



**We build Pride on the Southside**

# NOKOMIS EDITION

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**June 2022**

VOL. XXXII, ISSUE 17

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## Abortion – still and again



BY TONY BOUZA

Hubris is my foe. I strive to persuade Erica that she married a moron and worm, albeit one with a great memory.

I fancy that our core problems are racism and income inequality. They impact everything.

Even Roe v. Wade? That created a pause; then I remembered my Japanese buddy Yuji. When his hot daughter got pregnant, he flew her to Japan, where abortion was doable.

So, who did the abortion ban impact?

Poor Black and Hispanic women principally.

Roe v. Wade in 1973 assured that street crime would plummet in 1990 when the aborted cohort would not be around. I wrote about it, but I was gone from policing, and avid chiefs willing to acknowledge their contributions to crime's decline made it to Time's covers. Economics, yes, but racist? How?

In my experience, abortion, legal or not, was not a question for white women—it was the conundrum of Black and Hispanic teenagers.

The issue was intellectually toxic—if you

See Bouza, page 11



Rep. Jim Davnie and Sen. Patricia Torres Ray

## Thank you for your service

BY ED FELIEN

On Saturday, June 4, Minnesota state Sen. Patricia Torres Ray and Reps. Jim Davnie and Emma Greenman held a Senate District 63 Town Hall meeting at Corcoran Park to explain their work at the legislature this year.

For Torres Ray and Davnie this Town Hall was probably especially memorable because it may be their last public meeting as elected officials. They're both retiring this year. Patricia Torres Ray will have served the district for 16 years, and Jim Davnie will have served 22 years. They have been serious, progressive and hard working.

Torres Ray talked about how difficult it was to work with Republicans this year. They wouldn't hold committee hearings to discuss

pending legislation. They obviously didn't want to hear from the DFL senators. And when DFLers would propose amendments to their legislation, the Republicans would rule the amendment was not germane—no matter how hard they had worked to make it germane.

Davnie added that they went to a conference committee to find agreement on the budget bill for education. The DFL House wanted a \$3 billion increase in the budget for education. The Republican Senate wanted an increase of \$30 million. That's a big difference. They settled on an increase of something like \$1 billion.

I asked Davnie during the question-and-answer session why the University and the Minneapolis Public School system have such

bloated bureaucracies. The MPS budgets show 20% administrative costs when federal guidelines allow only 15%, and the University wants a huge raise in tuition in spite of declining enrollment.

Davnie answered that budgets he'd seen show only 6% administrative costs, but, he admitted, that depends on what you're counting. As for interference with the University, there are strict rules and even state constitutional protections for the University from government interference.

Those seemed like pretty good answers.

The guy sitting next to me started his question by saying, "I know this is going to sound trite, but thank you for your service."

And we all applauded.

## Let's dump more water on South Minneapolis

BY KATHRYN KELLY

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is considering a cooperative agreement with Edina to study the effects of a proposed storm water mitigation project in Edina's Morningside neighborhood (Resolution 2022-196). The Morningside community in Edina is a bedroom community to Minneapolis. Early on, their storm sewer infrastructure was tied in to the Minneapolis system, and still is. So, their storm water flows into the Minneapolis storm sewer system.

The proposed project would pump water from Weber Lake in Edina through the storm sewer system to a pollution mitigation pond at Bde Maka Ska in Minneapolis, then into Bde Maka Ska. The intent of this pumping is to lower the level of Weber Lake to increase flood water storage for Edina. But the water would be dumped into the city of Minneapolis and eventually, Minnehaha Creek, which is already suffering from excess water from the upper Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). It would also increase the pollutant



Bde Maka Ska (Photo/minneapolisparcs.org)

load to Bde Maka Ska. One concerning statement in the resolution says, "The parties to a proposed Cooperative Agreement believe that the additional pollutant load can be eliminated either within the City of Edina's project or at a downstream location, with there being a potential for even greater pollutant treatment at some point downstream of the City of Edina's project." This means that the city of Minneapolis would not only be taking on more water, but it would be responsible for removing pollutants from suburban communities. This violates best management practices which state that pollution should be removed at the source. And where is this downstream place in Minneapolis? Could it be Hiawatha Golf Course?

This appears to be another project in the MCWD that would shift the burden of climate change to South Minneapolis, using South Min-

See Water, page 13



**Our 13th Annual**

**Celebrate Summer on Nicollet Avenue**

**Pages 7, 8, 9 & 10**



# The Town Hall meeting on flooding

BY ED FELIEN

Emily Koski, council member from Ward 11, hosted a Town Hall meeting Tuesday, May 31, to discuss water issues for the homes around Lake Nokomis. The beautifully printed, 12-page program brochure said 21 property owners around Lake Nokomis “complained” of wet basements, sinkholes and saturated soil during the wettest seven years on record, from 2011 to 2019.

“Complained?”

To whom did they complain?

We don’t know. The brochure didn’t say.

But Emily Koski heard them. And she got the city to listen. And the county and the Park Board. And lots of other government agencies. And she got some people from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to write a 111-page very scientific analysis of the soil in the area around Lake Nokomis. And she arranged this dramatic Town Hall meeting at the Lake Nokomis Community Center.

Over a hundred people came to the meeting. And 17 experts were sitting behind tables spanning the width of the auditorium. And they all had the same sad story. It’s climate change. There’s nothing we can do about



**Council Member Emily Koski beginning the Town Hall meeting on flooding**

the dramatic increase in rainfall. So much rain, and it just sits there and won’t go away. We’re all doomed because of climate change and our addiction to oil. And it all began to feel like a scene from “Don’t Look Up.” And Emily Koski began to look like Meryl Streep as President Orlean.

What did these experts say we should do about it?

They recommended homeowners get flood insurance, waterproof their basements and get a sump pump to get rid of

the water.

Someone asked if the Park Board is genuinely concerned about the excess water coming down the creek to Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha, then why did Michael Schroeder, the Assistant Superintendent for Planning and an Edina resident, just recently recommend that the Park Board let the excess water from Edina ponds flow into Minnehaha Creek and into the flood plain of Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha?

I asked whether removal of the dam/weir at 27th Avenue (and other obstructions) would lower the level of Lake Hiawatha and the surrounding groundwater by five feet and, consequently, improve drainage of the peat soil surrounding Lake Nokomis

and help alleviate flooding problems that happen during periods of heavy rains.

Someone representing the Park Board answered that the study was not looking at that question.

I responded by saying the dam/weir at 27th Avenue holds back five feet of water. That water has saturated the peat soil around Lake Hiawatha, and since that peat soil is connected to the peat soil around Lake Nokomis, and since water likes to run downhill, and if there’s no place for the water to go since the water table keeps rising, then doesn’t it make sense to pull the plug on this overflowing bathtub?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says, “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 at 27th Avenue is definitely filling in the public water of Lake Hiawatha and the surrounding wetland, but when we asked, the DNR could not find any evidence that the Park Board has a permit to do so.

They did find evidence of the rejection of a permit to build a pumping station near the dam/weir in 1969. The permit was denied by the Department of Conservation (the predecessor of the DNR) because sanitary sewer lines were obstructing

water flowing out of Lake Hiawatha. They could find no permit for the sewer lines: “As you undoubtedly know, all construction projects and utility crossings which encroach upon and otherwise affect public waters of the state require a permit from the Commissioner of Conservation. Projects which affect the outlet control of lakes are especially critical.”

So the dam/weir and the sanitary sewer lines are illegal. They require a permit to obstruct the outlet from Lake Hiawatha, and there is no evidence that they even applied for a permit.

What are the options for people concerned about the flooding of homes around Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha?

The Park Board should take down the dam/weir. If they won’t take it down, then citizens should file a Writ of Mandamus lawsuit against the Park Board ordering them to either comply with the law and get a permit to flood the wetlands surrounding Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis or take down their dam/weir.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has legal responsibility for sewer lines in Minnesota. They should be contacted and informed that their sewer lines are obstructing the flow of water out of Lake Hiawatha. They need to either get a permit to flood the area or support the sewer lines and dredge under the pipes to allow Minnehaha

See Town Hall, page 6

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# Are women's wombs state property?

BY LYDIA HOWELL

Picture a woman or a girl under 18 that you know – a partner, sister, daughter, niece, friend. Then, imagine grainy video of an egg being pierced by a sperm – the moment of fertilization. That fertilized egg is being elevated above already-born female and gender non-conforming people – who are disappeared by politicians and judges practicing medicine, ignorant of basic facts about reproduction.

Self-described pro-life Republicans are indifferent to the fact that the U.S. has the highest maternal and infant mortality rates among Western nations. Their professed family values are a sham revealed by their consistent votes against what families and children need. Recently a majority of Republicans voted against addressing the baby formula shortage created by corporate monopolies.

The leaked draft of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade makes reproductive decisions a matter of "states' rights." Half of states are poised to ban abortion as soon as Roe falls. Republicans threaten a national ban if they regain control of Congress and the Senate.

Decades of the anti-choice campaign of fear tactics and out-right lies distorted this debate. No state ever allowed abortion on demand up until moments before birth, but Alito repeats that false claim.

Anti-choice billboards show cute infants. Protesters scream

"save the babies!" Yet, 92% of abortions occur in the first three months of pregnancy when a fetus is 2½ inches long and weighs half an ounce, according to the Mayo Clinic.

The Guttmacher Institute, which researches sexual and reproductive health, reports that by age 45, 30% of women have had an abortion and 60% of women were already mothers when they ended a pregnancy. In Minnesota, 283,400 women live in "birth control deserts," disproportionately impacting Black, Latino, Native, undocumented immigrant and low-income women by making the most reliable contraceptives unavailable. Birth control can also fail.

