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Cam's Corner



Council moves (slowly) forward on rent stabilization

BY CAM GORDON

On April 14, the Minneapolis City Council took a step forward towards implementing the rent stabilization charter amendment approved by voters last November.

They voted to establish a work group.

The idea was proposed by Council President Andrea Jenkins at the first Council meeting of this term. In light of the city attorney's recommendation that a rent stabilization ordinance should be put before the voters to comply with state law, Jenkins proposed that a stakeholders' group be established to craft a proposal to go on the ballot in November of 2023.

At that meeting some council members, including Council Member Aisha Chughtai, expressed concern and questioned the need for an external work group when staff and council members had the capacity to develop a policy based on the work

See Cam, page 12



Inspector Jose Gomez

The 3rd Precinct

BY KAY SCHROVEN

A new inspector

This month (May 2022) marks 28 years that Inspector Jose Gomez has been with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). On Feb. 1 he began his new position as Inspector for the 3rd Precinct, replacing Sean McGinty. His background includes working with juvenile offenders and gun violence. Few residents of Minneapolis need to be reminded that this is the precinct that sustained severe damage during the 2020 civil unrest, including the burning of the 3rd Precinct station. To date there is no identified, permanent home office. Gomez would like to find a home in the precinct. It is a neighborhood recovering from its wounds and grievances. The 3rd Pre-

cinct serves the following neighborhoods: Longfellow, Central, Seward, Elliott, Phillips, Powderhorn, Hiawatha, Howe, Cooper, Morris Park, Ventura Village, Minnehaha, Northrop, Bryant, Corcoran and Keweenaw. It is 58 square miles in area, with approximately 103,000 residents. It is bounded by I-35W, I-94 and the Mississippi River.

Gomez is both excited and concerned as he begins his new post. He is excited about the opportunity to make a positive impact in the precinct. His concerns include the strained relations and lack of trust between some community members and the police, and the staffing shortages he and the police force face in general.

Without a doubt there are challenges, and Gomez is very aware of what they

are. The precinct is large and densely populated with a diverse (44% non-white) population, including a large Latino population (9.6%). Gomez has roots in Mexico and is proud of his heritage and culture.

Changes

While Minneapolis voted against defunding the police in November 2021 (56%) there have been changes, including the creation of the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), directed by Sasha Cotton. Cotton believes that the rise in crime is a sign of desperation, of needs not met, things not working and no clear path to better times. The 2022 budget approved \$192 million for policing and \$7.8 million for the OVP. An additional \$7 million was granted by

See 3rd Precinct, page 14

Confrontation at the convention

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

"Well," I tweeted, "now I can cross 'being man-handled at a DFL convention' off my bucket list." I didn't mean to be vague tweeting, but I was still trying to sort out exactly what had gone down and how I felt about it.

It all began at the second of two Senate District 63 (SD63) conventions, which, while mostly very unpleasant to experience, were at least on Zoom, where no one can actually assault you (or give you COVID). You may have heard about the crazy double Zoom convention in SD63. The first one adjourned after a long, long day of bitter struggle, with House District 63A locked in an endorsement battle at the fourth ballot with Samantha Sencer-Mura just three percentage points short of endorsement. Her opponent was Yusra Arab, a previous year candidate for Minneapolis Ward 2 City Council. We had not yet chosen delegates



Rep. Ilhan Omar

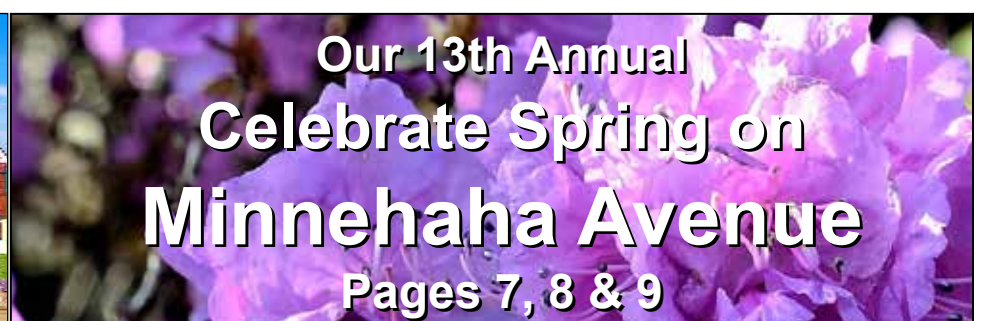
to the Congressional District (CD5) and state conventions, plus a lot of other business, some less critical.

The second convention was planned with many tweaks in hopes of avoiding the problems of the first, and for the most part these did work. Two more ballots were held on the endorsement question. Between the fifth and sixth ballots (this will be meaningful to those who know the arcana of DFL proceedings, and those who don't know will probably prefer to remain blissfully unaware) a motion for "no endorsement" failed, which is hardly surprising as Sencer-Mura was now just two points shy of a win. Nevertheless, lacking

See DFL, page 13



No Place Like Home
Pages 2, 3 & 4



Our 13th Annual Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha Avenue
Pages 7, 8 & 9



It's spring! Time to renovate, remodel and grow

BY STEPHANIE FOX

To misquote the poet Tennyson, in the spring a homeowner's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of ... repair and remodeling. But where to start?

"Your house is the most intimate place in your life and when people go through personal changes, they call us," said Don-

nie Kimbler Olson, the owner of Brushed Monkey, an interior painting company with many glowing reviews. With a staff of 25, including workers with degrees in graphic and interior design, Brushed Monkey can not only paint your walls perfectly, but they can also craft beautiful faux finishes, fine Venetian plasters, and even custom murals.

The company has won several awards including Best Painting Contractors 2020 by the Minneapolis Award Program.

"There's a lot to choosing a painting partner," Kimbler Olson said. "People change and when this happens, when people's attitudes change, when fashion changes, people want their house to reflect that."

Much of Brushed Monkey's work is upgrading interiors in homes, including getting rid of the dated popcorn ceilings and other obsolete design elements.

"We see people wanting change every seven to 12 years. People change and fashion changes," Kimbler Olson said. "There are in-style colors. Right now the trend is for simple, soft cotton colors. But it's more than just choosing colors. It's infusing organics and natural textures, mixing the soft with the hard and the rough. And you want to have flair. As far as indoor design, it not just paint color, it's what's behind the



choices for the changes."

Spring is also a good time to begin larger projects. Linda Cassone, one of the founders of Third Street Studios on Selby Avenue in St. Paul, has an MFA in set and costume design. Her partners Robert Agnew and Russell Tillotson are artists as well, and the three spent a few years doing sets and props for events such as the Super Bowl pre-game show. Over time, their focus shifted, and these days they concentrate on residential interiors, mostly kitchens, bathrooms and furniture.

from the smallest projects to large ones," said Cassone. "I will do two or three floor plans. We start with the layout of the room and then show what it will look like. We do it all. We pick paint, tile and countertops for kitchens. We help find fixtures, plumbing or lighting for bathrooms."

Cassone said that right now, because of supply chain problems (up to 159 days to get items from China), projects are taking longer than the usual six to eight weeks, but she's hoping that won't last for too much longer. "We try to make this as painless as possible."

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A fun cloud mural for a child's room, painted by Brushed Monkey

is transforming someone's life. Some people have never had a new kitchen. It's seeing them happy when we're done that's the pleasure in this for me," Cassone said.

Joe Hayes, owner of Hayes Window Restoration, found his calling when he purchased a 1916 home in South Minneapolis. When original windows are replaced by modern styles, something is lost, he said. Windows on older homes were made of rot-resistant old-growth wood to last for decades, but were intended to be regularly maintained. Too many windows

in older Twin Cities homes were neglected for years. But, Hayes said, his company can restore even badly damaged windows to their former beauty.

Hayes Window Restoration restores sash cords and weather stripping and can glaze windows. They offer full window restoration to bring back the original beauty to older homes, working on both interior and exterior upgrades. They also partner with historic preservation organizations including the Twin Cities Bungalow Club and the Window Preservation Alliance.

Castle Building and Remodeling, one of the largest remodeling companies in the Twin Cities, has been in business for more than 45 years, said marketing manager Hannah Husemann. "We specialize in older urban homes. We can handle just about any project," she said.

Right now, Husemann said, clients are asking for wood cabinets or green or blue painted ones, instead of all-white cabinetry. There has also been a big push for handmade tiles and induction ranges.

Building porches, decks and other outdoor amenities is limited to times like spring and summer when the weather is good, Husemann said. That means that right now the company is starting to get busy with outdoor projects.

While Castle Building and Remodeling's main focus is kitchens and baths they also remodel attics, gutting the space to the studs, adding dormers to create more living space, skylights, walk-in closets, even fireplaces.

