was child care. While the mandate eliminated most sports, activities that could move to online, did so.

"Within two weeks of the governor's shutdown mandate, we had begun offering group fitness classes through livestreaming on Zoom," said Kelli Klein, program coordinator and fitness instructor at the YWCA. The Zoom classes were popular with members and increased into the fall of 2020, giving a chance for people to interact with instructors and, she said, a chance to see the faces of their friends.

The YW offered 25 classes a week, each with up to 60 participants. During last winter, the YWCA's live-stream classes were averaging 2,000 check-ins each month.

When the vaccine became widely available, many restrictions were lifted but livestream fitness classes remain popular. "But now our focus is on the slow rebuilding of in-person classes," said Klein.



YWCA banners

The YWCA Triathlon was canceled but a smaller event, the Race against Racism 5K, originally scheduled for May, will be held on Aug 8. The pool and basketball courts are open by reservation only for non-members. Members need no reservation.

And, while youth sports are on hold, the summer youth program and Kids Day Camp are still operating, as are many adult outdoor fitness classes, free of charge and open to the public.

"The facilities continue regular

cleaning and disinfecting of equipment, and we are still enforcing limits on the number of people who can be in the studios at one time," Klein said. "We want to do whatever we can to help people feel comfortable and safe in our facilities."

**YWCA Downtown**  
1130 Nicollet Mall  
**YWCA Midtown**  
2121 E. Lake St.  
**YWCA Uptown**  
2808 Hennepin Ave.

### Vertical Endeavors

Even the most devoted rock climbing fans find that it's not always practical to find a suitable cliff, or to put up with rain, snow or a pandemic. For expert climbers (or even beginners wanting to learn rock climbing) an indoor facility is a welcome option. Vertical Endeavors in Minneapolis draws climbing fans where they can choose any one of 90 vertical rope routes, the tallest at 65 feet at the facility's peak.

Vertical Endeavors had to close for several months because of Covid, first in the spring of 2020, with a short reopening and then, following Gov. Walz's directions, again last November.

They first reopened with some pandemic restrictions, including 25% capacity and social distancing, but these restrictions have been lifted. The non-vaccinated are still asked to wear face masks. But temperature checks are no longer required when checking in and The Climb Team and Climbing Club will be starting up soon.

Now, people are returning, eager to climb walls and, more importantly, socialize. It's a perfect sport for people like Kevin Scott, the facility manager at the Minneapolis loca-

tion, who said he was the kind of kid who would climb on anything he could find. He started sport climbing in 2006 and signed on with Vertical Endeavors nine years ago.

"Climbing is a great way to get a workout," said Scott. "And it's a social environment. People come to climb, but then hang out and make friends."

Members looking for climbing partners can join the Adult Climb League, meeting once a week. New leagues are starting, and old leagues are beginning to get together once again.

There could be up to 180 people climbing once they completely open up, Scott said. That includes classes and kids, many who come with their parents to learn the sport.

"The busiest times," he said, "are Saturday mornings, after work, and during, of course, bad weather."

**Vertical Endeavors**  
2560 Nicollet Ave. S.

### The Center for Blade Arts

This Minneapolis club offers sword combat classes, including traditional European historical fencing, Olympic fencing, Japanese Tameshigiri (using sharp metal swords) and traditional Kendo (using bamboo swords). Many of the classes are offered for kids, teens and adults.

"We were and are fortunate, even during the Covid shutdown," said owner Tyler Clayton. "We have an active community that is very engaged. In March 2020, we closed for three months, and then resumed in the summer. We had video classes every day."

Coaches spent hours filming solo videos. Sometimes two of them would meet, wearing masks, to create online lessons.

When the Center started to reopen as guidelines changed, they kept tight regulations, including 25% capacity, usually about 10 students at a time. "I couldn't abide someone getting sick because they came here," Clayton said.

"We were doing OK when Covid first hit. But our revenue from March 2020 until 2021 is down 40%. It's slowly been getting better as people



The tallest of Vertical Endeavors' climbing walls is 65 feet at the peak of the gym.



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# Life is Short — Play Hard!



### Center for Blade Arts

are more comfortable training with others,” he said.

Currently, class sizes run from 5 to 15 students and with 10,000 square feet of space, there is room for more than one class at a time. Students range in age from 8 years to people in their 60s, some of whom still attend competitions, their trophies on display at the Center. Right now, all programs are accepting new

ing pods for classroom work at the sports center in North Minneapolis, some in classrooms and some in open spaces, matching four kids with a mentor overseeing their studies both on and off the tennis court.

“The kids would come to our place at 8:40 in the morning and they’d get picked up at 4 in the afternoon. They would have access to online school programs, which they may not have had available at home.”

Before Covid, the program had 6,000 members. It’s down to 1,000 now, but more kids join the summer program every day. It’s certain, Wheaton said, that the program will be back at that level soon.

Students, from beginners to expert players, can take tennis lessons. Coaches are certified and can help the kids get introduced to the tennis court. There are also group tennis lesson for adults who want to learn tennis fundamentals. And, for kids in need, there are scholarships available.

*Inner City Tennis  
4005 Nicollet Avenue South  
(And other locations)*



**Tennis player Heston Anderson, 13 years old, a student at Justice Page Middle School**

students, and some have a waiting list.

*Center for Blade Arts  
4744 Chicago Ave.*

### Inner City Tennis

A huge white dome dominates the area at Martin Luther King Park in South Minneapolis. But while it’s been there for decades, many people have no idea what goes on inside. What’s happening within the dome is an outreach and educational program giving Minneapolis kids a chance to learn tennis and much more. Much of the programing is financed through donations.

Inner City Tennis began in 1952, as a Minneapolis Parks program. Today you can find it in 21 city parks, two sports domes and 11 full-size tennis courts where kids (and adults) can find lessons, leagues, open play and tournaments. “Our focus is outreach into the community,” said Executive Director John Wheaton. “We go to schools and deliver tennis and educational programing to youth.”

When the pandemic began, the tennis program was forced to shut down from last March to mid-June and again in the fall. “But we were able to teach tennis to kids, free of charge, in various places in the community,” he said. “Some parents found having kids at home was a challenge. So, we organized learn-

### Nokomis Yoga

Just up the hill from the east beach at Lake Nokomis is Nokomis Yoga, a small but vibrant yoga studio. The studio was founded by yoga instructor Solveig Corbin, an experienced Svaroop yoga teacher.

Covid shut down classes at the busy studio in March 2020. Corbin moved the classes to Zoom, with mixed success. She found that some people spent hours on Zoom for work and didn’t want to Zoom anymore. Others couldn’t understand the technology.

Some Zoom students found they didn’t have needed accessories such as yoga blankets, bolsters and blocks. Corbin showed students how to use folding chairs and pillows instead. “It’s been a challenge,” she said. “But it’s good for people to get access to yoga at home, especially during the pandemic. I was able to have my yoga therapy classes, one on one, online, helping people deal with the pain and stress in their bodies and then to release it.”

But there were hardships. She had to cut back her 10-member teaching staff. “And the worst thing was knowing I would have to rebuild without knowing if I could,” she said.

Corbin continued to pay rent, made possible because of the generosity of many, including some students who paid ahead for future classes. Neighborhood businesses donated money, too. “I don’t know who it was, but someone put an envelope with money in my door. It was so great. I felt very supported.”

Nokomis Yoga is now beginning to reopen. “I have been here for 12 years and am now rebuilding,” says Corbin. Some classes are now moving from Zoom to the studio, including Vinyasa Flow Yoga, Yoga Basics and Yoga for Seniors, all open to drop-in students. More classes will again be live and in-person, soon. Beginners are welcome.

*Nokomis Yoga  
2722 E. 50th St.*



### Nokomis Yoga

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# Civil disobedience and civil disorder

BY ED FELIEN

On Sunday, June 27, Andrea Jenkins, the Black trans Minneapolis City Council Member, had her car surrounded by about a dozen protesters as she was trying to leave a Pride event in Loring Park. The ward she represents includes three of the four corners of George Floyd Square at 38th and Chicago. The protesters wanted her to sign and agree to their demand to “leave George Floyd Square alone!” After being held hostage for almost 90 minutes, Jenkins signed the demand and the protesters said she was free to leave.

The action by the protesters was almost universally condemned by the media.

Donald Hooker Jr. was probably the loudest of the protesters and he wrote on his Facebook page:

“Andrea Jenkins is nothing but a playground bully. She starts off by bullying me and when I stand up for myself she tells the teacher I’m the bully. She is the first one that blew up in my face while we were having a civil discussion. And when someone jumped in between us she went around them to jump in my face

again. So she could scream that on the literal day of Pride how she was going to call the cops on me if we had a peaceful protest at her house cause of her lack of action in the last year. The irony that a Black Trans woman said she would call the cops on a gay Black man on the day that Black Trans Woman fought the cops is mind-blowing to me. While she



Andrea Jenkins. Photo from Donald Hooker Jr.’s Facebook page

knows that she has done nothing in the last year but give them more money. Which has resulted in the death of Dolal Idd, Daunte Wright, Winston Smith.