Life-threatening emergencies for the woman or fetal abnormalities incompatible with survival account for the 8% of abortions performed after 12 weeks.

Self-induced abortion and miscarriage can look identical. Louisiana and Oklahoma's bans make abortion homicide. Investigating miscarriages as crimes will lead to massive civil rights abuses.

Alito's opinion exposes the right-wing Federalist Society "originalist" interpretations of the Constitution now dominating the Supreme Court. It freezes law in the 1789 birth-year of our Constitution, when only 8% of white men could vote, women were defined as property of their husbands, and people of color were viewed as subhuman. Over and over, Alito cites "history and

tradition" as reason enough to ban abortion. He goes back in time to long before our nation's founding, citing a 17th-century British jurist, Sir Matthew Hale, an extreme misogynist even for his time, as well as the colonial period in 1602 and even as far back as the 13th century, which would have been during the time of Catholic church law.

Alito argues that abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution, so it can't be a protected right, contradicting the Ninth Amendment of the Bill of Rights, which states: "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

Every American should be chilled by Alito's adamant, repeated assertions that our Constitution protects no right to privacy.

It's an Orwellian irony that many people yelling the loudest about "state tyranny" and "government overreach" when it comes to COVID-19 public health protections, support using law violating bodily autonomy to control women's reproductive decisions. Privacy was fundamental to reproductive rights, as well as legalizing contraceptives for married couples in 1965 and single people in 1973. Privacy rights ended the criminalization of LGBT people's sexual lives and legalized same sex marriage.

Those court decisions recognized freedom and human dig-

nity, meaning government can't intrude into intimate areas of our lives.

Like Donald Trump's right-wing Supreme Court nominees' mantras "I respect precedent" and "Roe is settled law," Alito saying "Only abortion will be affected by this decision" is a

and politicians falsely claim the most effective contraceptives are "abortion-related," vowing to outlaw them next.

How much of the last 70 years of expanding human rights will the originalist Supreme Court reverse?

Since 1995, Minnesota's state constitution has protected reproductive rights. But people should remember Trump lost Minnesota by only 1.5 points. Democracy is on the ballot and so are our rights.

Resources: Minneapolis journalist Robin Marty's "Handbook for a Post-Roe

America" is crucial for activism and self-determination, including emergency contraceptives (Plan B or morning after pills) and medication abortion, safe and available online.

See also: UnRestrictMinnesota.org; ProChoiceResource.org; and Minnesota Religious Council of Reproductive Choice at www.mnrcrc.org.

Lydia Howell is a Minneapolis journalist.



promise not worth the paper it's written on.

When contraceptives were a crime, sterilization abuse was legal, targeting women of color and the poor. With the spreading of white supremacist Replacement Theory that sparked the Buffalo massacre, will forced sterilization return? The 1873 Comstock law declared birth control information and devices criminal "obscenities" for 90 years. Anti-abortion activists

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Another factor in crime reduction

Along with the access to abortion [Tony Bouza, "Abortion – still and again"], another factor has been shown behind the reduction in crime. This is the elimination of lead in gasoline. Environmental exposure in children causes many developmental problems including learning and behavioral difficulties, and its discontinued use coincided with less crime a generation later. Lead was also taken out of residential paint in 1978 but its presence remains in older buildings and often, also, in the water lines serving them.

James Ross

**HELP WANTED:** Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors has two part-time positions open, a Community Nurse position that requires an RN, and a Program (Administrative) Assistant position that requires good database, social media, website and technical skills. Contact [maryalbrecht@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:maryalbrecht@LShealthyseniors.org) for more information.

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*Donations of dog & cat food, cat litter and gently used pet supplies are appreciated. Volunteers needed.*

People & Pets Together  
Chuck & Don's Pet Wellness Center  
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404  
(612) 722-9998  
<https://www.peopleandpetstogether.org/>

### EVENTS

#### A Listening Ear: Mental Health for Everyone

**Wednesdays, June 15, July 20, and Aug. 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Living Spirit United Methodist Church 4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls. This summer, Living Spirit is providing a listening ear to the community. At each event, trained listeners (mental health professionals, marriage and family therapy students, and certified coaches) will be available from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. You can talk about a specific problem you'd like an outside perspective on or check in about your mental health in general. This event is open to people of all (or no) faith traditions. More information at <https://www.livingspiritumc.org/news/listeningear>.

#### Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

##### COVID Vaccination Clinic

**Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Friendship Academy of the Arts Intermediate School 3320 E. 41<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls. Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church will hold a COVID vaccination clinic in conjunction with our Church Anniversary Family Day. **Please pre-register** for the clinic by texting Shirley Gardner at 612-327-8753 **by June 15, 2022**. Your name and phone number are needed to register everyone getting a vaccination.

#### Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

##### Vacation Bible School

**June 27 – 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church 5760 Portland Ave. S., Mpls.

Calling all elementary schoolers, it's time for Vacation Bible School! This year we will be traveling the world trying to find Heaven on Earth and learning about new cultures along the way. Throughout the week we will learn all about how to make the world a better place by being kinder to people and the planet. Any child aged 4-12 is eligible to participate and it costs only \$30 for one child or a maximum of \$50 per family. We hope you will join us June 27 – 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a fun-filled week of friends, music and games! Register at [DLLC.org/DLLCKids](https://www.dllc.org/DLLCKids).

#### Minneapolis Friends Meeting

##### Summer Schedule

**Through Sept. 11, 10 to 11 a.m.**

4401 York Ave. S., Mpls.

The summer schedule for Minneapolis Friends Meeting is in effect from now until Sept. 11. Worship hours are from 10 to 11 a.m. Services will continue to be hybrid – join us on Zoom or at the Meetinghouse. Please go to our website at [minneapolis-friends.org](https://www.minneapolis-friends.org) for more information. All are welcome!

#### Walking Meditation

**Sundays, June 26 and July 24**

**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 movement. 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](mailto:wayopeningworkshops@gmail.com). Visit [wayopeningworkshops.com](https://www.wayopeningworkshops.com) for more information.

#### Community BBQ

**Saturday, July 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Living Spirit United Methodist Church 4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls.

Living Spirit invites you to our 40th annual community BBQ on Saturday, July 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plates will include ribs or fried chicken, coleslaw, beans and toast. There will be plenty of shade to enjoy your meal outside, or you can take it to go. Tickets will be available to purchase when you arrive; prices have not been finalized, but a plate will be around \$14. Our United Women in Faith will also be selling all kinds of baked goods to raise money for their mission work.

#### Commuter bicycle for a refugee

From the Minnesota Council of Churches: Have a bike you've been thinking of donating? One of our clients would put it to good use! We're looking for a bicycle in good working order to help a newly arrived Afghan man with his commute to his new job. Please visit our website at <http://mnchurches.org/what-we-do/refugee-services/donate> for an up-to-date registry and Amazon Wishlist of our current needs. We are currently seeking:

- Kitchen items (especially stove-top pressure cookers, mugs and glasses).
- Personal hygiene items (including toothpaste, razors and diapers of all sizes).

### SHARING FOOD

#### 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 the fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have re-opened the food shelf to choice shopping. We do require mask, sanitizer and temp check. Be safe and God bless! <https://www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf>. 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.)

#### Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

**5300 10<sup>th</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### Minnehaha United Methodist Church

**3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.**

**612-721-6231**

The Minnehaha Food Shelf serves food for the hungry on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We help distribute up to 30,000 pounds of food each month. In response to the COVID-19 virus, we have changed many things to protect both our guests and our volunteers – rigorous cleaning routines, streamlined procedures, moving outside, wearing face masks and following the 6-foot social distancing guideline. Please be patient as we continue to improve what we do. <https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf/>

#### Calvary Lutheran Church

**3901 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**

**612-827-2504, ext. 205**

The Food Shelf is open for food distributions on Saturdays, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Due to COVID-19, we are currently operating on a limited-choice outside ordering process, or indoor client-selected shopping. Masks are required. 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 PER 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](mailto: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>.

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

**2600 E. 38<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Du Nord Foundation

##### Community Market

**3140 Snelling Ave., Mpls.**

**612-460-8123**

We are a community-supported food shelf that is a welcoming place for neighbors to find free, healthy food for their tables and supplies for their homes. We invite neighbors to order online and choose the day and time that works for you for curbside pickup.

Mondays and Wednesdays,

3 to 6 p.m.

Thursdays noon to 2 p.m.

All are welcome, no restrictions or proof required.

To place an order, visit <https://www.dunordfoundation.org/get-food>.

#### Soup for You! Café at Bethany

**2511 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.**

**612-332-2397**

Soup for You! operates out of the basement of century-old and deeply-rooted Bethany Lutheran Church that we honor in our name. After two years of COVID lockdown and serving our community through a set of three glass doors, Soup for You! Café is back to an open dining room. Monday through Friday, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, groceries, noon to 1 p.m. Large space, high ceilings, only four chairs per table, all volunteers vaccinated/boosted. <https://soupfor-you.info/>

#### Groveland Emergency Food Shelf

**1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.**

**612-871-0277**

Monday – Friday

9:30 a.m. to noon

On Groveland Avenue between

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Delivery is available for individuals

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[www.grovelandfoodshelf.org/](https://www.grovelandfoodshelf.org/)

## The Nokomis Religious Community Welcomes You

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.