Castle partners with All Energy Solar so they can integrate solar installation into remodeling projects. They also work with and recommend eco-friendly materials such as linoleum or cork for floors, reclaimed trees from



Boulevard garden with flowers and herbs

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There's No Place Like Home

Home, from page 3

urban neighborhoods to make butcher blocks, and tile made from natural materials.

Of course, there are many improvements homeowners can do themselves.

Spring is a good time to get rid of clutter and the garage is a great place to begin. Get rid of old paint and soda cans, broken folding chairs and flower pots you won't be using. Put away the snow shovels and snow blowers and pull out the grill, the fire pit and the gardening equipment.

Organize your tools, putting winter items into storage (save that ice melt in a waterproof container) and pulling out warm weather supplies and tools. Donate unwanted items that are in good shape, but let the city take away unusable articles.

Often, garage floors are a mess,

with dirt and oil spots. To clean, add a half cup of bleach to a gallon of water and use it to mop or scrub the surface. Wait about 15 minutes and then use your garden hose, equipped with a spray nozzle pointed back to front, to spray the dirt out of the garage.

In Minnesota, many homes were built with smaller windows to keep the heat in, but they also limit the sunlight. There are ways to brighten rooms without a major renovation.

Using light colors on the walls can brighten rooms. Strategically placed mirrors, metallic vases and copper pots for plants will all reflect light.

And don't forget to wash all the windows, every year. If you're not fond of climbing ladders to reach upper floors, there are professionals who will do this for you for a fee.

When buying overhead light-

ing fixtures, select those that cast light evenly. Choose halogen light bulbs, known for efficiency and long life, as well as brightness and quality of light.

While upgrading indoor spaces is on the minds of many homeowners, spring is also the time to move outside, creating and upgrading open-air areas, curing cabin fever at the end of a long, cold winter and an even longer pandemic.

Spring is the time to begin gardening. For those who want to grow their own flowers and vegetables, but don't want to dig up their lawn, there are options. Container gardens and raised beds continue to grow in popularity.

Many people choose to plant smaller gardens in boulevard strips. These little plots of land technically belong to the city, and planting gardens in them was prohibited until a few years ago. But so many good, law-abiding citizens flouted the prohibition that the ordinance was changed.

Boulevard strip gardens, as well as container and raised bed gardens, are ideal for planting pollinator-friendly vegetables including cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant, as well as herbs such as lavender, mint, thyme, basil and lemon balm. Even some of Minnesota's



Beautiful and functional kitchen design by Third Street Studios

favorite flowers, including daisies, snapdragons, marigolds and hostas are favorites of pollinators, too.

Pollinators love all of these. While growing delicious vegeta-

bles, fragrant herbs and lovely flowers, homeowners can help the environment as well. Spring is a win-win, even if sometimes it takes a while to show up.

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CORRECTION!

BY ED FELIEN

In last month's editions of Southside Pride we published "Swamp creatures rise from the dead." I wrote:

"That changed in 1964 when (according to the story believed in South Minneapolis) Vice President Humphrey wanted to please his boss, LBJ, with the sight of a full-flowing Minnehaha Falls—even though the creek was low at that time of year and there wasn't much water. So, he got the U.S.

of a full, raging Minnehaha Falls in the middle of a drought. Humphrey wanted to impress LBJ. If the photo was taken before the August Democratic National Convention, then Humphrey was still trying to convince LBJ to pick him as his running mate.

As the former mayor of Minneapolis, he knew who to talk to about opening up the fire hydrants. But it would take too long for that water to reach from the storm sewers on 31st Street to the storm sewer outlet on Lake Hiawatha. Even if they opened all the hydrants from Chicago Avenue over to 27th Avenue it wouldn't come in a rush strong enough to create a dramatic waterfall. So someone must have come up with the bright idea to dam up the water in Lake Hiawatha. They had extra boards put in to raise a wall of water to seven feet above the floor of Minnehaha Creek. Then, when they knew LBJ was on his way to the falls, they took out the top boards, shortened the dam by two feet and let about 40 million gallons of water rush down Minnehaha Creek the few blocks to the falls.

The photo on the plaque shows a triumphant Humphrey behind LBJ's back, confident that he's provided a fitting homage to a visiting emperor.

The unintended consequence of permanently blocking five feet of water trying to leave Lake Hiawatha is that the added water will seep into the porous peat soil, raise the water table and saturate the ground around Lake Hiawatha. This will, in turn, affect drainage of the porous peat soil around Lake Nokomis, and when that soil becomes saturated, sinkholes will collapse sidewalks and the groundwater will seep into neighborhood basements.

I wrote to the DNR (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) and asked them, "Can you please send me a copy of the permit the Minneapolis Park Board has to maintain the dam/weir at 27th Avenue and 47th Street in South Minneapolis that blocks water from Lake Hiawatha to exit into Minnehaha Creek."

I wrote to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and asked them: "What is the function of the dam/weir at 27th Avenue that

blocks the exit of Lake Hiawatha into Minnehaha Creek? What harm would result from the removal of the dam/weir?"

I'm waiting for their response. I wrote to Kayla Westerlund, Permitting Program Manager for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District:

"Can you please send me a copy of the permit the Minneapolis Park Board has to maintain the dam/weir at 27th Avenue and 47th Street in South Minneapolis that blocks water from Lake Hiawatha to exit into Minnehaha Creek. My understanding of regulations is that: 'Federally-owned dams and dams determined by the DNR to be non-hazardous are exempt from the dam safety rules. Dams not subject to the dam safety rules will still require state and federal permits if they involve filling of public waters or wetlands.'

"The dam/weir rises five feet from the floor of Minnehaha Creek. This has filled Lake Hiawatha with more than an additional 80 million gallons of water. Clearly, for that extensive an operation, the Department of Natural Resources would have required a permit. Would the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District require a permit as well?"

"We are requesting to see a copy of that permit."

No response.

I wrote to the Park Board:

"Dear Superintendent Bangoura:

"Can you please send me a copy of the permit the Minneapolis Park Board has to maintain the dam/weir at 27th Avenue and 47th Street in South Minneapolis that blocks water from Lake Hiawatha to exit into Minnehaha

Creek? My understanding of regulations is that: 'Federally-owned dams and dams determined by the DNR to be non-hazardous are exempt from the dam safety rules. Dams not subject to the dam safety rules will still require state and federal permits if they involve filling of public waters or wetlands.' The dam/weir rises five feet from the floor of Minnehaha Creek. This has filled Lake Hiawatha with more than an additional 80 million gallons of water. Clearly, for that extensive an operation, the Department of Natural Resources would have required a permit.

"Could you also tell me the date the dam/weir was put into operation?"

I filled out a Data Response form.

No response.

I wrote to the Park Commissioner for the district:

"Hi Commissioner Musich,

"Can we agree that the water table for the Nokomis/Hiawatha communities is dangerously high?"

"Can we agree with the Barr Engineering Study that removing the 27th Avenue dam/weir would lower the level of Hiawatha Lake (and eventually the surrounding water tables for the Hiawatha/Nokomis communities) by one to two feet?"

"Will you support removing the dam/weir at 27th Avenue?"

No response.

The city of Minneapolis sponsored a study by the University of Minnesota, "Lake Nokomis



The dam/weir at 27th Avenue holding back five feet of water

Groundwater and Surface Water Evaluation," that asked, "What is causing high water issues in South Minneapolis? What can be done to mitigate these issues?" The result of the study was (typical of academic studies) we need more study.

Maybe the answer could be that there is a dam/weir at 27th Avenue that is holding back five feet of water and we could mitigate those issues if we took down the dam/weir.

Or is that too obvious?



Army Corps of Engineers to back it up with the dam/weir at 27th Avenue to guarantee a good supply of water for the president's visit. LBJ never came to see the Falls, and we're stuck with the unintended consequences."

Readers wrote in:

"Why'd you write that LBJ never visited Minnehaha Falls? There's a picture of him and HHH and Gov. Rolvaag right by the rock wall."

"I think you oughta update your column."

And then, Bonnie Oldre sent in the photo of the plaque.

Under the photo, it says:

"President Lyndon B. Johnson, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Governor Karl Rolvaag enjoy the spray from Minnehaha Falls. On that day in 1964, however, Minneapolis was experiencing a drought. In order to create the beautiful display of the falls pictured here, the city had to open many fire hydrants, upstream and out of sight, to feed water to the creek."

OK, sorry.

My bad.

The "story believed in South Minneapolis" was wrong. LBJ did show up to witness the spectacle



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Arts bloom again

BY LYDIA HOWELL

Like spring's promise, the arts are re-emerging from COVID-19, featuring inventive styles, new narratives, and live music, from local to international. The pandemic-enforced pause made for introspection that has been integrated into theatrical innovations and led to an inclusion that has transformed whose art is included, and how. The result is a delightful diversity, welcoming everyone to experience museums, theaters and beloved music venues.

