



We build Pride on the Southside

**POWDERHORN
EDITION**
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
**August
2022**
VOL. XXXII, ISSUE 22

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Ugly truths



BY TONY BOUZA

The Floyd case is marvelously instructive for all the awful lessons it provides. A latter-day “Rashomon.”

Racism is number one, but forgive me, not the issue that grabs me.

I monitored the Chauvin-types very carefully through Internal Affairs and gave the others ample room for caution in dealing with street events. It required close scrutiny and tough controls, but that’s what running a police agency is all about—control. Police departments are dictatorships, not democracies.

I froze promotions for nine years and, at the end, still had too many supervisors. I cut overtime to the bone and insisted that disabled workers be given appropriate assignments. Cops are very good at finding compliant medics who give them documents facilitating tax-free disability pensions. Bloat is not only evident in the number of cronies raised high but in the creation of such unnecessary—and ironically named—units as Public Information Officers. One-person patrols and eight-hour workdays were other defiant ideas—now

See Bouza, page 5



Al Flowers had to be pushed off the microphone at the July 20 MPRB Planning Committee meeting.

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan

BY KATHRYN KELLY

On July 20, the Planning Committee of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board started the process of reconsidering the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan for the fourth time. This time Park Board President Meg Forney wasn’t going to let this initial vote fail, so her first act of the night was to appoint herself to the planning committee so she could personally vote to pass the resolution.

During the public comment period, quite an array of comments was given about the plan.

The lengthiest was by Al Flowers, who compared the Park Board to the current U.S. Supreme Court. He said that the Supreme Court has just taken away a long-standing constitutional right. In a like manner, the Park Board is destroying a 90-year-old Black institution in the city of Minneapolis. Flowers also

begged Superintendent Al Bangoura to stand up with the Black community in imploring the board to retain the 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course.

One person asked the board to stop the racist tactic of pitting minority groups against each other (in this case, Blacks and Native Americans) and another woman asked the board to give the Hiawatha Golf Course property back to Native Americans. I found the latter rather ironic since, the next morning, I saw a Native American golfing in the group behind me at Hiawatha Golf Course. Maybe the Park Board should give the property back to the Native American community and the golf course could be added to the many golf courses in Minnesota owned and operated by Native Americans. Then we could still have our 18-hole golf course, and it would likely be better maintained.

I talked about the histo-

ry of racism in the city of Minneapolis; how my grade school of 600 kids was all white because of racial covenants; how the building of I-35W destroyed part of the Black community in South Minneapolis; and how Solomon Park, named after the first Black Park Board Commissioner, Ed Solomon, is a disgrace. Now, this heavily white Park Board wants to destroy Hiawatha Golf Course, another Black institution in the city of Minneapolis.

With the help of Park Board President Meg Forney, the Planning Committee voted to pursue the path of destruction of another Black institution in this city. The racist legacy of Minneapolis, implemented by white privilege, continues.

There will be a public hearing on the Hiawatha Master Plan at the August 3 Park Board meeting.

There’s a bad smell somewhere

BY ED FELIEN

[Ed Felien’s remarks to the Park Board on July 20]

In a promotional video having something to do with the Hiawatha Plan, Michael Schroeder is shown saying, “My mission is to de-Wirthify the Minneapolis Park System.” The crown jewel of his plan is to turn the Hiawatha Golf Course into a swamp. It was almost a swamp a hundred years ago before Theodore Wirth dredged Rice Lake to a depth of 33 feet. Most of Minneapolis was a swamp a hundred years ago. Powderhorn Park was a swamp that crossed Lake Street to 28th Street. But swamps smell bad. People wanted to drain the swamps so they could build homes and parks and playgrounds and golf courses.

But there is something swampy about the fixed determination of Park Board planners. Something about it smells. It’s already cost the taxpayers over a million dollars in planning, and all it has produced is a stinking mess.



Jon Spurgeon with fish caught and released at Lake Hiawatha

It’s time to de-Schroederize the plan for Hiawatha.

The justification for the Schroeder plan is the amount of pumping done to keep water off the low land next to the lake. He told everyone at public meetings that the amount they were pumping was illegal. That was a stinking lie.