612-724-3643

[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)

Weekend Masses with limited seating

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook)

Sunday 12 noon

Front door entry preferred

Weekday Masses M, T, TH, F at

8:15 am in the Chapel, east door

and elevator entry

#### FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3430 E. 51st St.

612-729-5463

[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)

Sunday Worship 9 am and online

on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/felcmpls/>

AA group Mondays - 6:30 pm

Senior Exercise Class -

Mondays - 10 am

NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 pm

Blind Ministry - Saturday,

June 25, 12 - 2 pm

Vacancy Pastor:

Rev. Jered Yogerst, PhD

#### FIRST FREE CHURCH

5150 Chicago Ave S.

612-827-4705

Sunday services at 10 am (in-person and online)

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available during the service

[www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)

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#### HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

612-722-1083

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

Bible Study at 10:30 am

Sunday Worship recordings

online at [www.holycrossmpls.org](http://www.holycrossmpls.org)

#### LIVING SPIRIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4501 Bloomington Ave.

612-721-5025

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10:30 am Sundays

Online: [livingspiritumc.org](http://livingspiritumc.org)

#### NEW CREATION BAPTIST CHURCH

1414 E. 48th St.

612-825-6933

In-person Sunday Worship

10:45 am

Also on Facebook at:

[www.Facebook.com/NewCre-](https://www.Facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch)

[ationBaptistChurch](https://www.Facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch)

[https://newcreationbaptist-](https://www.Facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch)

[churchmn.org/](http://churchmn.org/)

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie

#### NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

5300 10th Ave. S.

612-825-6846

[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)

Sunday worship 10 am, outside

on the front lawn.

Please bring a lawn chair or

blanket.

In case of rain, worship in sanc-

tuary, with masks.

Online worship premiers Sun-

days at 10 am on Facebook and

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# Marquise

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

I met Marquise Bowie at George Floyd Square in February of 2021 on a day commemorating the assassination of Malcolm X.

I introduced myself because he was wearing an Agape hoodie, which identified him as be-



**Marquise in conversation. Continuing dialogue as a peacemaking tool is one of Agape's basic beliefs.**

longing to the group I had wanted to write about for a while already.

I ended up writing about Agape various times and got to know Bowie in the process.

The most dramatic part of his story is that he was imprisoned for 11 years and nine months, from 2007 to 2019, mostly in a federal prison camp in South Dakota, for "conspiracy to sell drugs," a non-specific charge including everything he and his friends had been doing for the past 17 years. He and 11 friends were charged and offered plea deals, which all but one of the 12 accepted. Marquise, and everybody else I've talked to about this case, always remind me that you do way more time for a small amount of crack than for a large amount of cocaine—and that crack cocaine is just cocaine with baking soda in it.

Per the plea deal, Marquise was sentenced to 14 and a half years, but earned some time off for good behavior. Just recently he was released from his last two years of parole.

Bowie was getting his life together, had a job and was in treatment for alcohol issues when he was incarcerated. The only drugs he ever did were alcohol a lot, weed a little, and mushrooms twice. His love for sports kept him away from the hard stuff. But he did peddle here and there. When he was 12, his mother got into a relationship with a drug dealer, so after that he lived in a drug house where selling was pretty normal.

Like most people in this culture, Marquise loved money, and he said the money was nice, and made it possible to take care

of some of his cousins. Now he makes just enough to take care of himself only, but he says he prefers a low income to the quick money that leads you to prison where you can only earn \$50 a month.

From everything I know about him, if ever there was a person who has made lemonade from lemons, Marquise is that guy.

He likes to look at his inordinately long sentence as a lifesaver. He was drinking, his crowd was trigger-happy, and he had seen too many friends in caskets. He might have been killed; he might have killed someone. Maybe being in prison was a safer place for him to be, to protect him from himself, from the streets, from law enforcement.

Two members of the Rolling Thirties Bloods involved in the same case lied about Marquise's role, assuring themselves shorter sentences and a longer sentence for Marquise, but Bowie doesn't have hard feelings and understands why they did it. "Indirectly, they helped me become a better man," he says.

The best thing about prison for him was the opportunity for education. During Marquise's formal education in public school, he had been a good student, often in advanced classes, but he didn't graduate. Already inside the criminal justice system in high school, he got his GED at the Hennepin County workhouse.

Throughout his long period of imprisonment, he took every available class he could fit into his schedule, the only limitation being the classes where the books were too expensive. He took the writing class conducted by Jay Reese year after year. Examples of his writing were selected every year for the books printed from those classes, "4 P.M. Count." His writing is extremely good—creative, direct and clear. One essay is a psychological analysis of the twin personalities—Mad-dog and Marquise—that lived within him.

While in Yankton, and continuing now, Marquise is an inveterate, thoughtful learner—between extensive serious reading and online classes.

Bowie is also open to many different types of people. He doesn't pre-judge and is willing to learn. His informal prison education included meeting people he wouldn't have connected with elsewhere. In particular, he developed an unexpected friendship with a former Detroit

police officer, also incarcerated, who was in his Bible study group, in his writing classes and in other groups. Marquise knew he had been there 15 years, but he didn't know what for. "At the end of the day," Marquise said, "[the man] was 'a prisoner.'"

Luckily, Marquise's entire prison experience was in low security. The prison camp building in Yankton, which has no fences, is in a residential neighborhood across from a high school—they could watch football games through the window.

It wasn't all good, though. The facility was built to house 300 people and there were 900 living there. But Marquise makes that into a positive as well: "I learned a lot of patience, waiting in line," he says, "and tolerating close proximity."

The worst thing about being incarcerated was that, as happens to many incarcerated people, he was not allowed to attend his mother's funeral. Marquise's mother, his "greatest supporter" as he has said many times, the person who struggled with her own life yet gave him everything she could, died while he was in Yankton, and he couldn't be at her grave. I was sure there would be no positive way to look at that. But Bowie said it's good he didn't go. Mostly, he couldn't have handled it, he said. "I can barely handle it now, three years later." He hangs onto his memories. His mother was the one who brought his little daughters to see him when he was in Yankton. One of his writings is about his grief at being convicted immediately after his second daughter was born and his reunion with her at age 4 when she didn't know him. All through his incarceration and especially now, he is committed to being a father even though his own father never stepped up and wasn't there.

When George Floyd was murdered, Bowie was living close to 38th and Chicago. He and several trusted friends built barricades to protect the area that had just been so drastically and cruelly assaulted. They distributed food and clothing to whoever needed it. They sought out Steve Floyd (no relation to George), one of the co-founders of the Agape Movement, to form a version of Agape at 38th and Chicago, to help young Black men deal with mental health issues, to find employment, to get support.

At present, Bowie is a solid, focused Agape member. He has his own side organization, as do many Agape members, called BAM—Becoming A Man—through which he gives hours and hours of his time to young people.

Agape's main job as a group is to patrol the streets at night and maintain a presence in schools in order to provide security. They are not armed and use communication and creativity to keep a lid on violence.

Bowie says, "I don't believe

in violence of any kind. Having a gun doesn't help. It's very risky. We have a relationship with people in the street. They might listen to us."

Every night after their patrols Bowie takes notes on the debriefing session which he then types up the next morning. He's the scribe.

It seems like he's pretty much doing Agape work around the clock. Whatever the situation, he's on it. He answers his phone and talks to whoever needs encouragement. He answers texts right away to stay in touch with his network.

With his talent for friendly conversation, he goes out into George Floyd Square during the day to welcome tourists and engage them in conversation. This dispels any notion people might have about GFS being a scary place.

One morning when I went to meet Marquise I found him in front of the ForReal coffeehouse talking to some friends about religion. He's a natural preacher. "You don't have to look for God. God is not lost. God is always looking for you and will find you," implying that God will then love and care for you in your darkest hour.

Agape is a Greek word which means unconditional love. Marquise practices this kind of disinterested care for others, both through Agape the organization and through his personal Christian faith and association with Macedonia Baptist Church. For example, the weekend of May



**Marquise with Steve and a Somali group**

14, Agape organized a Circle of Love luncheon to embrace those parents who have lost children to gun violence. In high school Bowie himself lost his best friend in a fatal shooting at a party.

Bowie has dealt with many harsh realities as have the other Agape members. A common commitment among them is trying to provide the care and attention to young people they themselves didn't get while growing up.

It seems Bowie sets himself Herculean challenges. He moves forward, though, confident in support from Agape and from his church. Besides that, he grounds himself in daily prayer, meditation, Bible and devotional reading. "It's my spiritual oxygen," he says.

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# The last stand – the Democratic Socialist Caucus at the DFL State Convention

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Some of us were delegates, some of us were alternates, and some of us were “volunteers.” Some of the alternates got upgraded to delegate. Some of us were officers in the newly formed political committee – the Democratic Socialist Caucus. (No official connection to the DFL, because we’re not “recognized” by them, but nevertheless, we organize only within the DFL.) Some of us were wearing multiple hats.

I was wearing multiple hats. I am the Communications Officer for the DSC, and I was also a DFL alternate from Senate District 63, but I didn’t expect to get upgraded, and wasn’t. I was mainly there to work for and boost the DSC, to cover the convention as a citizen journalist and, of course, to party.

DSC hosted a wonderful party Friday night at the Rochester Art Center, a small event space that is adjacent to the Mayo Convention Center, where the DFL convention was held. (The Republicans held their convention in the same space the previous weekend. Needless to say, it was a very different scene.) Our party was called Socializing with Socialists.

The party was in an open house format, with a cash bar, buffet-style foods, and soft background music that included some dance music. (There were occasional outbreaks of dancing.) Mostly it was a way for democratic socialists and socialism-curious people from

all over the state to meet up and talk. Over the several hours of the party, about 100 people in all came by for varying periods of time. Lots of new connections were made and quite a few new members signed up. I’m not that sociable, but I met a dozen new people, and met another six or seven that I knew from Zoom or social media but had not yet met in person.