“Now she is saying she was traumatized for 90 minutes.”

Jenkins wrote to her constituents:

“Last Sunday afternoon while attending a Pride event in Loring Park, something I’ve done on

the last weekend in June for the past 20-plus years, I was verbally attacked, berated and held against my will by a group of angry protesters.

“I am a public servant. I represent 31,000 people that live in Ward 8. We need answers related to the deaths of Dolal Idd, Daunte Wright and Winston Smith. I have always believed in open dialogue where people can talk and be respectful of differences. I refuse, however, to be bullied and held hostage to somehow accomplish that. Every citizen of this City has a right to bring forward their concerns, but no citizen has the right to detain and coerce anyone to do anything, including elected officials.”

George Floyd Square is now open. The Fist remains in the center of the intersection. Traffic has to slow down to go around it—a respectful genuflection.

Progressive activists are frustrated with Andrea Jenkins and Council President Lisa Bender and Mayor Jacob Frey and Chief of Police Arradondo. They talk, talk, talk about racism and police brutality, yet they won’t hold Lucas Peterson responsi-

ble for the murder of Terrance Franklin, even though the city paid out over a million dollars in the settlement to Franklin’s heirs rather than refute the plaintiff’s argument that Peterson murdered Franklin in cold blood. They won’t hold Officers Schwarze and Ringgenberg accountable for obvious breaches of protocol in their killing of Jamar Clark. They won’t hold public hearings to establish whether it was necessary to shoot Thurman Blevins in the back because he was acting drunk and disorderly. They won’t hold hearings to establish correct protocol for dealing with depressed people threatening suicide, so their silence becomes assent to the killing of Travis Jordan by the Minneapolis police.

Instead of actually dealing with these instances of the MPD killing young Black men, Andrea Jenkins and the rest of them talk, talk, talk about how serious the problem is. Jenkins concludes her letter to constituents:

“I am proud of our work at the City and in leading the Strategic Racial Equity Action Plan, declaring racism a public health crisis and spearheading the formation of a Truth and Reconciliation workgroup which presented its recommendations for a full on Truth and Reconciliation Commission to the City Council this past week. Through this work, we will redress the original, undeniable harms against American Indians and Black/African descendants who still bear the impacts of genocide, theft of land, labor, culture and personhood which props up the founda-



Donald Hooker Jr. Photo from Donald Hooker Jr.’s Facebook page

tion of this country. I am proud that we adopted Juneteenth as a holiday this year at the City of Minneapolis, in recognition of enslaved Black/African descendants who were denied their freedom some two years after the presidential issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation had declared them free. I recognize this is not enough. I remain steadfast in my commitment to justice and racial equity and will continue to sit down with activists, advocates and protesters to understand and work toward shared policy change demands and recommendations.”

Rather than set up commissions to talk this problem to death, maybe it would be more useful and more productive for Jenkins to hold hearings on the actual killings of young Black men by the MPD and begin to hold those particular MPD officers accountable.

## Better, from page 1

don’t have access to or can’t afford to constantly run their air conditioning, it kills people who are homeless, and it kills people whose jobs require them to be outdoors, like those who pick the food we eat or fight the increasingly violent wildfires.

There are ways to decrease urban heat through things like light-colored and reflective surfaces, which should absolutely be explored. But measures to increase resilience can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a positive cycle of change, if we are willing to invest in them. These are the measures on which we should focus most of our energy and resources.

Minneapolis could reduce the cost burden of climate change while also reducing the city’s carbon footprint by investing in a program of weatherization and efficiency upgrades to the existing housing stock. Such a program would best be implemented in designated areas, perhaps a block at a time, with the program recruiting property owners as opposed to the more common method of forcing participants to apply. This way the city could focus resources on less affluent neighborhoods and neighborhoods with greater populations of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) in order to encourage more equitable access. Focusing on specific locations could also have the economic benefit of maximizing efficiency of re-

sources such as skilled laborers.

Another way to pursue resilience while also reducing carbon in the atmosphere is through urban greening, an extreme example of which is the installation of Miyawaki forests. These are small urban forests where native species, mostly trees, are planted close together in specially prepared soil, which makes them grow tall more quickly in search of the best light. While these offer some carbon sequestration, the main benefit to these mini-forests is in urban cooling, providing habitat for species that are under threat, such as pollinators, and reduction of air pollution which would improve the health of many of our city’s residents. The dense nature of these forests means that they would not serve residents recreationally, but their environmental benefits are significant. Whether the city pursues Miyawaki forests specifically or just an increase in urban greening, this should once again focus on economically disadvantaged and BIPOC neighborhoods. Studies from many cities have pointed to average temperatures being significantly higher in these types of neighborhoods due to less vegetation and tree cover than more affluent, whiter neighborhoods.

We also need to tackle our homelessness problem. We are still seeing encampments spring up here, there, and everywhere, only to be torn down at some point, and then pop up somewhere else. This is traumatizing

and dehumanizing to our homeless neighbors; it also puts their lives in danger. Homelessness has always been incredibly dangerous, but the risks involved are getting worse. From the pandemic to the severe weather that comes with climate change, more people will die if we maintain our business-as-usual approach. We must invest in housing that is separated from “the market” so that people who have no income or low incomes have some semblance of safety and dignity, we must improve our mental health resources, and we must get over our puritanical and judgmental zero-tolerance policies towards the health crisis that is addiction.

But these policies will cost money, and if there’s one thing we know, it’s that we can’t raise taxes on the rich. Never mind that these fortunes would not be possible without the roads, fuel subsidies, and stability funded by our tax dollars. Never mind that the rich and the super-rich contribute far more to climate change through private jet travel and mega-yachts. Americans don’t have any right to expect them to pay their fair share to support spending on something so frivolous as our very survival. Sure, people who can’t afford to run the air conditioning all summer long, if they even have access to air conditioning, are more likely to die as heat waves become more common and last longer; but at least we know Jeff Bezos, the Koch brothers, and Elon Musk will be okay.

## Bouza, from page 1

would occur to City Hall geniuses is to cut the budget, eliminate duplication or waste, or look for a genuine reformer. There is no interest in anything resembling reform and no appetite for taking on the police union.

Once – in 1979 – they were desperate enough to attempt a real solution to police reform.

They changed mayors. They hired a personnel firm to lead the search, advertised nationally, created a citizens’ committee to vet candidates and generally treated the problem for the civic crisis that it was. They spent money – invested time. The press took a deep interest and joined the discussion.

And the result? The effort – after winnowing the obvious idiots – led to the attraction of 14 genuinely qualified executives from all over the country. Reform is an exacting master.

However it played out, it is the effort that demands understanding.

And today? “Jo, Jo, Jo,” as we say in Spain. An uninterested Mayor, a

posturing Council desperate to evade genuine engagement, and a Chief determined to work with a union whose main objective is to protect thumpers.

That, folks, is the formula in play.

“If wishes were horses then beggars would ride.” Puck had it right – mortals are fools.

You want to be rich? Buy a lottery ticket. You want to be smart? Watch TV and read comic books.

You want to be thin? Subscribe to the blandishments of your idiot box.

You want to be beautiful or handsome?

Buy the products that answer your prayers.

Life is simple. Forget hard work and hard study. That’s for schmucks.

Change the Charter. That’s the answer.

When I was young and dating – a century ago – I squired talented women who frequently concluded with, “I’ve had a wonderful evening” – pause – “but this wasn’t it.”

This reform – although reforms are desperately needed – isn’t it either.



# Brought together in sorrow and a hope for justice...

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

The day before Easter, 2021, I went to George Floyd Square to meet with Marquise Bowie, a member of Agape, and Marcia Sanoden, a “make-the-world-a-better-place” reader of Southside Pride, to talk about her offer to volunteer at Agape and what that might encompass. But we didn’t sit around talking. Marquise said she could start right now – and so could I. We could go out into the square with him as he welcomed visitors. He had been doing this since George Floyd Square was closed to traffic and he felt that a lot of those interesting, valuable, meaningful conversations were being lost, so he asked both of us to take notes, which we did.

Marquise introduces himself, “Hi, I’m Marquise. I’m with Agape. Agape means love in Greek. We’re out here to spread love ... We’re turning street energy into community energy ... We’re trying to spread love out here.” He gives everyone a flyer about Agape.

Manuela is from Minneapolis. “This makes me want to cry ... I feel very comfortable here,” she says.

Marquise tells her little boy, “Tie your shoe ...” and then gives him a sucker. Marquise is carrying a bag of suckers that reaches from his waist almost to the ground.