The Minneapolis Institute of Art continues its recent years of work to expand representation. Now, exhibits by people of color are anticipated. On view through June 26, Jovan C. Speller's "Nurturing, and Other Rituals of Protection" uses photographic collage underscored by a "sonic landscape" of sound put together by local hip-hop artist I Self Devine, illuminating Black resilience and community. Drawing on family stories within American history, Speller's fragmented images with words and music uncannily re-create what memory feels like.

Mia's permanent collection has changed, with three galleries of Indigenous/Native arts housing "traditional crafts" (beadwork clothing, baskets, etc.) side by side with contemporary art. The

"Shifting museum space to native place" blog explores how this expansion was made. No art degree is needed to wander this museum, which includes a suite of period rooms from medieval England to American revolutionary, Victorian and 20th-century Prairie School architecture; the wonders of the huge Asian art collection; and ancient to contemporary art in every medium from across the world. FREE. Closed Mondays. <https://artsmia.org>.

Lauren Yee's play "Cambodian Rock Band" (June 11 through July 31) marks the Jungle Theater's leap forward in a story going back and forth in time. Thirty years after the Vietnam War, a Khmer Rouge survivor returns to his home country as his daughter prosecutes war crimes. A live rock band leavens this heavy topic, playing Dengue Fever hits and Cambodian oldies. <https://jungletheater.org>

Pillsbury House + Theatre celebrates 30 years of groundbreaking storytelling, with Ivey Award winner Mikell Sapp's debut as a playwright, "Charlie Brown Black" (May 28 through June 5), an autobiographical one-man show. Sapp's decade-long acting resume includes Penumbra Theater, a wow performance as escaped slave/abolitionist Frederick Douglass in Park Square's "The Agitators," and PBS's "39 Seconds" (2022), an

extraordinary documentary about the Negro Baseball League.

"There's a beautiful connection between me and Charlie Brown. Lucy and the football, the Charlie Brown Christmas - what would that be like if it were me? I didn't leave my Alabama upbringing on the plane when I moved to Minnesota!" Sapp chuckles. A "comic-strip-style of theater" structures the play. Sapp promises "humor as much as hard times to tell my journey of being a Black actor with some bumps in the road." <https://pillsburyhousetheatre.org>

The Loft Literary Center's Mentor Series is resuming live readings. Minnesota proves "real Americans" reflect the Middle East to Scandinavia, Mexican-Irish, and South Korean adoptees. Fridays, May 27 and June 3 at 7 p.m., \$10 <https://loft.org>

On May 21 at 7 p.m., All My Relations gallery will host "Voices Rising," Native women's writings of poetry, fiction and memoir. FREE on Zoom, registration required. <https://allmyrelationsarts.org>

The West Bank's legendary Palmer's Bar kicks off the season with live music nightly, from garage-punk to honky-tonk - and everything in between. <https://palmerbar.net>

The Museum of Russian Art, known as TMORA, presents various mediums from Russia and 15 former Soviet countries. For their 20-year anniversary, "ID Art/Tech" (through Aug. 14) showcases 45 Ukrainian and Russian artists. From 1930s "Soviet Realism"



Artist: Sergey Sychenko (Ukraine/Israel)

portraits to contemporary artistic gadgets - like motion-activated machines that draw! - and explosive paintings from the arts underground of the 1960s to 1991.

Also at TMORA is "An American in Siberia," on view through Aug. 21. Minnesota resident Charles Lane shares his engineer grandfather Carl Holschuh's 1931-32 photographs of working on a Siberian steel plant. Rural peasant life contrasts with Stalin's turbo-charged industrialization, aesthetically echoing classic Great Depression-era black-and-white documentary photography. In TMORA's Fireside Gallery is a selection of paintings by the Crimean-born artist Alek Buzhaker, who now lives in Minnesota. The works in "Still Life" (through Aug. 14)

explore light, anchored by earth tones in a 19th-century style.

"Say No To War" (on view until Russia's war on Ukraine ends) is a pop-up show of political cartoons. "This is a tragic opportunity," observes TMORA curator Maria Zaviatova. "Their responses reveal things we wouldn't normally see. Like Putin on ice skates! But the skates are TANKS. I think it's in-built for certain people to respond to politics in this way. These images are funny and sad and sharp at the same time." She notes that most of the political cartoonists represented don't have formal art training, with the show's creators including a physics professor, a pilot and an engineer.

TMORA also hosts concerts, and their permanent art collection is glorious.

<https://tmora.org>
Check websites for COVID-19 safety requirements.

Or go outdoors to hear music from bluegrass to every shade of rock performed in city parks, beginning Monday, May 30 and continuing through Labor Day. See the full schedule at <https://minneapolisparkevents.org>.

Lydia Howell is a Minneapolis journalist.



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Spring on Minnehaha Avenue South

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Closings – a nearby Aldi, Dumpling, Glass Endeavors

Several months ago, Aldi closed their store in the Hi-Lake Shopping Center. Ever since the Aldi opened in part of the former Rainbow Foods space at Lake and Minnehaha, there had been two Aldis in easy walking distance of each other, which is not a good strategy. So the closure was not surprising and is a smart move for the Aldi at Lake and Minnehaha. It's a great store, and you can save money shopping there.

The popular Asian fusion restaurant Dumpling closed last month. The owner and chef Bunbob Chhun recently became a first-time father, and quite understandably found it difficult to balance that role with the de-

mands of running a restaurant (especially one where you're also the chef). The space is open for leasing.

Glass Endeavors closed at the end of March after more than 25 years in business. They will be sorely missed, and their departure is part of the changing dynamics of this creative hub of South Minneapolis. Below we will mention what's happening with the building.

Newcomers to Lake Street hub – Primero de Mayo and Laune Bread

We're going to mention some activities on Lake Street in spaces that are a few blocks east of Minnehaha in that it forms the hub sometimes called Downtown Longfellow. The retail spot next door to the east of Merlin's Pub



Bunbob Chhun, owner/chef of Dumpling, announced the restaurant's closing with this Facebook post, saying 'papa is tired.'

has been opened as the first brick and mortar outlet of Laune Bread, a Seward-based bakery that was formerly available by subscription and home delivery. This is a very fancy bakery now, with interesting varieties of sourdough bread and an extensive pastry menu. They still do subscriptions and have an email newsletter as well.

I interviewed my DSA comrade, Tim S., about their new gig as an advocate at Primero de Mayo, a workers' center located at 3521 E. Lake St. which celebrated its one-year anniversary on May 1. The center is devoted to supporting and organizing workers in the Latino community with problems or challenges both job-related and general. Tim works with organizer Elmer Santacruz, a veteran of CTUL (another workers' center located on Chicago Avenue) and many workers' rights campaigns.

They serve workers in the construction and other industries, along with jobseekers and people needing help with housing, finances or legal issues. Their advocates refer clients to attorneys when appropriate, but can also deal with common issues such as wage theft or OSHA violations by sending a standard letter to employers. Because often these are simply ignored, Primero de Mayo has lately been using "direct actions" with better results, including such things as informational picketing of a headquarters office or the private home or church of a principal employer.

Beer and art – Arbeiter Brewing and RLM Art Studio

Arbeiter Brewing isn't a newcomer in its spot just south of Moon Palace Books (in fact, they share a building). But their taproom was a long time in coming, and I was then even longer in getting around to checking it out. I finally had a chance to do that in April, when I had a very nice Milk Stout there and soaked up the atmosphere. It's a smallish to medium-sized taproom, with one food truck in the lot outside. They sell cool merch as well as over a dozen varieties of lager and ale, and crowlers to go. Highly recommended.

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Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors offers a number of services to help older adults live healthy, independent and socially connected lives.

- Healthy Seniors currently has grant funds available to purchase food for local seniors. If you're age 60+ and live in Longfellow, Seward, Cooper, Howe or Hiawatha neighborhoods, contact us to apply. Lower income applicants may be given priority.
- We also deliver food from food shelves to area seniors. Please call 612-729-5799 or email info@LShealthyseiors.org for more information.

LONGFELLOW/SEWARD HEALTHY SENIORS

3131 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis

Web: LShealthyseiors.org

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See Minnehaha, page 8

Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha Avenue

Minnehaha, from page 7

Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio, at 3260 Minnehaha Ave., remains closed to in-store shopping due to the pandemic, but their online store is thriving at rlmart-

studio.com. There you can order prints, posters, greeting cards, buttons and more (all union-made in the U.S.), with curbside pickup if you're local or shipping if not. As one of the many testimonials to this visionary South Minneapolis

artist and activist states: "RLM's work is a balm. It speaks to my heart, stimulates my thoughts, and invigorates my drive to make social change."