The main gathering spot for the DSC over the three days was our table, which we shared with the DFL Disability Caucus. The table was beautifully decorated with buckets of red carnations which we gave away to anyone who would take one, and lots of literature produced by the volunteers in the week before the convention. I spent a few hours Friday and a few hours Saturday staffing the table.

On Saturday, we had a general membership meeting of the DSC in hybrid mode, with about 25 people in a convention center meeting room, and five or six joining in on Zoom. The DSC chair, Sam Doten, gave a thorough update of what we had been up to since our founding over a year ago. Some of this was covered in the January Southside Pride piece, “Democratic Socialists in the DFL” ([southsidepride.com/2022/01/03/democratic-socialists-in-the-dfl-the-story-so-far](https://southsidepride.com/2022/01/03/democratic-socialists-in-the-dfl-the-story-so-far)).

Most of the rest of the meeting comprised a brainstorming session of what we would do with our new structure and our growing base. Since we still want to eventually become a



**DSC members show up for Unite HERE Local 21.**

community caucus recognized by the DFL, and since the whole reason we exist is because there are loads of democratic socialists already in the DFL (some of them don’t realize that’s what they are!) and we want to give ourselves and them a way to organize toward socialism inside the DFL, most of our ideas and plans are ways to demystify, detoxify and illustrate the values of “socialism.” So members are committed to working hard and well at all levels of the party, as local officers, as rank-and-file campaigners and leaders of campaigns, as members of planning committees, attendees at caucuses, delegates to conventions and volunteers at the polls.

We also plan to support DFL candidates who align with our values, to collaborate with DFL caucuses that share our values, and to do some education. Some

of our members and potential members are seasoned DFLers new to democratic socialism. So we’ll have educational materials and teach-ins on democratic socialism. Some, on the other hand, are democratic socialists who are new to the DFL. So we’ll also have teach-ins on the structure and culture of the DFL. Personally, I’m all about political education, so I can’t wait to get involved in this.

Another interesting thing happened at the Saturday meeting. Unite HERE, the union representing hotel workers and restaurant workers, was holding a solidarity rally and press conference on the plaza outside the convention center for striking workers from the Kahler Group of hotels in Rochester. The event fell right in the middle of our meeting time. So at 3 p.m. we recessed the meeting for a while, and those attending in person all went out to the plaza, grabbed a poster or the corner of a banner, and participated in a wonderful labor action along with many state notables in organized labor as well as Keith Ellison, the Minnesota attorney general. When it was over, we went back in and finished the meeting.

Some of our members attended the Community Caucuses breakfast at 8 a.m. Sunday morning. I was not able to do that as I had to check out and leave with the folks I was riding with (my colleague Dave T., his wife Barb, and another fellow DSC member and DSA comrade Andrea P.). No, really, it’s because I am not an 8 a.m. breakfast kind of per-

son anymore. I used to be when I worked at real jobs.

Oh, and meanwhile, there was this actual DFL convention going on. This was a somewhat low-key year in terms of drama and controversy. Inside the hall, it was all – well, mostly – very congenial and nice. All of our state leaders are incumbents eligible to run again, and they were all endorsed, mostly by acclamation. A radical difference from the Senate District and Congressional District conventions I had the – ahem – pleasure to attend, not to mention the Zoom convention to endorse for Minneapolis school board. I’ll have some more of this nitty gritty in a final piece wrapping up the DFL convention season and letting you know what’s coming up in the August primaries.

From the DSC’s viewpoint, the convention season was a big success. We have grown a lot in membership since the rejection of our request to be recognized in December, and we picked up another 90 sign-ups and 45 new members just at the state convention. Since our launch as a PAC in April 2022, we have raised \$3,000 from individual donors and about \$1,500 in PAC/organizational contributions. And I forget how many red carnations we gave away, but it seemed like hundreds. Check out our Facebook page to see our beautiful banner, TV coverage of the Unite HERE rally, and more scenes from the convention.

## Town Hall, from page 2

Creek to flow naturally. If they refuse, then citizens should file a Writ of Mandamus to order them to act.

I have a consistently failing batting record with Writ of Mandamus lawsuits. I’ve lost every one of them.

More than 30 years ago I sued the City of Minneapolis to force it to have a referendum (as the City Charter requires) on whether to give millions of dollars to LSGI to build a department store downtown. The lawsuit was declared moot when the city suddenly stopped planning the giveaway.

In 2008 I sued the Hennepin County Attorney to force him to arrest George Bush when he stepped off the airplane to attend the Republican Convention in St. Paul for the killing of Minnesotans in his illegal war in Iraq. The judge ruled against me, but George Bush decided not to come to the Minnesota convention.

A couple of years ago I sued the Park Board to get them to remove a rock weir that was obstructing the flow of water in Minnehaha Creek at about 30th

Avenue. The judge ruled against me, but the Park Board removed the rock weir.

I’ve lost every battle. But I’ve won every war.

This time I think we would have a much better chance of winning the lawsuits.

## The Park Board responded to my question:

This is the statement in the “Hiawatha Golf Course Property Master Plan Frequently Asked Questions” answered three years ago:

“Can we remove the weir at the outlet of Lake Hiawatha to lower the lake? No. Once the water overtops the weir structure and equalizes with the level of the creek beyond, the weir is essentially useless and not holding back water. As of spring 2019, there is no difference in water level on either side of the weir, and the weir is fully submerged.”

I think the Park Board doesn’t really understand how a dam works. A dam (or weir) holds back water until the water level is higher than the dam and the water flows over the dam. If the

water level is the same on both sides of the dam, then there is a further obstruction downstream that is just as high holding back an equal amount of water.

The Park Board also quotes the first paragraph of Section 8 of the 2017 Barr Engineering study, “Hiawatha Golf Course – Stormwater, Surface Water, and Groundwater Analysis Summary:”

“There are several high points in the Minnehaha Creek channel downstream of the lake that control the water levels. Upstream of the creek crossing at 28th Avenue South is a high point in the channel resulting from a utility crossing under the creek bed. There are also several other high points in the channel downstream of Lake Hiawatha based on the FEMA Flood Insurance Study creek profile and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) XPSWMM model.”

The highest point obstructing the flow of water out of Lake Hiawatha was a rock weir at 30th Avenue. No one could explain why it was there. I asked the Park Board to remove it. They refused and ignored me. I sued the Park Board ordering a Writ



**Lake Hiawatha, 1940. Steve Skaar commented on the Nokomis History Facebook page: “This photo shows you how Lake Hiawatha looked for years until they installed the weir in the late ‘60s at 27th Avenue South and Minnehaha Creek. That weir artificially raised the level of both Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis some four feet and led to many other problems in the area that nearby neighbors are experiencing today.”**

of Mandamus to force the Park Board to remove this dam and thereby lower the level of the lake. The judge ruled against me, but somehow the rock dam/weir got taken down. The next highest points are the dam/weir at 27th Avenue and the five-foot sanitary sewer line. If the dam/weir were to come down, and the MPCA were to dig a channel under their pipe to stop blocking

the natural flow of the creek, and corrections made for other obstructions, then the creek could return to its natural flow. The level of Lake Hiawatha would drop by as much as five feet. The peat soil wetlands surrounding Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis would begin to drain and dry out.



# CELEBRATE SUMMER ON NICOLLET AVE.

## Summer on Nicollet Avenue

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### More updates on the Kmart site

Yes, the old Kmart was supposed to be torn down by now. But then, following the George Floyd

uprising, we had to tear down not one but two burned-out post offices instead, and the building was reconfigured to a double ZIP temporary post office. However, the former grocery store next door will be torn down some time this

year, and the site tidied up a bit.

The city has big plans for this site, which involve new housing and street-facing storefronts for smaller scale retail, and, most importantly, reconnecting south Nicollet Avenue to Eat Street and downtown. But we'll have to wait, thanks to some fools who burned down post offices in the uprising. (You'll never convince me even an uneducated leftist would think to do that.) Current hopeful plans are to demolish the second building in late 2023 and begin construction sometime in 2024.

**Coming this summer -  
Centro Kitchen + and Eat Street Crossing**

Speaking of Eat Street, two interesting newcomers are coming to the iconic strip of Nicollet Avenue this summer. First, in the former Wedge Table site at 2412 Nicollet Ave. (I sure do miss that

place) there will be a sort of mini food hall from the people who own Taquerio Centro and Vivir in Northeast Minneapolis. It will serve as the "central kitchen" supplying those two Northeast restaurants and another one coming to St. Paul, and then several freestanding "restaurant concepts" open to the public, plus a bar.

so it will also incorporate sister restaurant Vivir and another concept that will be announced soon. When guests walk into the new Eat Street restaurant, they'll see defined spaces for each concept, find a spot in their shared seating area and order items from any of their menus through the same proprietary app."

The second newcomer is even



The team behind Eat Street Crossing



St. Paul Bagelry at 54th and Nicollet

Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal explains: "At 7,000 square feet the restaurant space is 'way too big for just the Centro brand,' she [co-owner Jami Olson] said,

more ambitious and exciting. Lina Goh and John Ng, co-owners of Zen Box Izakaya on South Wash-

See Nicollet, page 8

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### Nicollet, from page 7

ington Avenue, came up with the idea along with Ben Spangler and Gabby Grant-Spangler, co-owners of Bebe Zito in Uptown, and well-respected local cocktail expert Trish Gavin. They have acquired the rundown but still legendary Old Arizona Studio building (2819 Nicollet Ave.) and are remodeling it for a different kind of food hall, called Eat Street Crossing (ESC).

They have stated that a big part

of their design plan is to avoid gentrifying the neighborhood. In conjunction with Christian Dean Architecture, “we’re trying to find the soul of that building — and the community,” said Goh in a Star Tribune June 6 article. Unlike many recent food halls, there will be no market section. Six food stands, all created by one of the two “power couple” founders, and an inclusive bar program designed by Gavin, will comprise the food hall part of the space, and a new mezzanine space will be

an event venue.