Many of the people Marquise talks to have been watching Chauvin’s trial. Two women from St. Louis Park declare, “It should be first-degree murder. Chauvin should be in jail forever.”

I’m surprised Marquise doesn’t echo their sentiment. He says, “We extend mercy, he’s a human being ... Naturally he has to be accountable ... If he can be rehabilitated and learn ...” But I shouldn’t have been surprised, since one of the things I’ve known about Marquise since we met is the prominence of his Christian faith.

Many people talk to Marquise about the importance of this place and its capacity to mark the point when the comatose conscience of this nation was awakened.

A family from South Dakota says, “ ... This is beautiful. A roundabout would be great – let it be an inconvenience – so we don’t ever forget!”

Marquise says he would like to see a permanent memorial and a roundabout, keeping the fist. He agreed, “We don’t want people to forget. Over the past 10 to 11 months, we’ve seen God turn a mess into a message. We don’t leave – we try to make it better.”

Marquise flirts with some

dazzling young women who look like rock stars. He playfully asks for their autographs.

One is from California, Autefeh, and the other from North Carolina, Ebone, but they’ve lived in Minneapolis since before George Floyd was killed. They are training to be surgeons. Ebone was working at HCMC in trauma on May 25, 2020, and for the following four days during the protests, when many protesters were injured.



**Marquise Bowie**

She says it’s so important to write down the history of what has happened and what is happening. “We have to keep the truth, so the truth stays true.”

Marquise always greets people, explaining that Agape means love in Greek and Agape wants to spread love – “no community without unity.” “People want to bring us down. People think GFS is a dangerous place. Hopefully, it is life-changing for people to come here.”

Interracial couple Max and Stefanie Kolin and their 6-month-old baby Lily are from Chicago. They are on a pilgrimage. They love that it’s blocked off. “It’s a powerful place,” they say.

Dora Jones Robinson and her friend Darnella Wade were handing out campaign literature for Robinson, who is running for mayor of St. Paul. “I am the first African American woman to run for this position.” One of her major issues is gun violence. Wade said, “My son got shot on the East Side of St. Paul in 2016.”

A middle-aged couple from St. Paul, Scott and Chris, came to pray the day before Easter, “the day of resurrection. We pray for grace from tragedy. We’re glad they’ve kept the space. We came here to pray and give respect.”

We ran into Charles McMillian, one of the witnesses at 38th and Chicago on May 25, 2020.

He said he had a third-grade education and was originally from Mississippi where things were “always swept under the rug. So I was raised to pay attention. ... I’m not afraid to tell the truth. I don’t tell lies. It’s how I am and what I did the other day.” [He had just testified in court the previous Wednesday.] “I was afraid at first and pled the fifth. Then the lawyers convinced me that the police were not going to bother me. I came here to get chicken wings and I’m still here. The other day an 86-year-old man from Atlanta called me. He said, ‘You made me cry.’”

After that, I went inside the Agape building. Agape member Larry Dent (whose given name is Gamel), his mom, Eartha, his sisters, Donna and Arianne, and his niece, Samaya, were there. Samaya lives in North Minneapolis and doesn’t come here much. She finds it sad yet feels something good has come out of it [the tragedy].

They were talking about a terrible attack on Larry by the police. Arianne found a newspaper account online in which it was mentioned. What I could gather from the conversation was that the police mistook Larry for a suspect. They hog-tied him and slammed him against the police car door. A group of white citizens physically fought with the police and saved his life. (Talking with Gamel another day I learned they knocked out his teeth, slammed his foot in the door and threatened to kill him. A reporter from WCCO filmed what was happening and later it was on the news. Although it occurred in 1992, and Gamel went on to go to college and become a behavior specialist in the public schools, he said he never got help for the trauma of that event and it has interfered with his life.)

After Larry and his family members left, Marquise got two phone calls in a row from a cousin who is incarcerated. Marquise is a great encourager and seems to be a rock for others, giving love and wisdom in abundance. He himself was imprisoned for 11 and a half years and has been out for two years now, so he’s especially aware of their situation. He’s “on a mission to help the next generation not go through what we went through.”

Outside again, Marcia and I met a young Black man, not a member of Agape, named Tredis Adams, who laughingly said he had paid a \$10 fine to the curse jar at the Agape office – no cursing is allowed in there.

Then he started talking about money, the power of money. He wants the Black community to have that power. I was struck by his statement that nothing and

nobody had ever kept him from doing what he wanted to do. He said the formula for success is to work 100 hours a week, have no bad habits and be honest – a person can be successful through planning, saving, creativity and resourcefulness. He bought his first apartment at age 16 and bought a duplex at age 18. Despite financial ups and downs, he was able to take a month off every year and take his family all over the world. And, when he was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer a year and a half ago, he had the capacity to pursue alternative treatments.

When I first saw him, I thought he was about 25, so I was surprised to learn he is 55 and in the midst of cancer treatment right now. He used alternative treatments from the beginning, not as a last resort. A year ago, he weighed 120 pounds. He has written a book about his astounding journey, “How Cancer Did Me a Favor.”

The next weekend, the day got away from me, but as night fell, I decided to go to GFS and take notes anyway. By the time I got there it was dark and pretty cold, so I went with Marquise to the Agape office building. His cousin Joe Edwards was there. At 49, Joe had spent his last 14 years in federal penitentiaries all over the country, convicted in the same case as Marquise: “conspiracy to sell drugs.” (Joe didn’t take the plea deal since he was sure he’d be found innocent in a jury trial, but he was convicted and originally sentenced to 30 years, which, for many reasons, ended up being 14 years.) Because of the First Step Act (FSA), passed in December 2018, his sentence was suddenly shortened, and at the end of this past January, prison authorities took him to COVID quarantine for two weeks and then opened the doors and let him walk out. When it happens like that it’s called immediate release and it’s a shock.

Since he grew up around 38th and Chicago, Minneapolis is definitely his HOME. Immediately he left Kentucky for Minneapolis on the Greyhound bus. He had no ID, transportation, work or housing. With difficulty those

things are falling into place.

For Joe, the hardest thing during his 14 years of incarceration was not being allowed to go to the funerals for his auntie, who was his biggest supporter,



**Steve Floyd**

for his grandma, for his mother and for his 24-year-old son, who was murdered.

Now he is reconnecting with his three other children. He says, “By the grace of God, I’ve been able to convey to them how much they mean to me.”

I ran into so many lives that display extraordinary strength and resilience. Another one, Derek Armstrong, a member of Agape, has eight children. He expected five, but got a set of triplets and a set of twins. He has a great sense of humor. He’d have to.

And there’s the man with great vision, Steve Floyd, who for unexplained reasons looked to God (or the Universe) and basketball to find his calling to nurture young Black men who didn’t see a clear path before them. He helped found the Agape Movement 40 years ago, and although his artistic passion for photography tugs at him and he has survived a kidney transplant, he continues his community work today.



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### EVENTS

#### ‘Angels Unawares’

#### Cross American Tour Through Aug. 30

The Basilica of Saint Mary 1600 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. The “Angels Unawares” sculpture by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz depicts more than 140 refugees. The 3.5-ton, 20-foot-long sculpture, is a gift to The Catholic University of America and currently on a national tour. Through this pilgrimage, people across the country have the opportunity to share in its message of welcome and hope. This powerful sculpture will be on display in front of The Basilica of Saint Mary during the month of August. Everyone is invited to explore this amazing work, related exhibits, and join in prayer throughout the month. The work depicts migrants and refugees from all cultural and racial backgrounds and from all historic periods of time together – shoulder to shoulder on a raft or boat. Within this diverse crowd of people, angel wings are visible in the center, suggesting that within the migrant and refugee is the sacred. The inspiration for the work arises from Hebrews 13:2: “Be welcoming to strangers, many have entertained angels unawares.” Sunday Docent Tours – Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 following the 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Basilica Masses. Tuesday, Aug. 10, 7:30 a.m. – Angels Unawares ICOM (Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration) Prayer Vigil at Basilica Plaza Thursday, Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m. – Angels Unawares Closing Ceremony at Basilica Plaza Learn more about “Angels Unawares,” including partnering organizations, its national tour, advocate resources, the Green Card Voices exhibit, and understanding migration here: <https://www.mary.org/who-we-are/art/angels-unawares#.YQGHSLq5k2x>.

**Old-Fashioned Church Rummage Sale**  
**Thursday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Friday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Saturday, Sept. 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
Minnehaha United Methodist Church 3701 E. 50th St., Mpls. Lots of great stuff! Housewares and linens; toys; books; electronics; and more! (But no clothes!) [www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)

#### New Refugees in Minnesota

Thanks to national policy updates, we are expecting to see refugee arrivals in our area go from the dozens to the hundreds, and the Minnesota Council of Churches is busily preparing to welcome each individual well. You can drop off donations directly at our office or order online and have them shipped directly to us. Current needs include:  
- Large (2 “bushel”) rectangular laundry baskets.  
- Tall kitchen wastebaskets with garbage bags.  
- Sets of drinking glasses (6-8).  
- Liquid hand soap.  
- Laundry detergent.  
- New standard/queen-sized bed pillows.  
- Twin sheet sets.  
For more information, or to arrange a drop-off, please email [rsvolunteers@mncchurches.org](mailto:rsvolunteers@mncchurches.org).