Reopenings and neighbors - East Lake Library, Hook and Ladder, All Square

I have one more opportunity to rhapsodize about the libraries being open. Forgive me for going on and on about it, but it's so true what Joni Mitchell said - you don't know what you've got till it's gone. Use your public library while you have it! The East Lake Library is very convenient, open 48 hours a week, and has an interesting meeting room you can reserve rent-free.

Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge, in the renovated fire-

house at 3010 Minnehaha Ave., has closed, reopened, closed again, etc. along with other entertainment facilities as the pandemic waxed and waned. It is right next door to the burned-out Third Precinct building, but fortunately survived with repairable damage only and no fire, due in part to the vigilance of Moon Palace/Geek Love Café owner Jamie Schwesnedl and others, who are said to have watched over the buildings on the block night after night during the George Floyd uprising. Last summer, Hook and Ladder debuted their hugely successful outdoor series "Under the Canopy," which returns this year. There are also indoor events.

All Square is open Tuesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. They reopened mid-February, posting this message on their

website: "Due to the tragic murder of our brother, Randall Smith, the restaurant was closed for 6 weeks." All Square is a social enterprise behind a gourmet grilled cheese sandwich restaurant. The social nonprofit part works with ex-offenders. The organization has recently launched The Legal Revolution, described on their website thus:

"The Prison-to-Law Pipeline is a program that is facilitating the country's first ABA-accredited paralegal and legal degrees for currently incarcerated scholars. The aim of the Pipeline is to democratize legal education by putting the keys to the law in the hands of those most impacted by it."

Coming soon - Uncle Hugo's and Uncle Edgar's

Great news for science fiction and mystery book fans: Uncle Hugo's and Uncle Edgar's ("the Uncles" for short) will be returning in a new location. While selling books online, owner Don Blyly raised money through both crowd-sourcing and a grant from the Lake Street Council to reopen a physical space, and purchased the building



'Under the Canopy' returns to Hook and Ladder Theater

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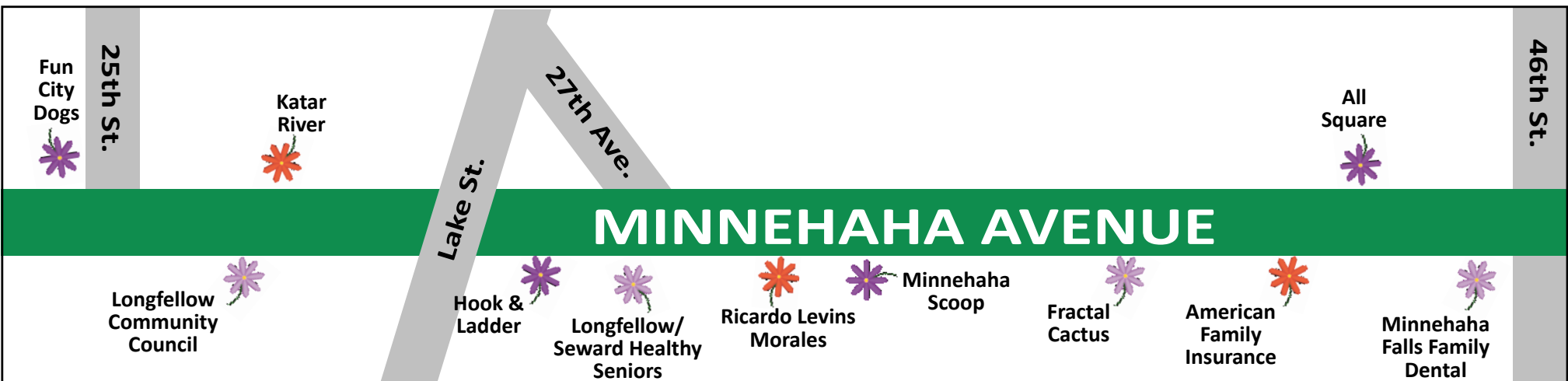


Ethiopian cuisine from Katar River

at 2716 E. 31st St. in the heart of Downtown Longfellow (the former site of Glass Endeavors). They hope to open in June or sometime later this summer. You can sign up for the Uncles' email list at <http://www.unclehugo.com/prod/mail-To.shtml> and get updates on their merchandise, the new store, volunteering, or applying for a job when they open.

Three Ethiopian restaurants - Katar River, Selam Cafe and Meseret

There are at least three Ethiopi-



Every Third Saturday veterans' center founders and program director at the construction site of their new building in 2021

an restaurants along Minnehaha Avenue. The one furthest north is Katar River Restaurant & Bakery, serving their delicious Ethiopian and East African cuisine at 2751 Minnehaha Ave. S. since 2008. Their menu includes a wide variety of both meat and vegetarian entrees, plus their famous injera and other baked goods. They have inside dining, take-out and a delivery service called Menufy. Unlike many delivery services, you can even get wine or beer delivered, as well as jars of Ethiopian honey.

The other two are very close,



Restaurant

more or less across the street from each other. The first is Selam Cafe, 3860 Minnehaha Ave. S., which grew gradually from a coffee shop, to a coffee shop with a few food items, to a full-fledged restaurant, though still fairly small. Their Ethiopian coffee is to die for, as are their vegetarian sambusas. They do not have delivery and are closed on Tuesdays.

The last one is Meseret, located at 3867 Minnehaha Ave. S. They have delivery, through either Grub-Hub or DoorDash, and they also do catering. And I do appreciate their simple-to-remember hours – seven

Eatery, the beloved summer-only, seafood, sandwiches, po' boys, and beer place in Minnehaha Falls Park, will not be back for summer of 2023. So if you're a fan (and I definitely am one) you should probably go get an oyster po' boy and a beer while you still can.

Every Third Saturday – a gathering place for veterans

We're ending up with a look at a veterans' gathering place called Every Third Saturday (ETS). This is currently, and for a few days more, located at 4303 E. 54th St., but will be moving into a brand-new purpose-built building that will enable them to take their program to the next level. The new building is very nearby, at 5402 43rd Ave. S.

Co-founder Tom McKenna, himself a veteran, was very hands-on in the design of the new building, with adaptations that will account for the psychological needs of veterans. It includes a Veterans Re-

source and Empowerment Center, a coffee shop, a private patio, and a specially designed fitness center. A key part of ETS's mission is a free store, giving veterans in need clothing, shoes and personal gear. The store is designed to be bright,

clean, and organized "like a proper store, not a giveaway pile," according to McKenna. The coffee shop will also be an employment project for veterans. The grand opening for the new center is May 25.



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GRILLED CHEESE

Et tu, Brute? Tabernas de Moe in Latin America, food sovereignty, more unions, and a supper club mini-review

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Openings, reopenings, closings, reclosings

Just kidding. Well, not really. It is like that sometimes. Anyway, two that have recently closed or announced imminent closing are Grand Catch on Grand Avenue in St. Paul and Dumpling on Minnehaha Avenue. One that will have just reopened by publishing time is the West Bank's great breakfast spot and late-night hangout, Hard Times. And one that reopened in February, although you may miss it if you don't know because it's only open Saturday and Sunday, is Lucy's Market, which is a sort of convenience store, but also a very good neighborhood Ethiopian restaurant. It's on Cedar, just north of 38th Street.

Tabernas de Moe in Latin America

This one isn't a joke, even though it might sound like one. The Eater has this delightful piece about the many "bootleg" Moe's Taverns found scattered throughout Mexico and Central and South America. "The Simpsons" is very



popular there, and some entrepreneurs have created little Springfield, complete with Tabernas de Moe. Read it here: www.eater.com/22966376/moes-tavern-real-simpsons-themed-bars-latin-america.

If I ever pay \$25 for a Caesar salad, Brutus had better stab me

The above headline was found on Twitter and I just liked it. But it's a good tie-in to my monthly labor organizing subsection. (I don't put a bit about labor organizing in food and beverage industries in every issue of The Dish just because I'm a fanatical supporter of organized labor, although I am. I do it because it's what's happening, and I owe it to future historians to record it.)

But seriously, et tu, Amy's Foods? (See what I did there?) Every time I hear about a company that touts its grassy roots, its communal happy workplace, its dedication to values of blah blah blah and that suddenly turns out to be just another union buster, I feel a jolt as if this had not happened before. Or if it did, this company was not like that, surely? But yes, it is. In fact, Amy's Foods, with its whiff of Amish or Quakerish or at least Hippy Americana, treats its mostly Latina workforce with Amazon-warehouse level cruelty, just on a smaller scale. Or so it appears.



Amy's Kitchen workers picket in Petaluma, Calif.