The bar program, besides selling an array of modern cocktails, will include many non-alcoholic, low-sugar and grown-up “mocktails” as well. It will also include a “wine wall.” Zen Box Izakaya is one of my favorite nightspots, so I am really looking forward to visiting Eat Street Crossing.



Agate, before and after

### Places to get your groceries, parts 1 through 4

Part 1 – Even though the Wedge Table is gone, the old supermarket is being demolished, and ESC won’t include a food market, there are loads of places to get groceries the length of Nicollet Avenue. For one thing, although it’s way south, there is a Cub Foods at 5937 Nicollet Ave. Although not open 24 hours, it may as well be, being open seven days a week from 5 a.m. to midnight.

Part 2 –Another option, though way more time-restricted, is shopping at farmers’ markets. One of these is the Nicollet Mall Market, an extension of the original Minneapolis Farmers Market in Near North. The Nicollet Mall Market operates on Thursdays through October, along a six-block stretch of Nicollet Mall, and its opening day is June 16. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Then there’s the Kingfield Market, one of the Neighborhood Roots markets, co-sponsored by the Kingfield Neighborhood Association. This takes place on Sundays, June through October (it’s already open) from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 4055 Nicollet Ave.

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(see page  
15)

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# R ON NICOLLET AVE.

Part 3 – Eat Street itself has a number of small ethnic grocery stores as well as sit-down restaurants, fast food outlets and diners. Or for generic shopping at a savings try the Good Grocery, the ground floor business in a newish apartment complex at 2650 Nicollet Ave. It operates using largely volunteer labor, and volunteers get a significant discount throughout any month they work.

Part 4 – If you like your meat, try getting it from a specialist instead of a run-of-the-mill grocery store. One of the Twin Cities’ oldest and best is Finer Meats & Eats, at 3747 Nicollet Ave. They offer expertly cut meats of the highest quality, as well as a dizzying array of house-made sausages, with far more choice than you’d find in a supermarket. You can also save time and money by buying in bulk, in variety packs that include chicken, beef and pork products, or an all-beef package if you prefer.

Finer Meats also has a popular food truck with a menu of mouth-watering burgers, BBQ sandwiches and more. It’s at Venn Brewing on Monday evenings; check their Facebook page to find more locations (<https://www.facebook.com/finer-meats/>).

## Good cheap dining from Eat Street to Richfield

There are too many options to cover them all, but here is a sampling. I was on Eat Street the other day with my friend Julie. She was craving pho, so I accompanied her to lunch at a place that was new to us – Pho Tau Bay at 2837 Nicollet Ave. I had a tasty noodle salad called a “bun” (pronounced halfway between bun and boon). We both liked the place – it has a kitsch-y, old-school ambience, with low prices and excellent iced tea.

Another great place to get a reasonably priced meal is Butter Bakery Cafe at 3700 Nicollet Ave. This place is a B Corp, which is a for-profit business with special ethical practices and a generous sharing of profits with its community. Butter Bakery accomplishes this in several ways, including providing training and well-paying jobs to formerly homeless or at-risk youth. And their food and drinks, especially the in-house bakery products, are really delicious.

Farther south, try the Minneapolis branch of St. Paul Bagelry, at 5426 Nicollet Ave. As their web-

site proclaims, they make more than 3,000 bagels every day, from scratch, with love. You can get bagels in a wide variety of flavors (nearly 20!), including sun-dried tomato, asiago cheese and cranberry, as well as classic favorites like poppy seed, pumpernickel and onion. Served plain, with peanut butter or jelly or more than a dozen flavors of cream cheese, their bagels are available to go, in bulk or to eat there. In addition, St. Paul Bagelry serves breakfast sandwiches, lunch/deli sandwiches and coffee drinks (they serve Dogwood Coffee, one of our best local roasters).

## Good cheap retail, too – and more

There are plenty of retail options along Nicollet Avenue. It tends more to the quirky, the affordable and the recycled, rather than the fake boho of Uptown and other more gentrified areas, which is just

See Nicollet, page 10



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## Nicollet, from page 9

how I like it when I shop in person. B-Squad Vintage, at 3500 Nicollet Ave., is a fun shop to browse for men's and women's vintage clothing, jewelry and accessories, plus home décor, vinyl LPs and 45s and 8-track tapes, and even record players, receivers and 8-track players. They buy vintage clothing and records on Wednesdays or by appointment, and even make house calls! It's best to check their website or Facebook page for current hours or give them a call to set up an appointment.

The perfect place for someone with an addiction to comics (their own words, no judgment here) is Hot Comics and Collectibles in the Hub Shopping Center in Richfield, one of three in the area. Hot Comics sells new comics, vintage comics, and various collectibles like action figures with comic-related themes. If you really have it bad, you can save money with their discount card. For \$15 per year, you can save 10% on all you buy there.

Finally, for your more serious purchases, there is Nicollet Ace Hardware, "the biggest little hardware store in Minneapolis." We mentioned them last month



## Nicollet Mall farmers market

for the 38th Street focus (they're located near the corner of Nicollet Avenue and 38th Street). But there is news – they have launched the Ace Handyman Service! In a recent Facebook post they said, "We have seen a need in the community for such services and wanted to offer the highest level of service possible as part of being the Helpful Hardware Folks!" Finding a good handyman/woman who's not booked up for weeks ahead is difficult these days, so this is a great

addition to Nicollet Ace Hardware's already stellar service.

## Nicollet Avenue's legacy of caring

St. Stephen's Human Services has merged with House of Charity to form a new organization called Agate Housing and Services. They have retained their shelter services, including free meals, showers and laundry, along with the Handbook of the Streets and their Street Outreach Teams, and now that they have joined forces, will be able to provide even more.

In the housing services side, Agate provides rapid re-housing, permanent supported housing, programs to prevent homelessness to those at risk, and two separate shelters serving over 400 unduplicated guests per year. They also do advocacy and welcome your involvement. To learn more about ways to help, visit their website at <https://agatemn.org/get-involved/>.

Another service organization making a huge difference is the Family Tree Clinic, in its new home at 1919 Nicollet Ave. FTC moved from St. Paul recently, and its new space is much larger, allowing for an expansion of services.

FTC is a community clinic, which means it provides low or no-cost services to vulnerable and/or underserved populations. They have traditionally focused on the underserved community of LGBTQ people and their families. They are funded by a combination of patient sliding-scale fees, state and county funding, foundation grants and individual donations.

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# Minneapolis Green New Deal



BY CAM GORDON

A growing number of Southside residents are working to fund a People's Climate and Equity Plan in next year's Minneapolis city budget which is expected to come to the City Council in August for review.

They hope to make their version of Minneapolis Green New Deal a reality.

One of those Southsiders is Michelle Hensley. "I love the huge vision and energy of the Green New Deal that progressives have proposed," said the Longfellow resident and founding Artistic Director of Ten Thousand Things Theater. "My grandfather, an Iowa farmer who lost his land during the Depression, was hugely helped by FDR's New Deal. The Green New Deal, unlike FDR's, has racial justice and equity front and center. But I am greatly frustrated at the inability to get anything going on the federal level. So, MN350's idea to get it going on the local level seemed like a perfect way to get involved."

The city also kicked off its own effort to update its Climate

Action Plan at the Green Zones Summit on May 21 where they reported on the effort and invited feedback from the community. Advocates of the People's Climate and Equity Plan hope that it will strengthen the city's efforts and build on actions the city has already taken by establishing Green Zones, creating the Green Cost Share program, identifying a social cost of carbon, and declaring a climate emergency.

The People's Plan was drafted by the Just Transition Fund Coalition, whose members include Black Visions, Community Power, Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF), Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM), MN Renewable Now, MN350 Action, Sierra Club North Star, and Unidos MN, with leadership and coordination from MN350. According to MN350's website, the document is "the beginning of a conversation with the city and the people of Minneapolis, which must center the voices of Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and other marginalized communities."

It aspires for a city with "affordable, 100% clean energy buildings by 2030, accessible pathways to dignified work to eliminate racial and economic disparities, and safe, healthy and climate-resilient neighborhoods connected by accessible, carbon-free transportation."

The plan calls for investments to improve health, lower energy bills and ensure that everyone, starting with low-income communities of color, has access to

"family-sustaining jobs in the growing green economy."

Specific goals laid out in the People's Plan set out to make every building in Minneapolis comfortable, affordable and carbon-free by 2030, build community wealth and eliminate the racial wealth gap, ensure every person has a safe, healthy and climate-resilient neighborhood connected by accessible, carbon-free transportation, and create a robust dedicated funding stream to make bold climate justice policy a reality.

The plan was informed by Portland's Clean Energy Fund, which uses a 1% supplemental business license surcharge on large retail corporations. That generates roughly \$50 million a year that is distributed by a commission for solar projects, energy efficiency and job training.

The two main funding sources being discussed for Minneapolis are the electric and natural gas company franchise fees, and a pollution control annual registration (PCAR) fee which the city is authorized by the state to collect from companies who use equipment that creates pollution. A portion of the franchise fee and most of the PCAR funding already go to reduce pollution and support clean energy and efficiency.

An expansion of PCAR funding may require state legislative approval but the franchise fee can

be increased by a vote of the City Council. The franchise fee could be applied in a way that would put a higher fee on fossil fuel use. Eventually, the hope would be to collect funds equal to the social or true cost of burning carbon from those generating and using the fossil fuels.

"If we apply the social cost of carbon the council agreed on," said MN350's Ulla Nilsen, "it would be roughly \$110 million a year in revenue."