#### 4th Annual Challenging Islamophobia Conference

**Tuesday, Oct. 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Online**

Save the date! The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Minnesota has announced that the 4th Annual Challenging Islamophobia Conference will take place virtually on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.. If you purchased tickets for the 2020 event, they can be used to participate in this year’s rescheduled conference. To share your thoughts about the upcoming conference, including topic ideas, please complete their survey form at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL5d6-8D\\_K25oDE2\\_Og-s9WtiBKsSA-We\\_01061JGel7gEDg-l7w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL5d6-8D_K25oDE2_Og-s9WtiBKsSA-We_01061JGel7gEDg-l7w/viewform).

**Minneapolis Friends Meeting (Quaker)**  
4401 York Ave. S., Mpls.

Minneapolis Friends Meeting is enjoying summer, and continuing to join in silent worship together, via Zoom. Worship services are Sundays, 10 a.m. Other Meeting activities will resume in the Fall. Office email: [office@minneapolisfriends.org](mailto:office@minneapolisfriends.org). [www.minneapolisfriends.org](http://www.minneapolisfriends.org)

#### Bahá’i Center of Minneapolis

3644 Chicago Ave., Mpls. Devotions at the Bahá’i Center and via Zoom, Sundays at 10 a.m., and Tuesdays via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Please visit the Bahá’i community of Minneapolis website at [www.minneapolisbahai.org/](http://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. See our website at [www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org) for more information.

#### 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. Front door entry preferred. Weekday Masses M, T, TH, F at 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel, east door and elevator entry. Please see our website at [www.saintalbertthegreat.org/](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org/) for more details. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass also streamed on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/StAlbert-TheGreatMpls/](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbert-TheGreatMpls/).

#### Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

3430 E. 51st St., Mpls. [www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org) Sunday Worship (with safety measures in place) at 9 a.m. 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/](https://www.facebook.com/felcmpls/). Bible classes on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

#### First Free Church

5150 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. Sunday services at 10 a.m. (in person and online). Visit our website at [www.first-freechurch.org](http://www.first-freechurch.org) for more information.

#### Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls. Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship recordings available online at [www.holycrossmpls.org](http://www.holycrossmpls.org).

#### Living Spirit United Methodist Church

4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls. Worship In-Person or Online at 10:30 a.m. Sundays Online: [livingspiritumc.org/live](https://livingspiritumc.org/live).

#### Messiah Lutheran Church

2400 Park Ave., Mpls. 9 a.m. in-person service 1st and 3rd Sundays 11 a.m. in-person service every Sunday [www.messiahlutheranmpls.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmpls.org)

#### Mindekirken (the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church)

924 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls. Velkommen til Mindekirken! In-person services are now offered at 9 a.m. (in English) and at 11 a.m. (in

Norwegian) on Sundays. Everyone is welcome! We wear masks while singing. Coffee hour (Utekafe) is offered outside following the worship. Find updates on [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org).

#### Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church

4101 37th Ave. S., Mpls. <https://minnehahacommunion.org/>. Sunday Worship at 9:45 a.m. Go to church website for live and online info.

#### Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St., Mpls. Outdoor worship Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Minnehaha side lawn. Bring a chair (we have chairs if you don’t have one). You can also worship with us online, we’ll be livestreaming the service and you can find it live at 10, or any time after. If it’s raining, we will be moving the worship service to the sanctuary, where you won’t need your chair, but will need a mask. Visit our website at [www.minnehaha.org/](http://www.minnehaha.org/) for more information.

#### New Creation Baptist Church

1414 E. 48th St., Mpls. Sunday Worship in person at 10:45 a.m. and also on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NewCreation-BaptistChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/NewCreation-BaptistChurch/) <https://newcreationbaptist-churchmn.org/>

#### Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls. Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship (online and in-person)! Outdoor, in-person worship on the church lawn this summer on the 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month (weather permitting). Outdoor, in-person worship at Pearl Park on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Online worship continues every Sunday. Find us on Facebook and YouTube! [www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org) or [www.facebook.com/NokomisHeights/](https://www.facebook.com/NokomisHeights/).

#### St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community

4537 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. We’re Open – Saturday, 5 p.m. in the Church Sunday, 7:45 a.m. in the Church, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the gym Video available on our website at [www.saintjoanofarc.org/](http://www.saintjoanofarc.org/) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/StJoanMpls/](https://www.facebook.com/StJoanMpls/).

#### Trinity Lutheran Congregation

Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel Riverside & 22nd Aves., Mpls. Sunday Worship 10 a.m. [www.trinitylutherancongregation.org](http://www.trinitylutherancongregation.org)

#### Walker Community United Methodist Church

3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls. Walker Church has begun the reopening process using a phased approach. Visit our website at [www.walkerchurch.org/](http://www.walkerchurch.org/) or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/walkerumc/](https://www.facebook.com/walkerumc/) for more information.



### SHARING FOOD

#### Calvary Lutheran Church

3901 Chicago Ave., Mpls. 612-827-2504, ext. 205 The Calvary Emergency Food Shelf is available for area residents on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. We will hand out pre-packaged bags of food with a Walk-Up table on 39th St. and Drive-Thru model at the parking lot entrance. Please stay in your car, and we’ll bring the food to you! Volunteers will be available outside to help you. There are eligibility requirements. On our website, [www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org), click on the “Food Shelf” link in the “Outreach” tab, or call the food shelf office at 612-827-2504, ext. 205.

#### Groveland Emergency Food Shelf

1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. Plymouth Congregational Church 612-871-0277 Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Entrance on Groveland Ave. between Nicollet and LaSalle. <http://grovelandfoodshelf.org/>

#### Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service

2600 E. 38th St., Mpls. Food Hub Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods. Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please bring ID and wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines are in place.

#### New Creation Baptist Church

1414 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls. 612-825-6933 We’re still here to serve you on the first through fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until we run out of bags. Be safe and God bless! [www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf/](https://www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf/) Food Shelf Saturdays (except 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Brown door on the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> St. and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

#### Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls. 612-721-6231 Yes, the food shelf is still open! In order to fight food insecurity in our neighborhood, the Minnehaha Food Shelf is open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have moved our operations outdoors, meter the flow of clients to help ensure social distancing, periodically clean our surfaces, and wear face masks. Should we have foul weather, we plan to move the distribution indoors, though still meter clients and encourage distancing. [www.facebook.com/Minnehaha-FoodShelf/](https://www.facebook.com/Minnehaha-FoodShelf/)

#### Bethany Lutheran Church

2511 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls. 612-332-2397 Soup for You! UPDATE: We are still spreading the love! The Soup for You! Café will be closed to normal dining, but we plan to distribute bag lunches at the regular entrance to the Café, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. [www.bethanyinseward.org/](http://www.bethanyinseward.org/)

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3644 Chicago Ave. S. 612-823-3494 [Minneapolis.Bahai@gmail.com](mailto:Minneapolis.Bahai@gmail.com) Devotions at the Bahá’i Center and via Zoom, Sundays 10 am, and Tuesdays via Zoom 6:30 pm See [www.minneapolisbahai.org](http://www.minneapolisbahai.org) *So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.*  
-Baha’u’llah

**Christian**  
**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3901 Chicago Ave. S. 612-827-2504 or [www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org) Sunday Worship at 10 am Pastor: Hans Lee *A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
The Center for Changing Lives 2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831 [www.messiahlutheranmpls.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmpls.org) 9 am in-person service 1st & 3rd Sundays 11 am in-person service every Sunday

**ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
[www.stjoan.com](http://www.stjoan.com), 4537 Third Ave. We’re Open – Saturday, 5 pm in the Church Sunday, 7:45 am in the Church, 9 & 11 am in the gym Video available on our website and Facebook page *We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey*



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# CELEBRATE SUMMER ON BLOOMINGTON AVE.

## Bloomington Avenue reopenings and new openings



Quilt Shop Co-op 'Courthouse Steps' finished quilt

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Bloomington Avenue is looking OK these days. I love to see it, because a year ago, I wasn't sure. Businesses along Bloomington tend to be either very small and/or creative and unusual. Eateries capitalized on being cozy and intimate, and had to pivot to takeout, which was a brand-new thing for some. Now they're some of the very last to reopen their dining rooms. Non-profits and mutual aid efforts in this area are extremely utopian, trying to get people through dystopian times. It's all a bit of a struggle but, driving the length of Bloomington from Franklin to 54th Street, it looks like most of us made it through 2020 and the second year, so far, of the pandemic.