Oh, no, et tu, Peace Coffee? This one is a real "oof." This is a beloved local institution, and a certified B Corp (Google it if you don't know) and on top of that, they make damn fine coffee! And yet they haven't learned from other similar union drives that they ought to voluntarily recognize their union if they don't want to be despised by a surprising number of former customers.

Racket (racketmn.com) has the story "Peace Coffee Is Unionizing." Eater (www.eater.com) has "Labor Disputes at Amy's Kitchen, Explained" and also another great union story, "How Scared Is Howard Schultz of the Starbucks Union Wave?"

How to quit meat without feeling or being sick

But first, why quit meat? If you have kids, you could do it for your grandchildren. If you don't have kids, I fully support you not having kids, so you could do it for my grandchildren. In other words, though a lot of people quit meat to save their own body and health, anyone can and should do it to save the future and even the present environment. Cows and pigs are going to be the death of us.

The production of beef, dairy, lamb, pork, and animal by-products is second only to transportation (all shipping, all automobiles, all flights, commercial and military) in emission of greenhouse gases. If you also count in water impacts - use of water in the industry and as an input for the feed, and pollution of water) it makes the raising and slaughtering and marketing of animals the most environmentally destructive thing there is.

Not everyone can quit meat entirely. Even before I was a restaurant reviewer, I tried not to be fanatical about it, because I attempted to be vegan a couple of decades ago and failed. I am now a reducaritarian. It's an actual thing. I say, do what you can. Eat less meat. Fish and game are somewhat less destructive to the environment. A hamburger or a roast chicken every year or so is still going to put you way in front of most people in developed nations.

I saw this piece in Men's Health about how to quit eating meat without becoming sick. It's ba-

sically about what you might be missing in a vegan diet and how to get that in plant-based foods. What you might be missing includes: enough calories that aren't carbs, or just enough calories period; the satiation factor of a good protein-to-fat ratio; plus the juiciness, the flavor, iron, calcium, vitamin D3 or vitamin B12. Go to www.menshealth.com and find "How to Give Up Eating Meat Without Becoming Sad or Weak."

Food sovereignty for Red Lake Nation

A Facebook friend shared a post from a group called Gitigaanike, which is a public group run by Red Lake Nation. The post concerns the activities of Red Lake Nation



Harvesting wild rice in Red Lake Nation

to achieve and sustain "food sovereignty" for the nation. Read the link copied here to learn about their buffalo ranch, their garden, and their hemp farm, and the new product they'll be producing - a protein bar made with puffed wild rice, hemp seeds, maple syrup and pumpkin seeds. www.facebook.com/groups/gitigaanike/posts/5208491995848092.

15 brunch places plus one that I like best

The Eater Twin Cities (the online magazine has a national section, and regional sections for all the metropolises that rate one, which fortunately, we do - twin-cities.eater.com) has frequent listicles about the X number of "whatevers" in the area. On April 14 they published "15 Essential Twin Cities Brunches." It's a pretty good list but it doesn't include Modern Times! I'm sure you'll agree with me that no matter how you cut it, there has to be at least one on that list of 15 that is no-



Peace Coffee Workers UFCW Local 663

where near as good as Modern Times.

Mini-review: A 60th birthday dinner at Creekside Supper Club

There have been a lot of reviews of the Creekside Supper Club in the four or so months since it opened in the former Pepi-to's space on Chicago Avenue. And now there is one more. Because I brought my friend Patricia, who was turning 60 on that very night, to supper there as a celebration. (One might wonder why her husband was not doing the honor. Well, best not to get into that, but don't worry, they're OK. He's a musician, you see.)

The Creekside Supper Club is a trip down nostalgia lane for sure.

Even if you didn't grow up in the Upper Midwest, where the supper club was a particular institution, for those of us who are Boomers or older, you probably had something similar in your area in the 1950s to 1970s, before people were cool. One reviewer succinctly described the decor and ambience as "fancy for a farmer." Another word that occasionally cropped up was "kitsch," which implies irony. There was none in the previous period alluded to - this was the fine dining ex-

Even if the kitsch is just a little too much for your taste, you'll forgive, too, if the food is good enough. And it is good enough. It is very good. I will rhapsodize about just one thing - the mussels. Champagne mussels, as they're called on the menu. The mussels were good and plump, perfectly fresh, and absolutely swimming in a thin champagne cream sauce that seemed half butter, half mussel broth, and just a hint of champagne wineyness and creamy cream. Maybe a smaller hint of garlic and herbs. I love things like this that let good ingredients speak for themselves without overloading them with clever touches. It was balanced and at the same time sumptuous. This is listed as an appetizer, but I had it as a main course, with a side of very good fries. (I like to pretend I'm in Belgium.)

But we did have appetizers! And those are good too! If you like to go out for cocktails, and you like retro cocktails, because that's what they have, these appetizers would be a perfect accompaniment and you wouldn't even need dinner. The relish tray, a supper club staple, contains everything that makes it "Wisconsin" in style, as advertised. Fried cheese curds, check. Game sausages, check. Pickled vegetables, check. And oh good, a smooth pate of smoked lake trout, check. Along with that we had perfect popovers, four massive ones, with maple butter.

I highly recommend Creekside



Creekside Supper Club

perience of the untraveled American masses - and what irony there is at the Creekside and other modern-day supper clubs is gentle and forgiving.

Supper Club. You can be fancy for a farmer without dressing up too much, or shelling out for downtown parking, or breaking the bank to pay the check.

Intelligence versus wisdom



BY TONY BOUZA

The recent turmoil surrounding New York's governor is a wonderful example of the lessons the Greek ancients tried hard to teach us. But we are slow learners. Andrew Cuomo is the smartest guy in the state. Honest. I grew up with guys like that. Not many, but memorable. They beat

the pants off me on every test. They won every game. They were quick, clever and smart. So, how might I compete? It wasn't gonna be in a classroom or on a quiz show. Gradually—ever so slowly—a light began to dawn. Hard work and hard study. Humility and introspection. How did they—or I—lead our lives? What were their choices? How wise their judgments? How penetrating their insights—into themselves and the world around them? “If you're so smart, why ain't you rich?” One of the wisecracks hurled about on Brooklyn streets as I hung out. Guys drank, gambled and pissed away their lives. Gals spread their legs and struggled ever after to raise fatherless progeny. A rare few studied, saved, invested (in the only two vehicles

available to workers—real estate and stocks) and employed the miracle of compound interest. These isolates went on to get educations, good jobs, married sensibly, behaved responsibly and enabled their loved ones to succeed. If the formula is so obvious why ain't we all using it? Get wisdom—that font of insight enjoins, and with all thy getting, get understanding. Wisdom means employing good judgment. It means doing the right thing; paying your bills; telling the truth; learning from such great teachers as Shakespeare, Thucydides, Sophocles, O'Neill, Charlie Chaplin (though not perhaps in his private life—the distinction between artist and his/her art is real)—and on. The few savants possessed acceptance, humility and introspection. If it's all so simple, why ain't we doing it? Why ain't we rich?

Well, it is simple—to describe—but damned difficult to follow. We live in a country that reveres intelligence, and rewards it. Wisdom, not so much. Bill Gates is a lot more famous than the unknown sage. Is there anyone humble, wise, introspective and revered who—like Gandhi or Jesus or Buddha—we know of and imitate? Not so much. Wisdom is in short supply—and it doesn't even pay well. Why bother? I studied the very few intimate friends I made with fierce intensity and over many years. My closest friend, a compulsive, seriously addicted gambler, punished himself by losing everything. I finally figured out he was flagellating himself for harboring sex fantasies about his mother. Another was a drama queen who needed the spotlight and cen-

ter stage and created chaos to get them. A buddy shocked me one day through the vehemence of his defense over our disagreement. It was a revelation that I'd been assaulting his ego, and his defense was hysterical. A very accomplished couple raised four children. It was a focused, driven project, and the kids turned into brilliant successes—but were forced to endure unhappy marriages and tried burying a lot of tension and unhappiness. They escaped into success without satisfaction. The most talented and smartest of my rivals in the NYPD wanted acceptance and sank into “one of the boys” syndrome of good fellowship and pub crawling. Yes, it's about sex, power and money. But you'd better work other ingredients into the mix if you want satisfaction.