Since drafting the plan late last year, Nilsen and others have organized teams of advocates in each ward. So far teams have met with 10 council members and identified Council Members Elliot Payne, Robin Wonsley Worlobah, Aisha Chughtai and Andrea Jenkins as the champions. Nilsen said, "It was so amazing to hear and celebrate the support we are beginning to see from the council president and a majority of members on the council."

Council Members Palmisano, Johnson, Chavez and Vetaw were identified as supporters. One volunteer quoted Vetaw from Ward 4 as saying, "I absolutely support it," while noting that she, like other council members, expressed concerns about the potential costs to poorer residents.

That concern is identified in the plan, which says that it must "proactively structure the funding mechanism to avoid negative



cost impacts on low-income/otherwise burdened communities" and "focus investments in communities of color and low-income communities to advance justice in the transition to climate solutions, recognizing historic injustice in economic opportunities and environmental burdens."

"So far, we have been doing amazing work," Nilsen said. "We have teams in every ward. We have met with, or are about to meet with, all council members. Over the summer we are launching a series of house parties and yard gatherings." She encourages people to visit <https://mn350.org/peoples-climate-and-equity-plan/> to get more involved.

"I got involved with this because, of all the troubles facing our world, the climate crisis seems the most pressing," Hensley said. "If we don't figure out how to reduce our carbon emissions in the next 10 years, nothing else really matters."

## Post-Floyd life



BY TONY BOUZA

Two years, plus, it's time to review the results of George Floyd's killing.

It certainly sparked a debate. Also riots, trials, a movement and a lot of hand-wringing and national anguish. Looking back we can see a vast emptiness. Mostly wasted time.

I'd credit the Ivy League for exemplary progress in minority inclusion. Bravo. A lonely light in a dark sea.

Policing remains a disaster. The unions are in charge and the thumpers call the tune. The acting chief's major moves signal bedtime with the union. The mayor seems disinterested and unengaged. Reports surface signaling business as usual. The two most recent chiefs abandoned disastrous legacies.

Contrast the aftermath of ri-

ots here and the Jan. 6 D.C. insurrection. The latter led to a deep and continuing investigation and almost 1,000 prosecutions. Amazing, and bravo.

Minneapolis did nothing and looters, arsonists and smashers go scot-free despite ample photographic evidence of their depredations. Just another in a long string of failures.

Racism lives.

Reform dies.

And politicos engage their dance of death with merry indifference.

Leftist activists bid fair to destroy the Democratic party with their strident cries.

A great example of the genre occupies the seat once held by Don Fraser.

Is there a single guide pointing the way?

The gods delivered an historic respite from street crime in 1973. Roe v. Wade resulted in the gentrification of American ghettos—so what new slums would our underclass occupy?

What national initiatives undertaken to ameliorate poverty—child care? Good luck.

Is it a mystery that crime and dissolution are caused by social and economic forces and that cops are irrelevant to crime's levels? Racism doesn't consign

Blacks to exclusion and poverty—it forces them to the only escapes available: addictions (to figuratively escape the awfulness) and crime, to pay the freight.

Street crime is a problem for sociologists and economists—not cops.

Cops can respond to and ameliorate the trauma of violence—but not prevent it. They can respond to accidents and illnesses, and regulate traffic. They can also investigate—but by then the crime has occurred. Cops are useful.

I did one brilliant thing in my 60 years of involvement in police work—I proved that the most aggressive, legal policing simply doesn't work to control street crime.

Ta-da!

Other fields inspire study, critical literature, experiments, reform and informed discussion. Policing inspired hucksterism.

I love watching the police pundits (usually retired chiefs) wax eloquently on the issues. I used to think they were fools. But I was wrong.

I was the fool. They were selling very marketable snake oil.

Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.

### Bouza, from page 1

supported abortion because it reduced crime, you had to be a racist. A dilemma for the intelligentsia.

How to handle it?

Ignore or avoid any reference to the connection.

The result?

A tortured little dance in which the issue of abortion as crime prevention is ignored.

Because of Roe v. Wade America experienced over 30 years of crashed crime levels. The gentrification of Brooklyn was made possible by the sudden safety of tough neighborhoods. Blacks and Hispanics could no longer afford El Barrio. Tough luck and delicious irony. Everybody was happy to pocket the safety but loath to explore its origins.

Today's elite agonize over the obvious Supreme Court threat to Roe v. Wade, but another delicious irony is about to surface—it won't matter.

In the interim, science has invented chemical abortion. Voila.

The Know-Nothings will fulminate about sacred religious values. They'll be largely white, rural. My secret, and hitherto unexpressed suspi-

cion is that this cohort would vote for Adolf Hitler, given the chance.

This segment has not been sufficiently studied. Who are they? What do they do?

In a service that I think is both unique and uniquely wonderful, the U.S. Congress, in studying the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, will provide us with a template of who constitutes this merry band of idiots and sunshine patriots.

But this is still only about 20% Trumpers—Wallaceites—Father Coughlinites. We have them and they'll be with us.

Roe v. Wade conjures a really arresting (pardon the word) complexity as we regard the tergiversations of American political thought. Some expressed. Some unmentionable.

The police are irrelevant to crime levels and, therefore, public safety. Crime is caused by social, economic and educational conditions. Why don't we acknowledge this simple, obvious fact? Because we are happy to perpetuate racism and economic disparities of grotesque levels.

I haven't the slightest fear of refutation—or even of a response.

Hire more cops.

# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

### EVENTS

**Fulton Farmers Market**  
**Saturdays through Oct. 29**  
**8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
49th St. & Chowen Ave. S., Mpls.  
[www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org/](http://www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org/)

**Kingfield Farmers Market**  
**Sundays through Oct. 30**  
**8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
40th St. & Nicollet Ave.  
(north end of MLK, Jr. Park)  
[www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org/](http://www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org/)

**Minneapolis Movies in the Parks**  
**All movies start at 9:15 p.m. this week, and all are FREE.** Please go to [mplsmusicandmovies.com](http://mplsmusicandmovies.com) for complete details and full schedules.  
**Monday, June 13**  
"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" PG-13  
Lyndale Farmstead  
3900 Bryant Ave. S., Mpls.  
**Tuesday, June 14**  
"Spirit Untamed" PG  
Pearl Park  
414 E. Diamond Lake Rd.  
**Wednesday, June 15**  
"School of Rock" PG-13  
The Commons  
425 Portland Ave S.  
**Thursday, June 16**  
"Spider-Man: No Way Home" PG-13  
Lyndale Farmstead  
3900 Bryant Ave. S., Mpls.

**'The Wet Hex': Sun Yung Shin in conversation with Michael Kleber-Diggs and Heid E. Erdrich**  
**Tuesday, June 14, 7 p.m.**  
Moon Palace Books  
3032 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.  
Personal and environmental violations form the backdrop against which Sun Yung Shin examines questions of grievability, violence and responsibility in

"The Wet Hex." Incorporating sources such as her own archival immigration documents, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Christopher Columbus's journals, and traditional Korean burial rituals, Shin explores the ways that lives are weighed and bartered. Smashing the hierarchies of god and humanity, heaven and hell, in favor of indigenous Korean shamanism and animism, "The Wet Hex" layers an apocalyptic revision of 19th-century imagery of the sublime over the present, conjuring a reality at once beautiful and terrible. This is an in-person event. Masks are required in store. Social distancing is encouraged.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1299020567295410>

**Sibley Park Improvements Final Concept Plan Public Hearing**  
**Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m.**  
Mary Merrill MPRB Headquarters  
2117 W. River Rd., Mpls.  
The final concept plan for improvements at Sibley Park is the result of community feedback and recommendations received during the community engagement process in 2021 and early 2022. Proposed improvements include an upgraded and expanded playground, a zero-depth wading pool, and gathering spaces with picnic tables and benches. Individuals are welcome to review the concept plan at <https://www.minneapolisparkevents.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SIBLEY-PARK-PREFERRRED-CONCEPT-5.17.22.pdf> and share their comments at a public hearing on Wednesday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. Following the hearing, Commissioners for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will consider approving the plan.  
Public Hearing Details  
When: Wednesday, June 15 at 6:45pm

Where: Mary Merrill MPRB Headquarters Building  
2117 W. River Rd., Mpls.  
How to share your comments: To speak in person call (612) 230-6400 before 3 p.m. on the day of the hearing (June 15)  
OR  
Arrive at the second-floor board room at Mary Merrill MPRB Headquarters before the hearing begins; add your name to the sign-up sheet at the Board Room entrance.  
Send written comments to: Email [jrin-gold@minneapolisparkevents.org](mailto:jrin-gold@minneapolisparkevents.org) by noon on June 15.

**HomeHelpMN program open for applications**  
**Deadline extended to Aug. 17**  
HomeHelpMN began 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 Aug. 17. Homeowners can get ready today by visiting the website at [HomeHelpMN.org](http://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 during the application period. 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.

**Early Registration Discount for the Tour of Saints bike ride**  
**Register by Friday, June 17**  
**Ride on Sunday, July 17**  
We can't wait to celebrate the 42nd Annual Tour of Saints on July 17 in St. Joseph! And if you register now, you can save \$12. Just complete your registration by Friday, June 17 for \$33 adult tickets, and save a wait in line and \$12 off the Tour Day fee of \$45. After June 17, adult tickets increase to \$38 in advance. Don't miss this Central Minnesota tradition! Learn more about the ride at [tourofsaints.com](http://tourofsaints.com). BikeMN Members can save even more by applying this coupon code when registering to save \$5 at checkout: BIKEMNM22. This ride is also a fundraiser for the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, the state's bicycle education and advocacy nonprofit. When you roll with BikeMN on a ride like the Tour of Saints, you're supporting bicycle education, advocacy, and fun events like this across Minnesota!