For some of us, this is our second epidemic. But the last one wasn't a pandemic, because it could be somewhat selective in its targets. There were "risk factors." It made it very easy for the healthy to "other" and even scapegoat those who had the disease. And instead of snatching away loved ones in a weekend, it

left you to linger for months and years, seeing them helpless and sometimes in pain. I am speaking, of course, of the AIDS epidemic.

At 25th and Bloomington there is a nonprofit that was born from the AIDS epidemic years. The years when an AIDS diagnosis was almost sure to be a death sentence. Open Arms now serves people with a wide variety of life-threatening conditions. They serve with prepared meals and are part of the nationwide Meals on Wheels network. But their history is entwined with AIDS.

Open Arms was founded in 1986 by the late Bill Rowe, who began preparing meals for people with AIDS after losing a dear friend to the disease. It was a way to channel his grief into something positive. The effort grew into an organization with many other volunteers, and later expanded to include clients with other life-threatening conditions, as well as their families and caregivers. Rowe was an anthropology professor at the University of Minnesota, and after retirement continued to teach a special course on the Anthropology

of AIDS while still building Open Arms. He passed away in 2016.

Open Arms is celebrating its 35th anniversary all this year. Today the organization has a huge building on Bloomington Avenue with a state-of-the-art kitchen, many professional staff members, over 7,000 volunteers, and serves over 600,000 medically-tailored meals per year. If Open Arms has touched your life, you can help them celebrate by sharing your story on social media with the hashtag #OAM35. If you want to donate or volunteer, see their website at [www.openarmsmn.org](http://www.openarmsmn.org).

Down the road just a few blocks is a new utopian vision of service - bike service. Grease Pit Bike Shop was founded a few years ago. They operate on a give-what-you-can, take-what-you-need, share-skills-and-stuff kind of ethic. During the pandemic, they moved outside when it was safe to, or took breaks when they needed to. But the George Floyd uprising and the coinciding explosion of homelessness and other precarity led them to start a "free store," accepting donations and giving away groceries and necessities such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper, diapers and menstrual needs. This eventually morphed into the Phillips Free Store, currently housed down the road at Walker Church. Now they're back to their DIY bike repair, skill-shares and used bike sales. Check Google for open days and hours, Instagram for most recent messages.

We're going to skip over the action at Lake Street, 38th Street, and 42nd Street, since these are covered in other issues. But at 31st Street and Bloomington there are two Spanish-language businesses worth mentioning. One is Mi Boleto Travel Agency. They have a website that advertises current travel deals, but it appears you have to call to book travel. The other business is La Matraca newspaper, a weekly newspaper of Latino interests in Spanish. Like Southside Pride, they also have a web-based edition. I was curious what La Matraca means, and when I looked it up, it turns out to be a sort of percussion rhythm instrument sometimes called a ratchet. I guess that makes sense - it

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See Bloomington, page 8



# SUMMER 2021: BLOOMINGTON AVE.

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## Bloomington, from page 7

makes noise (e.g., the Bugle or the Clarion) but also it sets a rhythm for dancing or celebrating.

Down a little farther south, at 34th Street, is the Quilt Shop Co-op. This appears to be really flourishing and is emerging from the pandemic, which hit right at the start of its conversion to a co-op, with now having in-person shopping. Their quickly enabled online shopping will continue. I don't know if they always did this, but not being a quilter or even a basic seamster myself, I was delighted to see they also sell fully finished quilts. And they are gorgeous!

Two of my most beloved neighborhood cafes grace the corner of 35th Street and Bloomington. One is relatively new to the area, and which I have written about before – Reverie Cafe and Bar, a plant-based eatery with coffee, kombucha, beer, cider and wine. The last time I checked, they were still working towards being open for indoor dining. They do have a very nice patio, though. The other is a longtime neighbor, and possibly one of your favorites as well – the May Day Cafe. As I mention in the restaurant review column also, they are reopening (have re-



## Open Arms with a 35 years birthday hat

opened) for indoor dining as of July 30, so they will be open by the time you read this.

Across Bloomington from the May Day is a strip of small shops. Currently open here are K-9 and Kitty Cutters, a pet grooming salon (by appointment only), Sea Wolf Tattoo, Greenbrier Montessori Preschool, RETHINK Tailoring and Sewing Lounge, and Lash Haus. I want to say more about

those last two.

Lash Haus is owned by Mayowa Ojo, who got her first beauty qualification (as an esthetician) from Minneapolis's esteemed Aveda Institute, but then "fell in love with lashes" and went to another state to learn all about that. She now is self-described as "a master lash artist, educator, and mompreneur." A lash artist does lash extensions and other relat-



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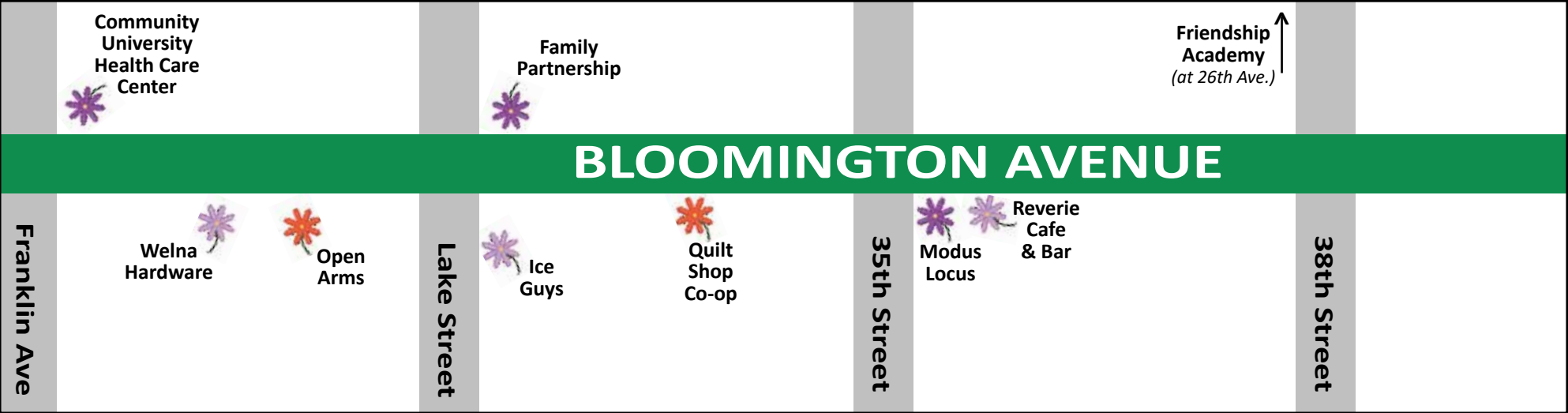


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ed services. The shop also offers teeth whitening and a lash “academy” to train new lash enthusiasts and expand the gospel of this interesting addition to your beauty routine. (It actually reduces the time spent on your beauty routine, apparently. You just automatically have fabulous lashes, with a bit of professional maintenance.)

RETHINK is a combination of several related businesses. It’s a tailor shop, but also they sell “upcycled” clothing, teach people sewing and tailoring, and offer a sewing lounge, which is basically an onsite rental by the hour of a sewing machine, in a small group setting. It sounds lovely. The website I tried to use to check this out doesn’t work, so I was worried it might be one of these phantom businesses that didn’t make it. But I went by to check, and although it wasn’t open at the time, it appears to be very much in business. There is a little display on the window telling about the startup during the midst of the pandemic, and how it is all documented for posterity on Instagram. Short version – they had a grand opening on March 20, 2020, and then closed the next day. I found another website that does work and here’s the story: [rethinktailoring.com/about-me](http://rethinktailoring.com/about-me). Click on “Shop” on the menu to check out that upcycled clothing.

At the corner of 46th and Bloomington there is another intriguing shop that combines unique products and services and also opened in the middle of the pandemic. This is Nine Keys Collective, which

combines, now in side-by-side storefronts, a hair salon with a metaphysical shop selling crystals and such and offering tarot readings and other intuitive services. The best way to tell their story is



The Grease Pit at 28th and Bloomington

to use founder Taylor Lowe’s own words:

“Nine Keys opened October 1st of 2020, and I started the shop in my house during the pandemic to

replace the income I lost behind the chair during Covid and the civil unrest. Through readings and online sales, I was able to stay afloat, and wanted to keep everything going in a way that com-

bined my love of card readings, crystal sales, and hair.

“I found the space on Bloomington Ave. while cleaning up the city, and it was the perfect space. I set up two chairs and found that I was very busy once we started to get back to our new normal. ...The collective space opened in May of this year, and we’re starting to host events. We recently sold out our first workshop, and we’re also available for shopping on Tuesdays, as well as continuing to be an online retail experience.”