Lake Street Alignment

BY DARLENE WALSER, OF THE LAKE STREET ALIGNMENT TEAM

As Minneapolis and the Lake Street community navigate the continued impact of the pandemic and the pain of George Floyd's murder and the uprising that followed, we know that how our community rebuilds is just as important as what we build. Launched in September 2021, Lake Street Alignment is a collaborative community engagement and planning process designed to reimagine and rebuild Lake Street with racial, economic and environmental justice at its core. Generously funded and coordinated by the McKnight Foundation, the participants in the overall planning include: Allina Health; Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council; CANDO (Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization); Cultural Wellness

Center; Lake Street Council; Lake Street Latino Business Association; Longfellow Rising; MIGIZI; Minnesota Somali Chamber of Commerce; New American Development Center; RARE Productions; Tending the Soil; and Unidos MN. The process brought together over 400 community members who participated in listening sessions and testing workshops to develop joint solutions and plans to address priorities identified by the community: investing in local businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and people of color by expanding access to grants and loans; making the corridor a destination for arts and cultural events; creating an environment that feels safe for everyone with deeper engagement, empowerment and sense of community, and more. Community members included

businesses, property owners, residents, neighborhood organizations, nonprofits, city and county staff, elected officials and funders. The process focused on four key intersections: Nicollet, Chicago, Bloomington, and Minnehaha. On April 12, Lake Street Alignment held a community meeting and celebration at the Midtown Global Market to share the results of this process and the specific strategies to achieve the community's collective dreams and visions for the future of Lake Street. Next, participants will be moving forward to collectively put these ideas into action.



From the website, <https://www.lakestreetalignment.com/>: “Stakeholders in each area will test ideas for physical projects and improvements, strategies to get people the support they need, solutions to assist existing businesses and property owners and proposals for infusing Lake Street with new energy, including the increase of BIPOC ownership on Lake Street. Residents, com-

munity members, and stakeholders will participate in aligning these ideas into a shared framework that everyone can work from.” Moving toward implementation: “Based on the aligned strategies from the testing phase, the team will develop a detailed approach for funding and building projects, changing policies, and working together in new ways to implement the community's vision for Lake Street and see it come to life.”



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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

EVENTS

Poets Jeffrey Yang and Anni Liu
Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.

Hook & Ladder Theater
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.
Acclaimed poet, translator and editor Jeffrey Yang presents his latest poetry collection, "Line and Light" (Graywolf Press), a volume that deftly traces lines of energy through art, myth and history. Yang will be joined by Minneapolis poet Anni Liu as she celebrates her debut book "Border Vista" (Persea Books), which intimately narrates the experience of being undocumented in America. In these riveting new books, each of these poets investigates issues crucial to our time and lights the way forward into a territory that may be challenging but is

eminently worth traveling.
FREE in-person event! See <https://thehookmpls.com/covid19/> for COVID protocols.

Happy National Bike Month!
May 16 – 22

Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 20
Happy Bike Month — an annual celebration from the League of American Bicyclists all about bike joy and all those working to make it safer and easier to experience it! Here's how you can celebrate:
Bike to Work Week will take place May 16-22, 2022, and Bike to Work Day is on Friday, May 20. There's also a Love to Ride Bike Month Challenge — a great chance for you to form a team and pedal to the top of the leaderboards. Log your bike miles as part of a collective competition and win sweet prizes. Visit

our partners at Love to Ride (<https://www.lovetoride.net/usa>) to sign up for the National Bike Challenge. Find rides and events all over Minnesota using our events calendar. Dust off your bike, do an ABC Quick Check, and let's roll together this month! www.bikemn.org

HomeHelpMN program open for applications

May 17 through June 17
HomeHelpMN will begin accepting applications for assistance on Tuesday, May 17. HomeHelpMN will provide relief to homeowners who have been impacted by the pandemic and who owe past due mortgage payments and other eligible housing expenses. Funds for the program are limited, and need is expected to be high. If applications received during the application period exceed available funding, applicants may be put on a wait list.

Applications will be accepted until June 17. Homeowners can get ready today by visiting the website at HomeHelpMN.org or calling the Call Center at 1-800-388-3226. That website and phone number are also where they will be able to apply for funds when the application period begins. A submitted application is not a guarantee of funding. The Call Center is available Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is accessible by TTY and also utilizes the Language Line to provide access for callers who wish to communicate in a language other than English.

Minnesota Opera's 'Carmen'
Through May 22

Ordway Music Theater
345 Washington St., Mpls.
Sultry, bold, daring. When affection turns to obsession, romance becomes

dangerous. Carmen, an iconic and beautiful woman, is bound to live life on her own terms. But shortly after a corporal military officer falls for her, what begins as a passionate story of desire quickly turns into a struggle for liberation. Featuring some of the most popular music to ever grace the opera stage, Minnesota Opera's "Carmen" brings every aspect of Bizet's thrilling tale to life, from its tantalizing beginning to its devastating climax.

Music by Georges Bizet, libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy. Sung in French with English captions. Age recommendation: 12 years and older. Runtime: approximately 2 hrs. 45 min. with one intermission. Co-produced by The Glimmerglass Festival and Minnesota Opera. <https://mnopera.org/season/2021-2022/carmen/>

Cam, from page 1

that was completed before the measure was put on the ballot in 2021 with the help of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA).

Jenkins' proposal resurfaced again on March 24 on a committee agenda with a more detailed plan. There it was postponed on Chughtai's request so that she could craft an alternative.

Then, on April 14, two competing proposals were brought to the Council for consideration.

Chughtai's proposal called on staff to work with the CURA to develop a policy that would include details on a rent cap, exemptions, exceptions, and a plan for implementation and enforcement.

A policy outline would return to the Council by May 12, followed by extensive community input to inform a finalized policy that would come back for approval by July 21, in time to submit a ballot question to voters at the Nov. 8, 2022, election. "Keeping people in their homes and keeping people

in the communities they love, that is why I ran for office," she said. "I owe it to my constituents, and I think we, as a city, owe it to our people, to at least try to the best of our ability to act with the urgency they need."

Jenkins' proposal called for the creation of a facilitated 23-person work group to develop the policy and a timeline aimed at submitting a question to voters in 2023. "We need to proceed with haste, but we must be deliberate," she said. "We must act with the best long-term interest of our entire community in mind, not just the asks from certain parts of our community."

Chughtai's substitute proposal was voted down 5-7, with Chughtai, Payne, Ellison, Chavez and Wonsley Worlobah supporting it.

When the Jenkins resolution was considered, amendments were proposed. One noteworthy amendment came after the Council voted to add seats for Inquilinxs Unidxs Por Justicia and the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association to the work group. They then voted against adding

a seat for Minneapolis United for Rent Control, a coalition that was active in supporting the rent stabilization amendment in 2021. This failed on a 5-7 vote with Vet-aw, Rainville, Goodman, Osman, Koski, Palmisano and Jenkins voting against adding the organization to the work group.

"The conservative-majority City Council went out of its way with a vote to keep our coalition, Minneapolis United for Rent Control — which includes unions of nurses, transit workers, professional employees, teachers, alongside students, clergy, and more from all across the city — off the Work Group," the coalition wrote after the meeting.

"Strong rent control is already backed by a city study," they continued, "and voting to bar organizations that advocate for strong rent control from the Work Group is essentially voting to bury the results of the Council's own taxpayer funded study."

The resolution passed, as amended, 12-0. The work group will consist of 25 people, 12 appointed by the City Council and

mayor and 13 chosen by the Community Planning and Economic Development Director, Andrea Brennan.

"The makeup of the work group is designed to ensure all views on housing/rent stabilization will have a seat at the table as a policy is crafted to meet the needs of our city," said Michael Rainville (Ward 3). "I am confident that we will see a balanced policy that will bring certainty to renters and landlords while housing development and rehabilitation is not reduced as the rent control policy in St. Paul has done."

Minneapolis United for Rent Control is concerned that the delay and work group may lead to a weakened policy. "The conservative-majority of the council will hide behind this Work Group," they wrote, "where corporate interests will have disproportionate

power."

"We authorized staff to begin the process for establishing a 25-person work group that will be comprised of stakeholders, including renters, landlords, advocacy groups, developers," said Jenkins. "We will ensure there is a commitment to crafting a policy that will be beneficial to the most marginalized members of our community."

Jenkins said that the group should be formed by June and could have a specific proposal ready by the end of 2022, in time to be on the ballot in November 2023.

Depending on the implementation and enforcement timeline, it will be at least another 1½ to 2 years before any program will be implemented to help stabilize rents in Minneapolis.



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

Southside Pride

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“This time it needs to be different.”

BY ED FELIEN

Council Member Jason Chavez wrote in his newsletter: “The Minnesota Department of Human Rights released its report on the investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department. According to the report, it included approximately 700 hours of body worn camera footage and nearly 480,000 pages of City and MPD documents (training materials, policies and procedures, officers’ disciplinary records, policy development materials, reports and assessments, internal and external communication and correspondence, documents reflecting interagency agreements, public messaging documents, and data from MPD’s covert social media accounts).

• MPD maintains a culture where MPD officers consistently use racist, misogynistic, and

disrespectful language and are rarely held accountable.