**Alive & Kickin presents:**  
**'Life is a Cabaret'**  
**Through June 17**  
Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center  
Ives Auditorium  
11411 Masonic Home Dr., Bloomington  
WARNING: This is not your grandmother's choir! Alive & Kickin, the show-stopping, senior citizen, high-energy music-theatre ensemble is set to take the stage once again with a spectacular musical production of stories and songs. Sometimes life is wild! "Life is a Cabaret" features music and stories from Alive & Kickin's rockin' seniors about life's twists and turns – the incredible, beautiful or scandalous. This highly inspirational performance illustrates persevering through it all while living

life to its fullest.  
Playing June 10 – 17 at the Masonic Heritage Center, Ives Auditorium in Bloomington, Minn., "Coming of Age" features the talents of 27 senior rock-stars and will bring together an array of personal stories and musical selections celebrating age. A collaboration created by the entire Alive & Kickin team and under the musical direction of Jason James Hansen, the ensemble is backed by a full-blown rock band. Tickets are available now at [www.aliveandkickinmn.org](http://www.aliveandkickinmn.org), or by phone at (952) 948-6506.

**Soul of the Southside Juneteenth Festival**  
**Sunday, June 19, 1 to 6 p.m.**  
Under the Canopy  
Hook and Ladder Theater  
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.  
Join us for the Soul of the Southside Juneteenth Festival featuring live music, speakers, poets, Black-owned business marketplace, live art, and food vendors. Bring the whole family on Father's Day to celebrate with the Southside community and beyond. A FREE, family-friendly event (under 21 with parent or guardian), rain or shine. More details and advance registration link (to win prizes during festival) at: <https://thehookmpls.com/event/soul-of-the-southside/>

**Open Eye Theatre presents**  
**HAIRBALL! A Bigfoot Musical Adventure**  
**Through June 19, 7 p.m.**  
The Bakken Museum  
3537 Zenith Ave. S., Mpls.  
Join us for an unabashed celebration of tall tales and high spirits at The Bakken Museum! The resort town of Discovery Island descends into chaos, with trash cans looted and hairballs fouling the streets, and local conspiracy nut Jerry




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**Southside Pride**

**NOKOMIS EDITION**

Southside Pride Nokomis Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the **Second Monday of the month for free to over 150 locations in and around the Nokomis 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**  
3200 CHICAGO AVENUE SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55407  
CALL US AT 612-822-4662  
email us at [editor@southsidepride.com](mailto:editor@southsidepride.com)  
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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

Loudermilk (Maren Ward) convincing the locals that a supernatural forest beast called the “Megapaw” is to blame. When aspiring teen detective Winnifred Highsmith (Abilene Olson) goes missing after discovering a baby Megapaw, the alarm is sounded and Montgomery Ward (Luke Aaron Davidson), Canada’s elite forest ranger, arrives to save the day! Suddenly everyone is lost in the woods, seeking the hidden heart of the forest. Will they find it before the shifty resort owner, Fobelius Dort, burns down the trees to make a bigger golf course? Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Arrive early to explore the museum! Tickets at <https://www.openeyetheatre.org/hairball>

**Friday Night Summer Movie Series**  
**Fridays, doors open at 5 p.m.**  
**Movie starts at 6 p.m.**  
Sabathani Community Center  
310 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
Hosted by Agape Movement, [theagapemovement.com](http://theagapemovement.com)  
For more info contact Bridgette Stewart at (612) 824-4017 or [agapebstewart@gmail.com](mailto:agapebstewart@gmail.com).

**Summer Solstice Foraging**  
**Tuesday, June 21, 6 to 8 p.m.**  
Gather together on the longest day of the year with Maria Wesselerle and Four Season Foraging to learn about summer foraging of medicinal plants. Several species are traditionally thought to reach their peak in midsummer, including yarrow, wild bergamot and mugwort. We will discuss identification, edibility and medicinal uses of these species, and talk about other wild edibles we encounter in the field. Sliding scale \$17.50 - \$37.50. Pre-registration required. For registration, location and other details, please email [info@fourseasonforaging.com](mailto:info@fourseasonforaging.com), call 612-440-5958, or visit <https://www.fourseasonforaging.com/events>.

**Call for Artists: The 2022-2023 Cedar Commissions**  
**Applications due by Friday, July 15**  
The Cedar Cultural Center, a nonprofit performing arts organization and all-ages music venue located in Minneapolis is looking for the next round of artists to take part in the 2022-23 Cedar Commissions! The Cedar Commissions is a program that commissions six early career/emerging Minnesotan composers and musicians each year to create and perform new music. To date, The Cedar has commissioned over 60 artists of diverse styles and backgrounds.  
**Application workshop on Thursday, June 23, 6 to 7:30 p.m. CDT**  
**In person at The Cedar and via Zoom**  
Cedar Cultural Center  
416 Cedar Ave. S., Mpls.  
This hybrid session will walk you through the Cedar Commissions application and give you an opportunity to ask questions about the application process. Webinar will be available both in person and via Zoom and archived

online at [thecedar.org/cedar-commissions](https://www.thecedar.org/cedar-commissions) (As a note: participants will be recorded). Free. **Sign up by June 22** at <https://www.thecedar.org/cedar-commissions-application-webinar-reg>. If this application process presents barriers to you based on language, location or disability, The Cedar will accommodate special application requests to the best of our ability. Please contact Robert Lehmann at [rlehmann@thecedar.org](mailto:rlehmann@thecedar.org) or 612-440-8406.

**Women in Graffiti & Street Art**  
**Saturday, June 25, 7 to 8:30 p.m.**  
Urban Growler Brewing  
2325 Endicott St., St. Paul  
Discover “Few and Far” — an all-women street art collective who beautify the streets with a shared commitment to creativity, education and social justice — during this panel discussion with five of their local and national members at Urban Growler Brewing at 7 p.m. Learn their stories and perspectives on why there are still so few women in street art. You can watch the five talented graffiti and street artists—Deity, Meme, Keena Azania Roman, Martzia Thometz, and Thomasina TopBear—paint murals at their Summer Mural Meet from June 22 - 26. This event is hosted by Urban Growler, the first women-owned microbrewery in Minnesota. The talk will be moderated by Candida Gonzalez of Forecast Public Art. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m. with panel discussion from 7 to 8:30 p.m. <https://www.chromazone.net/festival-events>

**Iraqi – Swedish Cultural Exchange**  
**Sunday, June 26, 4 to 7 p.m.**  
American Swedish Institute  
2600 Park Ave., Mpls.  
A summer evening of fun on the American Swedish Institute lawn, co-hosted by the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project and the American Swedish Institute.  
Visitors will experience:

- A handcraft market featuring local artists and artisans selling their handicrafts and artwork.
- Iraqi music from Layth Sidiq.
- Traditional Scandinavian nyckelharpa music and folk dancing.
- Lawn games, including tawleh and Swedish kubb.
- Craft projects guided by IARP volunteers, including cuneiform clay tablets and Arabic calligraphy.
- Coffee, cardamom-scented Iraqi tea, and classic Swedish and Iraqi desserts.

The ASI Turnbull Mansion will also be open to explore! Tickets are \$5. [asimn.org](http://asimn.org)

**Koerner, Murphy & Beach: The Farewell Tour**  
**Thursday, June 30, 7 p.m.**  
Trylon Cinema  
2820 E. 33rd St., Mpls.  
St. Paul filmmaker Digger Kohler presents three short films: “Why Marmarth” (featuring Willie Mur-

phy and Cockroach Park) in Marmarth, N.D., population 140. The town’s 1914 constructed vaudeville theatre, aptly named “The Mystic,” provides a curious and alluring setting for this exciting performance.  
“Spider John Koerner at the Logging Camp Ranch” is as exceptional as Koerner’s inventive originals and innovative interpretations of classic folk/blues.  
A loosey-goosey mini-documentary focuses well-deserved attention on a longtime Twin Cities musical treasure who is largely taken for granted. John Beach is the closest thing our area has to a Professor Longhair — a rollicking barrelhouse piano ace whose blues are doggedly idiosyncratic, deeply felt, organic and timeless. Digger Kohler’s 30-minute short film offers hearty humor, life and death philosophy, plenty of trailer-park and tavern atmosphere, and some odd driving antics. Tickets are \$10, available at <https://www.trylon.org/film/koerner-murphy-beach-the-farewell-tour/>.

**Public Blood Drives in June with Twins tickets giveaway**  
Local nonprofit Memorial Blood Centers (MBC) is calling all eligible blood and platelet donors to step up and help save lives.  
The need for blood is constant, but the supply isn’t. Founded by the community, for the community, donors with Memorial Blood Centers help supply nearly 40 local hospitals and more than a dozen air ambulance bases. Help hospital patients in need by scheduling an appointment online at [mbc.org/donate](http://mbc.org/donate) or by calling 1-888-GIVE.BLD or (888) 448-3253.  
Blood donation is safe and essential, and MBC has a COVID-19 self-screening policy in addition to general eligibility guidelines. In general, you may be eligible to donate if you are:

- In good health.
- 17 years or older — or 16 with written parental consent (PDF available on [mbc.org](http://mbc.org)).
- At least 110 pounds.
- Free of antibiotics for 24 hours, unless taken for preventative reasons.
- Symptom-free for at least 72 hours following a cold or flu.

Visit [mbc.org/donate](http://mbc.org/donate) to find your nearest drive or donor center, or to make an appointment at one of the public blood drives below:

Monday, June 20, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Indeed Brewing, 711 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Mpls.