I don’t really have space left to tell all I found out on Bloomington Avenue, but here’s a quick rundown of some shops and cafés on Bloomington that are open. All of these have websites and other so-

cial media, so you can check their hours (which may have reduced since COVID) and also whether they have online shopping options or an online reservation system (most do). MN NAF! Hair Salon, Salon 45, Sift Gluten Free Bakery, Nokomis Bike Shop, Cake Plus-Size Resale, Urban Cottage (occasional sales, next one August 12 - 15), the Music Lab (has a summer camp first two weeks of August), Irreverent Bookworm, and Hot Plate. Also, Living Spirit United Methodist Church, that very rare thing – a truly multiracial Protestant church – is having hybrid services and biweekly workshops on racial justice (see their website for details).

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Cops, from page 1

fully weaving through the new slow street barricades. After taking some literature photos there was a sense of urgency to get back to the task at hand. A few left straight for 38th and Chicago. I went home to my apartment on Nicollet Avenue, two blocks from the Fifth Precinct.

The scale of the situation started to become clear. Anger and anguish. The fallout might consume every atom of energy in Minneapolis for at least the next several days, maybe even a week or more.

As party chair I often think, What Would an Elected Official Do? People are going to be devastated, heated and grieving. Per usual. To me, the only way to even try to keep things on the rails meant showing up on the streets, getting spit on and sworn at by constituents whose friends, family and neighbors were killed by public employees. Accepting responsibility for the role, genuinely listening and showing humility – and meaning it – could go a long way.

Then the call went out to hold space at 38th and Chicago. The streets filled with people, radiating out for miles in every cardinal direction from the square. The mayor took this opportunity to make his first public statement on CNN. From the lens of anti-racism and decolonization, and by generally paying attention to how people perceive and react, things unfolded in unsurprising ways.

At the Fourth Precinct in 2015, it took four days of occupation and several orders to disperse late in the evening before the MPD started teargassing people. In 2020, the MPD started shooting “less lethals” at the angry teenagers and other crowds who had gathered at the Third Precinct on the first afternoon. It was unprovoked and at random. Our Boys in Blue were showing off.

The youth of Minneapolis have grown up seeing the police murder people who look like them without consequences. They are out of f\*cks to give. Deliberately antagonizing them was a cruel excuse to give an opportunity to knock heads. Everything that followed was a proportional response.

More protesters gathered at the Third Precinct, incensed by the raw provocation. The indiscriminate shooting increased. People threw garbage cans at squad cars. The mayor called it “blowing off steam.” More showed up as the days went on. The “less lethals” became nonstop. People hid behind bus shelters and moved dumpsters into the street to protect themselves from the unpredictable violence, sometimes setting them alight.

The Target across the street wouldn’t let protesters into the store to purchase posterboard and markers to make signs. It got looted. Brand new flatscreen TVs and other detritus were used to build more barricades.

At this point the world was paying attention. Friends and family were reaching out. How come words won’t satiate people? Why Minneapolis? The cops started it, I replied. They killed George Floyd and took every opportunity to escalate, agitate and make things worse. The cops are rioting and the people are responding.

Like it or not, setting the Third Precinct on fire was a genuine revolutionary moment. An act of pure righteousness to open new worlds of understanding. The people declared themselves ungovernable and unilaterally took their power back. The largest international human rights movement in modern history had begun. The youth of Minneapolis carried all of this. The cops started it.

It is important to maintain this basic perspective while we live through the consequences. Things will continue to play out in understandable ways.

The call from the streets was genuine liberation, truly and finally. The work continues until that day comes. The enemies of this agenda, the powers that hold up white supremacy, are organized. They will no longer tolerate the great embarrassment of having lost control. They want the people to forget what it felt like to seize their power back.

Recognize the patterns. Counterinsurgency and genuine conspiracy used to diffuse movements. Manufacturing consent in the media by activating lizard brain emotions that distract from the issues. The constant surveillance, hyper-militarization and macho bullshit to give the exurbs a sense of pathetic comfort – it’s all connected. It’s meant to burn you out.

Keep focus. Eyes on the prize. Remember the demand of the streets. The blood and treasure spent. This is our job. Minneapolis must answer the call. For real this time. For real for real. Do it for the kids.

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# The Dish 2.0 – restaurant news and two mini-reviews

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Dining rooms reopened and indoor café returns

The Seward branch of Piz-za Lucé has opened its dining room. Quite a few other Lucés have been open for indoor and patio dining for a while now. But this one doesn't have a patio, so that may have been why it took a while.

The May Day Cafe is open for indoor dining as of July 30! I am craving their almond croissants, the second best I ever had, and I have had them in London, Paris and Vienna, so that's a pretty high bar. The May Day Cafe, near Powderhorn Park, has been open for takeout-only for some months. They closed down for much of July for a "reset." Prominent local artist-photographer Gay-



## May Day Cafe before 2020

la Ellis will once more have photocards on sale there, and also a photo poster exhibit.

## Openings

I saw that one of my Facebook friends had a meal at Owamni! It was not open to the general public at that time, but they recently had an invi-



## Owamni

tation-only soft opening/pre-view for select backers. However, now Owamni is open. You need to make reservations. I am doing it right now. Here is the coverage by the StarTribune from Thursday, July 22:

"Sean Sherman and Dana Thompson of The Sioux Chef have been waiting a long time for this moment. 'We signed on to this project way back in 2016 and it's taken quite a few years building to this point where we're actually open to the public,' said Sherman, CEO and founder of The Sioux Chef. Their Indigenous restaurant 'Owamni by The Sioux Chef' opened Monday [July 19] in the new Water Works Pavilion building at Mill Ruins Park in Minneapolis."

The opening itself is kind of old news now, but since I haven't managed a visit, I'll say that another friend of mine went to Soul to Soul Smokehouse in the old Taco Cat space of Midtown Global Market and gave it a rave review, with

particular praise for the grilled corn on the cob side. I think this is still the newest eating spot in MGM, but I could be wrong. I tried to visit and check it out but when I went to MGM at lunch time it was closed. So I had a Manny's Torta instead.

From the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, we learned of a new coffee shop in downtown. St. Paul's Vitality Roasting has opened a skyway cafe in Minneapolis, in the Six Quebec building.

## Hospitality industry news and food politics

I came across this piece in "The Week," a weekly news aggregation magazine. Since contactless payment systems, delivery methods, ordering methods and even virtual menus were deemed vital to restaurant recovery from the pandemic, I thought it was germane to share it here. Since we now know physical contact isn't a major vector of spread for COVID, is there any reason to keep these awkward and unloved new substitutes for service? (theweek.com/business/1002085/most-contactless-service-is-awful-you-can-tell-because-the-rich-dont-do-it)

A joint study by the Guardian U.K. newspaper and the global nonprofit Food and Water Watch attempts to discover and reveal just how monopolistic the U.S. grocery market (and by extension, restaurants, since most of them get their ingredients from the same wholesale sources) is. (www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2021/jul/14/food-monopoly-meals-profits-data-investigation) How can you avoid supporting and perpetuating this? In descending order of helpfulness: grow, cook, freeze, can and pickle your own; buy directly from farmers or via a CSA subscription; buy from farmers' markets; seek out small local producers in your grocery store or co-op; patronize restaurants that do more than merely performative buying of local and small producer foods. Now is the time of the advocacy chef and the activist restaurateur.

## Mini-review #1 – Tiny Diner for a healthy shared meal

I met my friend CJ for dinner at Tiny Diner. We had to do a little strategizing to get all our dissonant dietary needs

met, but I think we ended up with a win. CJ follows a diet characterized by low carbs, zero grains, most of his protein from fish or seafood, and most of his sugars from fresh fruit and red wine. He also restricts calories in the apparent



## Tiny Diner's solar-shaded patio

hope of living forever, and he is poor, so some of his food is whatever's being given away that day. I am not nearly so restrictive, but I do eschew red meat always and chicken for the most part, as well as slave chocolate and the huge list of foods I have allergic or gut reactions to. And I am not rich.

So here's what we had, and I must say, it was very good. For drinks, I had a hibiscus iced tea with no sugar, while CJ had a single small glass of house red wine. Then we ordered a Macro Bowl (rice and quinoa base with broccoli, kimchi, avocado, tofu and additional seasonal vegetables) and a Lacinato Kale Salad (kale and shaved napa cabbage, lemon juice vinaigrette, grated Parmesan cheese, sliced almonds) with a side of grilled shrimp. And we split each dish between us, with the help of a couple of empty plates, except I ate all the tofu and CJ ate all the shrimp. We had a bit of kale salad left over that I took home.