See Smells, page 5





Open Streets East Lake will help to reclaim the neighborhood

BY STEPHANIE FOX

Open Streets is back after a pandemic pause. One of the most popular of these (usually) annual events is Open Streets East Lake, held this year on Aug. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This area of Minneapolis is recovering not only from COVID-19 but also from the rioting and looting following the murder of George Floyd in 2020. Many of the small businesses there, a number of which are immigrant and minority-owned, are recovering and will welcome the returning crowds.

Motor vehicle traffic will be blocked on East Lake Street between 2nd and 22nd Avenues, but will be completely

open to bikes, skates, skateboards and pedestrians, allowing people to explore their communities and meet their neighbors close up. A number of businesses, organizations, restaurants and services will have booths. There will be entertainment as well – music, dance and more.

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association (MPNAI) will be there from 13th to 15th Avenues, with an information and activities booth, demonstrations by a Somali soccer team, and music.

Musical offerings will include the Brass Messengers, a Minneapolis street band playing music inspired by world melodies, including the music of Africa, the Caribbean and the Balkans. But they’ve been



(Photo/Paul Jahn)

known to play whatever works to make an audience happy, including country, polkas and metal. They call their style the homegrown Minneapolis street sound, and that’s true!

Sarah Greer, a Twin Cities-based a cappella impro-

visational vocalist who lives in the neighborhood and who sings everything from jazz to classical, will also be on stage. She is passionate about everyone’s right to express themselves through song and often leads what she calls “songta-

neous” sessions.

Little Earth Drum Group will be there, too, as well as a local mariachi band.

A number of food vendors will have street kitchens and the Sisters’ Camelot Fruit and Veggie Bus will be giving free fruit and vegetables to everyone who stops by.

Also look for booths by the Banyan Community, the Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Quatrefoil Library, Hope Academy, Midtown Greenway Coalition and the MPNAI info booth.

Love You Cookie was created to spread “Defiant Optimism,” a belief rooted in the idea that there are still really good things we enjoy and work for together, said manager Ken

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(Photo/Paul Jahn)



(Photo/Mike Beck)



(Photo/Mike Beck)

Treadway. “Our goal is to encourage people to defy odds and spread hope in their lives, families, and communities. We accomplish this by selling the best gourmet, handmade cookies you will ever eat.”

“More than that,” Treadway said, “our cookies are a vehicle to achieving our core mission: destigmatizing mental health issues and eliminating barriers to mental health and wellness resources, especially for members of BIPOC communities.”

At Open Streets, the Love You Cookie booth will be selling two types of their monster-sized cookies, a dark chocolate chip and cashew sprinkled with sea salt cookie and a sugar cookie that tastes like a birthday cake. What makes these cookies different, said Treadway, is that they are crunchy on the outside and gooey on the inside.

In 2020, their chocolate chip cookie was featured in the Star Tribune in their “Best Thing We Ate This Week” column.

Love You Cookie company managers are Ken and Octavia Treadway along with CEO Sahr Brima, but the company’s creative inspiration and creator is master baker Sarah Brima. The Brimas teamed up with local companies and organizations to be part of their VIP (Very Important Cookie Program). They use this money to donate funds that support people who are part of minority communities. Each month they have a drawing and this month the winner will receive free mental health support sessions.

The Midtown Global Market and Cultural Wellness Hub will be offering a number of services for the asking, including COVID tests, vaccinations and blood pressure checks. Health professionals will be on hand to help with wellness assessments and a health knowledge game with prizes.

People can also join a Zumba class and for those who are thirsty, they will be offering people a chance to try a healthy infused water instead of opting for a high calorie soda.

The Midtown Global Market’s talent performances will be there, on stage:

- DJ Dime, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Mexico Azteca – Ballet Folklórico performance, 1:15 – 1:45 p.m.

- Ecuadorian dance troupe, 2 – 2:45 p.m.
- Ha Family lion dance and percussion group, 3 – 3:15 p.m.
- Salsa dancing, 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue, a nonprofit Indigenous community dance troupe is made up of children and their parents. The youngest dancer is two years old and the oldest is almost 60.

“At Open Streets, we will have a tent and drums. When we dance, we help people understand our culture,” said director Susana De Leon.