Monday, June 27, noon to 5 p.m., Annunciation Catholic Church, 509 W. 54<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.

Wednesday, June 29, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wooden Ship Brewing Company, 3300 W. 44<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.

All donors will be entered for daily drawings to win tickets to a Twins game. More information can be found at [mbc.org/twins](http://mbc.org/twins).

**13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Cuban Film Festival**  
**Thursdays through June 30**  
MSP Film  
Main Theatre  
15 SE Main St., Mpls.  
The Minnesota Cuban Film Festival (MCFF) brings some of the best Cuban films to the Land of 10,000 Lakes. This year’s festival will take place at MSP Film on six consecutive Thursdays, May 26 to June 30.  
The MCFF features films that address the achievements and challenges of the Cuban people through the eyes

of its filmmakers. The festival highlights diverse and challenging films of social change, human struggle and the boldness of the human spirit. The Minnesota Cuba Committee, presenter of the film festival, offers Minnesotans a chance to learn about and appreciate Cuban films and culture, and to remind our supporters of the onerous burden that the blockade inflicts on the Cuban people.  
For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/MNCubanFilmFestival/> or call 612-367-6134.

### CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND

by LAUREN YEE | ft. songs by DENGUE FEVER  
Now playing in Minneapolis through Jul 31!




photo by Rich Ryan

### Part historical play, part rock concert

Lauren Yee’s award-winning play with music makes its Twin Cities debut through July 31 in a co-production by the Jungle Theater and Theater Mu.

Travel to Cambodia with Chum—played by Broadway’s Greg Watnabe—who is returning to his homeland for the first time since fleeing the Khmer Rouge more than 30 years ago. The reason? His daughter is prosecuting one of the political party’s most notorious war criminals, portrayed by Twin Cities favorite Eric Sharp.

As Chum is forced to confront the past he left behind, the actors bring his memories to life by playing hits from Cambodia’s Golden Age of Music as well as songs from rock band Dengue Fever.

See CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND today at the Jungle!

JUNGLE THEATER

THEATER MU

presented with permission from [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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### Water, from page 1

neapolis as the dumping ground for water and pollution, while a suburban community benefits.

This is exactly the wrong direction for the city of Minneapolis and MPRB to go. Communities in the upper watershed need to deal with their own water problems within their community, and not continue to transfer their problems to the next community down the line in the watershed. Maybe the city of Edina should take out some houses in

Edina to create their own water mitigation and storage ponds as the city of Minneapolis has done.

Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent of Planning at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Edina resident, made a curious statement at a public meeting about Lake Nokomis on Tuesday, May 31. He said, “We can’t give up our parkland to storm water.” Now that this plan has been made public, are Minneapolis city officials finally feeling even more backlash to their plans to turn South Min-

neapolis into a water dumping ground?

Where do Minneapolis city officials stand on this, that is, Mayor Frey, City Council Members Johnson, Jenkins, Chughtai, Palmisano and Koski, and Park Board commissioners? When are these public officials going to start standing up for their own constituents and stop allowing the suburbs to just continue dumping more and more water and pollution into South Minneapolis?

# Local food news, rhubarb season, and a mini-review from ... Rochester?

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Closings and one new location

Hi, local food lovers. We're being hyper-local this month right up to the restaurant review, which is ... well, it's still in Minnesota anyway. We'll start with places closing, because that's sad and we want to get it out of the way. Hot Indian, inventor of the "indiritto" (dropped from its menu in early 2020), which merged the burrito format with flavors and ingredients from India, is closing its location at Mid-

Owamni throughout the summer. Lutunji's Palate, a catering business I have mentioned before, has finally opened a brick-and-mortar cafe on the ground floor of an apartment building on Park Avenue in Elliot Park. Sadly, it was broken into by thieves less than 24 hours after its grand opening, but not hurt enough to close the business. Lutunji is known for her peach cobbler and other southern-style bakery items. Burritos El Patron has just opened (their grand opening was on June 1) in the former Flag Foods space

Paul and one on Cedar Avenue in South Minneapolis. On May 27, SB Workers United, the national Starbucks union organization, announced the win at number 100 – Eastlake Avenue in Seattle. The 101st union win occurred later the same day.

The next three Twin Cities Starbucks to hold NLRB elections will be in Eden Prairie, at the Mall of America, and on Lyndale Avenue South in Minneapolis. Last Saturday, Twin Cities DSA's Labor Branch, in connection with the national solidarity group DSA for a Starbucks Union, held an event called Comrades in Cars Getting Coffee. Members and friends packed into carpool cars and drove to each of the Starbucks in turn in caravan fashion. At each shop, we ordered coffee and expressed solidarity and best wishes for their election.

## What the heck do I do with all this rhubarb?

Although it came a bit late this year, it's finally rhubarb season and the floodgates have opened. If you're looking for inspiration about what to do with all that pink, tart, girly-looking vegetable, the Eater online magazine will come to your rescue with a bunch of unusual recipes to add to your rhubarb classics,



June 2021 sign at Sovereign Grounds

like an ice cream, a picnic bar, or using it as an ingredient in a sausage casserole. [www.eater.com/23139986/rhubarb-how-to-cook-recipes](http://www.eater.com/23139986/rhubarb-how-to-cook-recipes). Also, here's a tip from me: rhubarb is easy to freeze for later use. Or maybe your neighborhood coffee shop/bakery will take some of your excess to keep it out of the waste stream.

## An almost perfect meal at Crave in Rochester

I was in Rochester recently for the DFL State Convention. I stayed at the Hotel Indigo in the heart of downtown Rochester. The hotel has a branch of Crave restaurant in it, which also provides room service and guest breakfasts. I had a pretty terri-



Lutunji's Palate with owner Lutunji shortly before the opening on May 15

ble breakfast there, so the less said about that the better.

But you should never judge a mainly-dinner restaurant by its breakfast. Rare indeed is the high-end restaurant that can excel at both these modalities. Consequently, after a long, grueling, mostly fasting (involuntarily) day, I escaped in the late afternoon back to my solitary hotel room and dithered around about what to do for a meal. I ended up giving Rochester Crave a second chance and had one of the best fish meals I have ever had so far from any ocean.

It wasn't ocean fish, for one thing. It was walleye, our state fish. I had a Walleye Shore Dinner accompanied by an artisanal beer, Finnegan's Irish Amber Ale. This was one memorable plate of fish. You know how restaurant plates are sort of massive? Well, this Shore Dinner filled the plate

and in fact the gorgeous, perfectly fresh walleye filet hung over both edges of the plate.

The walleye was lightly breaded in panko and drizzled with a creamy lemon-butter sauce dotted with minced parsley. There were but two accompaniments. In the middle of the plate was a wide mound of silky pureed mashed potatoes with butter-milk and butter. The final third of the plate held several massive spears of grilled asparagus, shining in warm olive oil. I polished off this entire huge plate of food, something that almost never happens with restaurant portions, no matter how hungry I am.

I even indulged in a single scoop of vanilla ice cream from Sebastian Joe's. And a post-prandial tot of cognac to liven it up. I believe I chose ... wisely.



Crave's conservatory at Hotel Indigo in Rochester



## Local Roots closed in April.

town Global Market. Other locations are still open at the Mall of America and Target Field. Local Roots of Richfield, a diner but more local and healthier, is closing its dining room permanently. They will still do catering and third-party delivery. Midori's Floating World, a small but excellent Japanese restaurant, was burned out of their site on Lake Street between Minnehaha and 27th Avenue in the George Floyd uprising. After two years of popping up at Seward Cafe's location, they have their own space now at 3425 E. Lake St. They are open Thursday through Sunday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. It's take-out only for now, but they hope to open their new dining room soon.

## Openings

The Sioux Chef is bringing back his food truck, the Tatanka Truck. It will be parked outside

on 42nd Street at 29th Avenue South. Find out more on their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/BurritosElPatron/](http://www.facebook.com/BurritosElPatron/).

## Four Sisters Farmers Market is back for 2022

Native American Community Development Institute, NACDI, announced that its sponsored farmers' market, Four Sisters, will run from June through October 2022 at the same site, the parking lot to the east of Pow Wow Grounds coffee shop, 1414 E. Franklin Ave. It runs on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Walmart is dragged for exploiting Juneteenth; meanwhile, Starbucks United celebrates its 100th and 101st unionizations

Well, honestly, what did they expect? The whiter-than-white billionaire owners of Walmart probably didn't come up with this concept, but the folks that did ought to have anticipated how cringey it would be. Walmart introduced a line of products for celebrating Juneteenth – a beer koozie, disposable plates, and a Juneteenth ice cream. If you can bear it, you can read about this PR disaster at <https://www.eater.com/23139650/walmart-apologizes-for-juneteenth-ice-cream-beer-koozies>.

Starbucks workers have been unionizing at a rapid pace. Both of the two original Minnesota sites to announce their intention have now won their unions – one on Snelling Avenue in St.



Burritos El Patron



## DFL Seniors vs. bikesters

There is, once again, a proposal in front of the Park Board to close some Minneapolis parkways to vehicular traffic on certain days every month. The changes would alter the nature and use of parkways across Minneapolis from vehicle-centric use to so-called active human use.

"Human use?" Who do they think are driving the cars? The intent of the parkway system is

to act as a connection between natural elements that are public parks. The proposed change to close off sections of parkways is a step toward the desire to transition parkways solely to bicycles, or other non-motorized, wheeled conveyances. This is discriminatory towards both seniors and the disabled.

The Minneapolis Area DFL Senior Caucus strongly opposes the very idea that Minneapolis parks deny access to any person on any given day.

**Patricia Kelly**  
Board Chair,  
Minneapolis Area Chapter  
DFL Senior Caucus



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