## Mini-review #2 – Standish Cafe for late breakfast

I was going to keep on doing one in-person dining and one takeout venue per month for The Dish 2.0 (in contrast to the original, more traditional format of making the whole piece about one restaurant, and ignoring takeout to a large extent). COVID has upended a lot of our traditions, and I don't mind that. But it's been often too hot to stay in my apartment. So I am going to restaurants to get cool and, incidentally, eat. (If we have another surge and it shuts down dining rooms before fall, I don't know what I'll do.)

So, on one of the worst hot days, I actually went out for breakfast, something I very rarely do anymore. I went to the Standish Cafe, a brunch-only place which is just four blocks from where I live. When I do go out for breakfast, I don't often go to Standish Cafe either. It's not that it's bad; it's quite good in fact, and popular with a lot of the neighbors. But for me, the menu is kind of heavy on meats and sweets. Their signature side dish is Standish Potatoes, which I ordered by accident once because I hadn't read the ingredients closely. It contains bacon, and to me it tastes more like bacon than potatoes, but that's possibly because I really, truly dislike bacon. I wouldn't eat it even if I did like it because I don't eat pork, but I quite like a few pork dishes, mainly traditional sausages and deli ham.

Now I almost always get a veggie omelet with hashbrowns. The hashbrowns are crunchier than I like. (Tiny Diner's are paler and softer than I like. There's just no pleasing some people.) The sourdough toast and runny berry jam were both excellent, and they get points for using high-quality free-range eggs. In the past, I have tried most of their sweet breakfast offerings, but not what I suppose is their signature dish in that category – aebleskiver, described on the menu as "Danish pancake balls." I also have not tried their steel-cut oats, another unusual-for-around-here dish. They also have "handhelds," a category that lumps sandwiches, burg-



## Aebleskiver from Standish Cafe

ers and burritos together, and "forkables," basically salads, and three supper plates you can have for brunch if that's your jam.

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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / POWDERHORN EDITION

### EVENTS

#### Rita Dove in conversation with Jericho Brown Tuesday, Aug. 3, 5:30 p.m. CDT Free online event

Rain Taxi is proud to present former U.S. Poet Laureate and National Medal of Arts recipient Rita Dove for the book launch of her first volume of poems in twelve years, "Playlist for the Apocalypse" (Norton). For this virtual event, which is free to attend, Rita Dove will be joined by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jericho Brown to discuss her work and place this riveting new book in context. Deftly connecting history's grand exploits to the triumphs and tragedies of individual lives – a trademark of the writer the Boston Globe has called "perhaps the best public poet we have" – and alternating poignant meditations on mortality with acerbic observations of injustice, "Playlist for the Apocalypse" takes us from the smallest moments of redemption to apocalyptic failures of the human soul. Join us as we celebrate the launch of this remarkable new book by one of the greatest poets of the era. To register and for more information about this event, please visit the event page here: <https://www.raintaxi.com/rita-dove/>

#### Minnesota Fringe Festival Aug. 5 – 15

##### Virtual and in-person shows

Minnesota Fringe, the artistic disruptor for local and national artists, will welcome artists from around the nation and world to participate in what is normally the Midwest's largest performing arts festival, beginning Aug. 5 and running through Aug. 15, 2021. The 28th annual Fringe Festival will host more than 125 shows in 11 days, featuring 13 in-person shows, 27 live-streaming performances, with the remaining shows recorded to be viewed virtually at any point during the festival. With this year's assortment of performance types, the traditional lottery used for selecting producers did not take place — everyone was welcome to participate. Performances are online or independently produced in a setting of the artist's choice. The virtual shows consist of archival video recordings, audio-only recordings, live-streaming performances and shows recorded specifically for virtual performance. Independently produced shows include both live in-person performances and live-streaming performances on special formats. Patrons may review the website ([www.minnesotafringe.org](http://www.minnesotafringe.org)) for more details about performance types and locations. Tickets: Fringe Button \$5, Virtual Shows \$10; Live In-Person Shows \$13. On sale: July 1 at [minnesotafringe.org](http://minnesotafringe.org).

#### Hillside Jazz (Present Tense): Joel Ross Good Vibes

Friday, Aug. 6, 7 p.m.

Walker Art Center

Wurtele Upper Garden

725 Vineland Pl., Mpls.

Still in his mid-20s, rhythmically ecstatic vibraphonist-composer Joel Ross is known for his work with leading new jazz figures Makaya McCraven, Ambrose Akinmusire, Nicolle Mitchell, Kassa Overall and Marquis Hill. NPR calls him "the breakout jazz star of the moment ... partly on the basis of this volatile spark and its cathartic release." Establishing his own distinctive single mallet approach to the vibes, full of clarity and drive, Ross just released his second Blue Note release "Who Are You?" to widespread critical acclaim. His Good Vibes quintet features pianist Jeremy Corren, bassist Or Bareket, drummer Jeremy Dutton and sax wunderkind Immanuel Wilkins. Each artist

advances the spirit of risk-taking while maintaining Ross's vision for telling compelling musical stories. Free to attend. More info at <https://walkerart.org/calendar/2021/hillside-jazz-joel-ross-good-vibes>.

#### Stepping Stone Theatre for Youth's Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR. Through Aug. 8

20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul

Outdoors in front of Park Square Theatre

Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hop Hippo, and (of course) those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound into St. Paul in the musical adventure of a lifetime. Based on the smash Dream-Works animated motion picture, "Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR." follows all of your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. Runtime approx. 60 minutes with no intermission. Tickets \$12-16, group discounts available. For tickets and more info, go to <https://www.steppingstonetheatre.org/series/madagascar/>.

#### Pop Up Palette Party

Sunday, Aug. 8, noon to 8 p.m.

Sociable Cider Werks

1500 Fillmore St. NE, Mpls.

Art to Change the World presents the first Pop Up Palette Party on Saturday, Aug. 8. Exhibiting are 23 artists who have been involved with Art to Change the World projects in 2021. A wide range of media including painting, ceramics, photography, wearable art, mixed media, sculpture and fine art quilting will be exhibited and for sale. South Minneapolis residents Scorpio Rising and Laurie Salmela will be exhibiting their paintings and other art products at the Pop Up event and in the two-month exhibit. Scorpio Rising is a young artist creating paintings and murals that burst with color. His work can be found at: <https://www.scorpioisingart.com/my-story>. Laurie Salmela is a painter creating work inspired by nature. Her studio is in the Northrup King building in Northeast Minneapolis. Free and open to the public, with live music throughout the day. In addition to this one-day mini festival there will also be a two-month exhibit curated by Alison Price hanging inside Sociable Cider Werks, running from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. More info at: <https://www.arttochangetheworld.org/touchstone-for-people/>.

#### Zealous Hellions: Taylor Mac and Niegel Smith

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 6 p.m.

Via Zoom

"Zealous Hellions" is a project of Mixed Blood Theatre to provide real-time conversations between artists, cultural provocateurs, politicians and thought leaders. The program allows audiences a glimpse into a different facet of a known personality and opportunity for deeper community dialogue.

Taylor Mac, who uses "judy" not as a name but as a gender pronoun, is a playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, performance artist, director and producer. Mac will discuss art, gender, expression and the Broadway experience with the show "Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus" in conversation with long-time collaborator Niegel Smith, the Producing Artistic Director of the Flea in New York City, board member of A.R.T./New York, and ringleader of Willing Participant, an artistic activist organization. Mac and Smith will debate, connect and theorize with each other for an hour on Zoom which, in combination with audience energy and participation, will result in humor,

inspiration and wisdom. Free to attend. Reservations and further information at: <https://mixedblood.com/product/zealous-hellions-taylor-mac/>.

#### Four Season Foraging August Workshops

##### Foraging Field Day

Sunday, Aug. 15, 1 to 4 p.m.

Take a trip out to the countryside for a foraging field day! Join Maria Wesslerle and Four Season Foraging to learn about wild harvesting of plants and mushrooms in rural areas. We will discuss laws and ethics around foraging, as well as identification, harvest, and preparation of edible species. Foragables that we may find include stinging nettle, wild mint, chicken of the woods, chanterelles and more! If we're lucky, we may even get to harvest some mushrooms, fruits or nuts. Sliding scale \$25-\$45. Pre-registration required. For more details, please email [info@fourseasonforaging.com](mailto:info@fourseasonforaging.com), call 612-440-5958, or visit <https://www.fourseasonforaging.com/events>.

##### Foraging for Summer Fruits

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 6 to 8 p.m.

Did you know that many of the fruits you buy at the store can be picked right in your own neighborhood? Join Maria Wesslerle and Four Season Foraging as we learn about common wild fruits that grow in urban areas, including wild plums, raspberries, cherries and aronia. Wild plums and aronia should (hopefully!) be ripe and ready to harvest. We will also discuss other common wild edibles found along the way. Meet at the intersection of the Midtown Greenway and 27th Ave S. in Minneapolis. Sliding scale \$15-\$35. Pre-registration required. For more details, please email [info@fourseasonforaging.com](mailto:info@fourseasonforaging.com), call 612-440-5958, or visit <https://www.fourseasonforaging.com/events>.