- MPD provides deficient training and guidance for its officers, which exacerbates a pattern of discriminatory, race-based policing.
- MPD officers use higher rates of more severe force against Black individuals than white individuals in similar circumstances.
- MPD officers inappropriately use neck restraints and chemical irritants.
- MPD officers are more likely to search Black individuals and/or their vehicles during a traffic stop than white individuals in similar circumstances.
- MPD uses covert social media to target Black leaders, Black organizations, and elected officials without a public safety objective.
- MPD’s covert social media accounts were used to con-

duct surveillance, unrelated to criminal activity, and to falsely engage with Black individuals, Black leaders, and Black organizations.

- MPD does not have proper oversight and accountability mechanisms for officers’ covert social media use.”

Mayor Frey held a news conference at which he said, “This time it needs to be different.”

Chuck Turchick was not impressed. He wrote on the Minneapolis Issues Forum: “Mayor Frey’s press conference was a master class in responsibility deflection 101. He had about ten City employees standing behind him, saying it was a collective effort we needed. He suggested that probably every mayor in the country faces similar problems and feels they should have acted with more urgency. He said that the Black leaders he met with pointed out

to him that these problems have existed for far longer than the ten years the MDHR investigated. He said that ‘each and every person has a role to play.’ He talked about the policy changes he already has made, but said they have to be implemented too – as if that wasn’t his responsibility.

“What he didn’t say was that the City Charter reads as follows: ‘The Mayor has complete power over the establishment, maintenance, and command of the police department. The Mayor may make all rules and regulations and may promulgate and enforce general and special orders necessary to operating the police department. Except where the law vests an appointment in the department itself, the Mayor appoints and may discipline or discharge any employee in the department (subject to the Civil Service Commission’s rules, in the case of an employee in the classified service).’

“I do so wish we had a mayor

who took responsibility without all of the qualifying language.”

Will this time be different, Mr. Mayor?

Will you tell us what happened in that basement in South Minneapolis where the MPD Tactical Squad killed Terrance Franklin?

Will you tell us whether the officers who apprehended and killed Jamar Clark observed proper protocol?

Has your office reviewed the tapes of the killing of Thurman Blevins? Did the officers who pursued and killed him operate with proper regard for public safety?

What changes in confronting depressed and suicidal neighbors has the MPD instituted since the killing of Travis Jordan?

Are we going to finally get some answers to these questions?

We’ve asked them before.

Will this time be different?

Racism is alive and well at the Park Board!

BY KATHRYN KELLY

Racism is alive and well at the Park Board, as the Hiawatha Golf Course project has revealed. The Black community has golfed there since it was built in the 1930s. Now, the Minneapolis Park Board was presented with a plan that would retain the 18-hole golf course and actually improve the park. But five white commissioners still seem bent on destroying Hiawatha Golf Course.

Why is this a racist decision? It is a golf course that serves the Black community from all over the city, and the Black community has said that they want and deserve a regulation 18-hole golf course. The Park Board’s plan would create a sub-standard nine-hole “executive” golf course. It’s like telling a baseball player to go play T-ball.

This is not new. Until the 1950s, Black golfers could play on Minneapolis golf courses, but they couldn’t join the Men’s Clubs. Because the Men’s Clubs received preferential benefits, including

official state handicaps, this effectively denied these privileges to Black golfers. The Twin City Golf Club, a Black golf organization, appealed to the Park Board, and was given a lukewarm decision. In 1952, the Park Board required the Men’s Leagues to show that their constitutions did not bar members for race, creed or color. But it still allowed clubs to blackball applicants. Only Hiawatha Golf Course and the Twin City Golf Club immediately provided the necessary documentation to comply. Shelton Granger, executive secretary of the Minneapolis Urban League said, “We had hoped to make it the responsibility of the park board to see that we have an integrated system on the courses. This action recognizes a system of voluntary segregation and gives it support by allowing it to continue.”

Exactly 70 years later, it seems that we haven’t progressed at all. The Hiawatha maintenance budget is abysmal, and the Park Board is offering another “partial loaf” to the Black community. This is

especially egregious because there is a solution to keep the 18-hole golf course. That shows the underlying “Minnesota racism” from the white community and the Park Board. They don’t care what the Black community wants, while claiming that they are for total equity.

I have heard the following condescending language from supporters of the Park Board plan. “It’s a compromise,” and “This should be good enough,” and “This will be better for you,” and “We will do all of these other things for you” – as if the Black community needs a benefactor with great wisdom.

What they are really saying to the Black community is, “Here is this crappy nine-hole golf course, and we’ll throw in some plaques for you about the history that you used to have here. That should be good enough. Now go away and accept it because we are the great white decision makers, and we can do what we want because we have the power.”



The 1971 Bronze Tournament at Hiawatha Golf Course in front of the clubhouse

Hiawatha Golf Course is the most diverse golf course in the state of Minnesota, serving Blacks, Hispanics, whites, Native Americans and Asians, of all ages and income levels. Yet some Park Board commissioners want to destroy it based on a mountain of lies about fictitious problems. Will

Meg Forney’s leadership show that the Park Board is still back in the racist 1950s, or will they move into the 21st century?

If they vote to stay back in the 1950s, I am truly ashamed to be a white person!

DFL, from page 1

basic mathematical literacy, the Yusra Arab group followed the time-honored DFL sore-loser strategy of walking out (logging out), but they didn’t even have the numbers to break the quorum! On the sixth ballot, Sencer-Mura got over 80%.

But the truly fun part of the SD63 convention was our successful attempt at doing a walking subcaucus using Zoom’s breakout rooms. There were about a dozen of us delegates and upgraded alternates there who were either in the Democratic Socialist Caucus (which works solely within the DFL) or the Twin Cities DSA (which is non-partisan) or both. Suspecting we had fellow travelers among the rest of the delegates, I nominated a subcaucus called Democratic Socialism. This

ended up being the second largest subcaucus and choosing seven delegates and seven alternates by acclamation. (I chose to be an alternate.)

My Southside Pride colleague, comrade in TCDSA, and good friend Dave T., who happens to be the DFL chair of SD62, was also an alternate to the CD5 convention, which was Saturday, May 7, and would consider the endorsement of Ilhan Omar, incumbent (and world-famous) congresswoman. Dave and I decided to go to the convention together. Omar was being challenged by Republican-financed “we’re all DFLers here” perennial candidate Don Samuels. The stage for shenanigans was set.

Dave got upgraded before balloting began. Somewhere between the first and second ballot, the credentials chair told me I probably wouldn’t be upgraded, be-

cause the Democratic Socialist subcaucus from SD63 was fully present and my overall alternate rank was 16. So I was just wandering around, hanging out with Dave. They were about to have the second vote and I was making my way to the alternate seats when suddenly one of Ilhan Omar’s floor captains grabbed me, saying, “Are you Deb Ramage?” and took me out to the credentials table. They said one DS subcaucus female delegate, Luna, had left after the first ballot, assuming it would be a win. She did not turn in her badge, so the credentials chair was being pissy about it. The Omar floor captain had a text from Luna on her phone, but that wasn’t enough.

Meanwhile, back in the hall a one-minute warning sounded about the “floor freeze.” (More arcane DFL stuff.) Omar’s floor captain told me to run to the dele-

gate area. About then, a small mob of people (all from Don Samuels’ campaign, most of them wearing the t-shirt) formed in the doorway and one of them was closing the doors – prematurely, as it turned out.

People in the lobby rushed the doors, and a scrum developed. Some of our people got up and joined the scrum from the inside of the hall. Being sensibly risk averse, I was not part of it. Instead, I shouted at the mob, saying, “Stop this, shame on you, stop it, someone’s going to get hurt.” One of our DS subcaucus delegates, Raphael, who was on the inside, reached out his hand to me through the roiling ruck and said to grab it. Without thinking, I did, and he pulled me through the tight crowd of pushing, shoving, angry strangers. I emerged on the other side. I think they closed the doors

behind me. Everything after that is a bit of a blur.

For about 15 minutes I was standing by the mic with Amy L., the chair of SD63, while all the officials huddled about what to do. (Somehow I ended up being a Schrodinger’s alternate, both entitled and not entitled to an upgrade.) Amy left me standing there and went to join the huddle. Ilhan Omar came up to me and asked if I was OK, and I said, “No, I’m not, I’m still shaking.” And she said, “Was that you who pushed through the mob at the doors?” and I said, “I never pushed, I was pulled through!” So Ilhan gave me a hug and said she was sorry. Mercifully, after a few more minutes I was seated with the delegates but told I couldn’t vote. In the end none of that mattered as Ilhan Omar was endorsed on the second vote.