#### 'Water Is Life: Stop Line 3' Wednesday, Aug. 18, noon

Bayfront Park, Duluth, MN  
Bon Iver, Lissie, Hippo Campus, Alan Sparkhawk, Charlie Parr, David Huckfelt, Larry Long, Superior Siren and Native Artists Mumu Fresh, Dorene Day Waubanewquay, Corey Medina, Quiltman, Annie Humphrey and others are donating their time to the "Water is Life: Stop Line 3" Honor the Earth Benefit Concert in Duluth at Bayfront Park on Aug. 18 on the shores of the mighty Gichi-Gami (Lake Superior). Featuring an unprecedented coalition of musicians, artists, poets and Indigenous leaders, this one-day festival is a celebration of water as the fundamental life-giving resource of Mother Earth, and a full-throttle resistance of music

and song against the Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline currently snaking its way through the waterways and Anishinaabe lands of northern Minnesota. All proceeds will benefit the Indigenous women-led Honor the Earth nonprofit in its fight against Enbridge's Line 3 construction in Native treaty Lands during a time of climate crisis and severe drought up north. Advance sale general admission tickets \$65 at: <https://bit.ly/waterislife festival>. General admission day-of-show tickets are also \$65. More information on schedule, artists, vendors, mission, resources at <https://www.honorearth.org/>.

## MASTER GARDENER HOME TOUR



You are invited to participate in the 2021 Hennepin County Master Gardener Volunteer Learning Garden Tour being held virtually this year. The tour will be released on Friday, September 10 at 3 p.m.

This year the tour will feature four beautiful and unique home gardens of Hennepin County Master Gardener Volunteers along with four focused educational opportunities that include pruning, planting trees, wise watering practice, and when and how to plant your spring bulbs.

Tickets are \$12. To buy tickets and learn more about the Learning Garden Tour, please visit us <https://84402.blackbaudhosting.com/84402/2021-Hennepin-County-Master-Gardener-Volunteer-Virtual-Learning-Garden-Tour-10Sep2021>

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# The foolish public servant who wants to do good

BY ED FELIEN

When I was a small boy attending Mass at St. Helena's Church, I remember a sermon by my favorite priest, Father Don Schnitzius. The way Father Don told the story of The Ten Talents was slightly different from Matthew, Chapter 25, but the message was essentially the same. A man has to go on a journey and he entrusts each of his three stewards with ten talents of silver. The first steward invests the talents and makes a profit of ten more. The second invests the talents and loses them. The third buries his talents. When the man returns he asks his stewards for an accounting. When they tell him what happened, he congratulates the first steward and tells him to take the twenty talents and invest them. When the third steward tells the man he buried the talents so he wouldn't lose them, the man takes the talents away from him and casts him out where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. When the second steward tells the man he invested the talents but lost them, the man says it is good he tried and he gives the steward the ten talents that the third steward had buried.

I can't help but think of that parable when I see the City Council wrestle with their responsibility to protect and serve the public. And none seem as earnest and serious about their task as Jeremy Schroeder.

Jeremy Schroeder wouldn't vote to increase the Minneapolis Police Department budget by another \$500,000 until he knew how the money would be spent. He didn't think it was his job to give any department a blank check. He and Council

Members Phillippe Cunningham and Steve Fletcher wrote a charter amendment to transform the MPD. Just last week he withdrew his charter amendment in favor of the similar one proposed by Yes4Minneapolis.



No one can doubt Jeremy Schroeder means well.

Here is the proposed charter amendment:

"Department of Public Safety  
Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to remove the Police Department and to create a Department of Public Safety that employs a comprehensive public health approach, and which would include licensed peace officers if necessary, to fulfill its responsibilities for public safety, with the general nature of the amendments being briefly indicated in the explanatory note below, which is made a part of this ballot?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_

See *Servant*, page 15

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# • HOME IMPROVEMENT & MORE •

**Southside Pride / POWDERHORN EDITION**

**Servant from page 14**

"Explanatory Note: This amendment would create a new Department of Public Safety, which would:

(1) Combine public safety functions of the City of Minneapolis into a comprehensive public health approach to safety, with the specific public safety functions to be determined.

(2) Include licensed peace officers (police officers) if necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the Department of Public Safety.

(3) Be led by a Commissioner. The appointment process for the Commissioner would include a Mayor nomination and a City Council appointment.

This amendment would also do the following:

(1) Remove from the Charter a Police Department that is led by a

Police Chief.

(2) Remove the City Council requirement to fund a police force of at least 1.7 employees per 1,000 residents.

(3) Remove City Council authorization to impose additional taxation on taxable property in the City of Minneapolis of up to 0.3 percent of its value annually to fund the compensation of employees of the police force."

Yes, it is important to recognize that many of the threats to public order are the result of crises in public health: too much alcohol or drugs, too little money, too few options and too much mental health trauma. It makes sense to transfer many of these public health problems to professionals trained to deal with them, rather than dumping them on the police. The police are a hammer in the toolbox, but not every public

problem is a nail.

But the great problem with the proposed Charter Amendment is that it creates another layer of bureaucracy that further obscures accountability. It will be even more difficult to hold individual officers responsible for their actions.

Under the present system the chief of police is responsible for the discipline of his/her officers, and the mayor is responsible for the performance of the chief.

The chief and the mayor did nothing to hold Officer Lucas Peterson accountable for the murder of Terrance Franklin. Mayor Frey and Council President Lisa Bender said everyone had learned a very serious lesson from the million-dollar judgment against the city on behalf of the heirs of Terrance Franklin. The lesson white racists in the MPD learned was that they could get away with the murder of Black men, and that set up the murder of George Floyd.

And Chief Arradondo spends

his energy trying to get along with the Police Federation, rather than understanding it is an adversarial relationship. In 2006 the FBI warned that white nationalists were infiltrating police departments nationwide. Bob Kroll, twice elected president of the union, was also the leader of City Heat, a motorcycle gang made up of metro police officers who wore Nazi war medals and flew Confederate flags. Tony Bouza, former chief of the MPD from 1980 to 1989, said you don't try to get along with them, you rule them with an iron hand. While he was chief there were no complaints of police brutality. Cops no longer stopped cars because the driver was Black. Any time they stopped a car they had to write a report and explain why. He doubled patrols by instituting single-officer squad cars. Cops worked five days a week, eight hours a day, rather than the ten-hour, four-day work week of today.

There's nothing wrong with

the current structure of the MPD. What's wrong is the people running it don't want to make it work.

Schroeder and other progressives on the City Council want to throw the baby out with the bathwater. They want to tear up the MPD and start all over again from zero. They have to be given credit for realizing there is a problem, and they should be applauded for their courage and determination to do something to solve the problem. But why haven't they simply tried to make the current system work? Why haven't they asked the chief in public hearings whether he has disciplined Officer Lucas Peterson for the murder of Terrance Franklin? Why haven't they asked the chief whether Officers Schwarze and Ringgenberg observed proper protocol in their killing of Jamar Clark? Why haven't they asked the chief if the officers who killed Thurman Blevins acted according to protocol? Why haven't they asked the chief if the MPD has sought help from mental health professionals in confronting suicides to avoid further killings of troubled victims like Travis Jordan?

Why haven't they tried to make the present system work, rather than tearing it down and starting over?

They are like the stewards who saw an opportunity and took it and fell short in their efforts.

It will be up to the voters in November to determine whether they should be entrusted with another ten talents for another four years.

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**Southside Pride**

**POWDERHORN EDITION**

Southside Pride Powderhorn Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the First Monday of the month for free to convenient locations in and around the Powderhorn community. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.

If you want to share some news of your church, school or organization, please write us at:

**Southside Pride**

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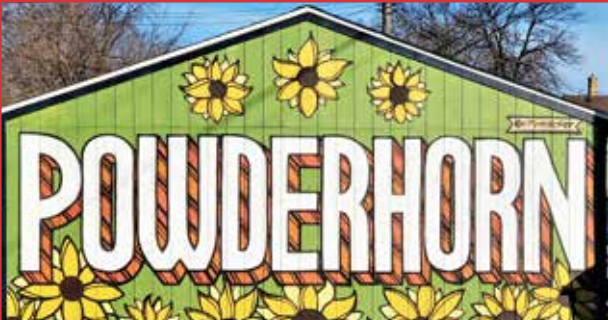
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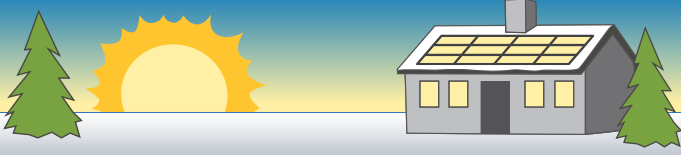
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