EVENTS

Lives of Faith+Art Ivory Doublette
Wednesday, May 18
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
In-person and online
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
5760 Portland Ave., Mpls.
Join us on Wednesday, May 18 for our special event series focusing on faith and the arts. We will welcome Ivory Doublette, singer and actor, to share her story and gifts with us. All ages are welcome as this will be an interactive experience with learning, listening and fellowship. Come early for Wednesday Night Supper that begins at 5:30 p.m. (free will offering).
https://www.dlhc.org/content.cfm?page_content=calendar_include.cfm&event_id=637&mm=5&d-d=4&yy=2022

‘Justice & Joy: Social Transformation as Spiritual Practice’
Thursday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. CT
Online via Zoom
Lecture presented by Justin Sabia-Tanis, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Social Transformation, United Theological Seminary
Our sacred traditions set before us visions of a just and peaceful future – a world it is increasingly urgent to create if we are to survive. This lecture will consider how viewing our work for social justice as a practice of faith can lead us to greater spiritual depth and meaning in our lives and how our spirituality sustains us to engage in long term, effective and meaningful work for justice. We will look at why faith calls us to do the work of transformation and how this leads to both justice and joy. Register at <https://content.unitedseminary.edu/justin-sabia-tanis-spring-lecture-series?hsLang=en-us>.

Spring into Summer
Sunday, May 22, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

5760 Portland Ave., Mpls.
Diamond Lake Lutheran and Trust Inc. are collaborating to host this community event as we spring into summer! Join us on the shores of Diamond Lake for games, balloon animals, a picnic meal and a performance by the Crosstown Community Band. The meal starts at 4 p.m. with the band playing at 4:15 p.m. Activities will take place before and after the music. Come together with neighbors as we kick off the summer.
https://www.dlhc.org/content.cfm?page_content=calendar_include.cfm&event_id=648&mm=5&d-d=22&yy=2022

Augsburg Centennial Singers
Sunday, May 22, 3 to 4 p.m.
Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church
4101 37th Ave. S., Mpls.
The Augsburg Centennial Singers, a 40-voice male chorus, will present a concert of faith-based as well as patriotic selections at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoon, May 22, beginning at 3 p.m. The church is located at the intersection of 41st Street and Minnehaha Avenue.

Walking Meditation
Sundays, May 22, June 26, July 23
6:25 to 7:30 p.m.
Wood Lake Nature Center
6710 Lake Shore Dr. S.
Richfield, MN
Way Opening Workshops is offering a guided walk with reflections, queries and ritual. Walking has a positive effect on mental health, as well as being beneficial for our bodies, minds, and spirits. Walking meditation is a prime way to engage in a spiritual practice, in the presence of nature and community. Come alone or with another. All faiths and no faith welcome. Cost is \$10 per session. To register contact: wayopeningworkshops@gmail.com. Visit wayopeningworkshops.com for more information.

SHARING FOOD

Soup for You! Café at Bethany 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.
<https://soupforyou.info/>

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

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.
612-825-6846
Serving Loaves and Fishes free community meals on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. The meals are all “to-go” meals, served from the northwest door on 53rd Street. These meals are free to anyone, no questions asked. You might have had a hard day and simply cannot cook dinner. Or maybe you’ve paid your last bill for the month and cannot buy groceries. Whatever your circumstance, you are welcome. You can simply drive or walk up to the church and receive a meal any Wednesday evening between 5 and 6 p.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Ave., Mpls.
612-827-2504, ext. 205
The Calvary Emergency Food Shelf is available for area residents on Sat-

urdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Due to COVID-19, we are currently operating a drive-thru and walk-up model. No appointments are needed – just come to the parking lot. Eligibility is based on self-reported income and need. We ask that households come only ONE TIME A MONTH to allow everyone access. The Calvary Food Shelf has no geographic boundaries – all are welcome! If you have any questions, please email foodshelf@clchurch.org or call 612-827-2504, ext. 205. For more information and to see eligibility guidelines, go to <https://www.clchurch.org/food-shelf>.

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3140 Snelling Ave., Mpls.
612-460-8123
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www.trinitylutherancongregation.org
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Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.
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3rd Precinct, from page 1

the American Rescue Plan Act. The OVP is involved in developing a co-responder program for mental health issues, outreach and intervention, gang violence interruption, hospital-based intervention, and 911 and de-escalation training. Other changes include directing calls to 311 when the issue is theft or property damage and parking-related calls to Traffic Control. These changes were made to better meet the needs of the communities and free up officers in order to shorten response times to 911 calls.

Additional changes include a ban on neck restraints (in favor of the use of lower levels of force) and on deactivation of body cameras during an event. There are also new restrictions on no-knock search warrants, restrictions regarding who manages crowd control, restrictions on pretextual stops, and timely discipline decisions by the police chief. Programs are also in motion regarding community health, youth, police training, intervention programs and police accountability recommendations from an appointed focus group. What is not clear are the policies related to disciplinary procedures such as coaching, and formal documented discipline, which is more likely to be on public record.

Reduction in force

In 2020, Minneapolis had nearly 900 police officers. Today, the force has around 600. Currently, the 3rd Precinct has 75 sworn officers (down from 120 in 2020) covering three shifts. This includes not only officers but also two investigators, 12 sergeant supervisors and three lieutenants. The Crime Prevention Unit was moved to Neighborhood & Community Relations. The numbers are down by two to six officers per shift. Since 2020 and the pivotal event of George Floyd’s murder there has been a 22% drop overall in the MPD, as officers have resigned, retired, or gone on medical leave, and, of course, there has also been attrition. Gomez would like to have eight or nine more officers per shift so that in addition to squad car patrol, he could include foot patrol which is known to improve relations between the police and the community and deter crime.

Crime

In 2021 there were 97 homicides in Minneapolis; to date (April 2022) there have been 21, with nine in the 3rd Precinct (42.8%). While some crimes are down, such as vandalism, robbery, sex offenses and property theft, the 3rd Precinct

has made 69 arrests, representing 26% of the city’s arrests in all five precincts. Thirty-nine of these are considered violent crimes. The city crime dashboard indicates that the precinct has had 49 carjackings, 412 motor vehicle thefts, 546 assaults (66 of them domestic assault cases) and 166 breaking and entering offenses.

Staffing debate

How many officers is the right number? What should their focus and priorities be? What would make us feel safe in our neighborhoods? Defunding versus reform? What kind of reform? The debate goes on and is not settled. In October 2020, Mayor Frey along with the City Council commissioned CNA Consulting of Minneapolis (at a cost of \$170,000) to address policing and crime in Minneapolis as anxiety about rising crime mounted. Their recommendations included:

- Staff one officer per squad car (not two) to free up 73 to 106 officers.
- Use civilians for non-violent emergencies (some can be handled via phone).
- Take administrative reporting off the officers and handle it elsewhere.
- Find time for pro-active work that creates public trust, not just

911 calls.

Currently, Minneapolis has a court order to hire 190 officers by June 30, 2022. The current number of sworn officers is 579. The budget allows for growth of up to 756 officers.

Questions remain: Is there middle ground? Can the police department be properly staffed and community oriented? Can the department include safety beyond the traditional policing model? Can the MPD and OVP together properly serve our communities? Can we imagine a new approach to policing and community health and safety? Is “serious reform” possible? Clearly, some steps have been taken, yet reform is still in an embryonic stage.

Foot patrol

There have been numerous studies (see the Philadelphia study at www.police1.com) on the advantages of foot patrol by police, especially in “hot spots” (high crime areas). Amongst the advantages are officers getting a better lay of the land; reduced complaints; fewer pat-downs; more confidence between the community and police; and more continuity as the same officers patrol the same beat. As one officer put it, “it’s difficult to build relationships with people when you are driving

by them.” On foot, police can interact with the unsheltered, gangs, people in parks. Foot patrol has a way of allowing for the flow of information – police become more approachable and problem-solving is more easily fostered. It also increases de-escalation, decreases fear and allows for a more humanitarian approach. The challenges are that it is manpower-intensive and costs more. Also, productivity measures may need to change. It’s difficult to measure arrests and citations against relationship-building and problem-solving. Short-term goals must be measured alongside long-term goals.

Inspector Gomez encourages his officers to get out of their squad cars and interact with residents when possible. With staffing shortages there are no longer exclusive foot patrols like once existed on arteries such as Lake Street and Franklin Avenue. Officers are offered overtime for foot patrol which often involves checking on local businesses. Gomez also believes in police being involved in community activities, such as neighborhood meetings, sporting events and engagements where the police and those they serve have an opportunity for conversation and can learn more about how to work together to create and maintain safe neighborhoods.

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rigorous cleaning routines, streamlined procedures, moved outside and encouraged the 6-foot (social distancing) guideline. Please be patient as we continue to improve what we do. We will be pre-packing most of the food so there will be fewer choices.

Also, we continue to look for ways to decrease contact between people and that means each week might look a little different from the previous week. <https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf/>

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