The troupe has been a part of the culture of South Minneapolis for more than 25 years. De Leon is a lawyer by day, but she created Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue to promote traditional Indigenous knowledge.

Dances are related to ideas such as being grateful, or feeling the energy of the sun on your skin. The dances are all about nature – our ancestors knew that nature is the divine, De Leon said.

The first dance will start at noon and a second set will begin at 1 p.m. Other dances will be presented at 3 p.m. and a last set at 4 p.m.

“When we aren’t dancing I want to have a Q-and-A and get to know our neighbors and get them to know us and what we do better,” said De Leon.

Regin Love Collections and FlyyBoyz Company are two clothing brands that will be at Open Streets, with Black Girls Matter and Black Boys Rock T-shirts for sale out of their booth. The company has been around for two years and makes specialty kids clothing, said owner Shanee O’Neal. They will be showing off and selling the T-shirt designs that she hopes will help spread self-esteem to young Black children. “I specialize in kids clothing only,” she said.



(Photo/Will Woolworth)

The shirts are made for kids as young as six months and for older kids as well. They say, in a casual script, “Black Girls Matter Because We Are Worth It” with a princess crown. “I need to reach all the little people,” O’Neal says. “My whole clothing line is fun. People should stop by with their kids.”

As of publication, the word on the (Lake) street is that Eastlake Craft Brewery (not for kids, but for those 21 and older) will be on hand also. Zen hip-hop artist Purple Queen, who uses hip-hop to spread light, love and positivity with good vibes and good music, will make an appearance as well. Check the Open Streets website and Facebook page for updates on even more fun things to see and do on Aug. 13 at Open Streets East Lake.

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Andrew ‘Tekle’ Sundberg

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

After putting our 5-year-old to bed the night of Wednesday, July 13, I realized there was a helicopter flying around outside. It's not all that unusual to hear helicopters from our house, sometimes going to or from the nearby hospital, but this was persistent and constant. A little after 10:30 p.m., a neighbor posted to the Seward E-Democracy forum that 19 squad cars were at the Holiday Station on Franklin, and Pizza Luce had been told to close by the police – there was an active shooter situation. After seeing the email I checked in with our neighbor who is not on E-Democracy, and she quickly pulled up more information from Crime Watch. The most recent information was an hour old and as we texted I realized that the helicopter was no longer circling. At this point it was after 11 p.m., so I assumed that whatever was going on was pretty much over. The next morning I woke up to discover that at 4:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, the police had decided to execute Andrew “Tekle” Sundberg in what some are calling “suicide by cop.”

Those familiar with this case

will be aware that Sundberg began shooting, apparently within his own apartment while alone, at around 9:30 p.m. His neighbor, Arabella Foss-Yarbrough, called the police after a bullet flew through the wall and into her apartment as she and her two small children sheltered in the bedroom. She ran to let the police into the building; the police got her sons out of the apartment and evacuated the rest of the building. Many point to the imminent danger to Foss-Yarbrough and her children as justification to shoot and kill Sundberg, but they had been removed to safety for hours by the time Sundberg was shot. What the police did that was heroic that night had nothing to do with them shooting anybody, what they did that was heroic was that they rescued a mother and her young children from gunfire and evacuated the building and surrounding area. There are major questions as to why that broke down when it

came to Sundberg himself; it's unclear if mental health professionals were even on the scene. When the snipers shot Sundberg it was not a heroic moment. It was a cold, calculated execution. We as a society have



Andrew ‘Tekle’ Sundberg

the collective delusion that guns are heroic, guns are strong, guns solve problems. We would benefit greatly if we would recognize strength beyond weaponry; the heroes of this story are the po-

lice who risked their own safety to rescue those children and evacuate the building, not the snipers who took the shot from a building away.

The thing that stands out to me most about this situation is that Sundberg seems to have been in his apartment by himself. Admittedly I am not a medical expert but, based on my experience, it would seem that Sundberg was dealing with some form of psychosis or hallucinations at the time of his death. I think it is fair to question how much he understood of the situation he was in. This is very different from someone with severe depression who instigates an attack to achieve suicide by cop.

Many people want to highlight this situation as an example for why we need a strong, well-armed police force. Those of us in favor of defunding the police would argue that better access to mental health resources before people

start shooting up their own, and their neighbor's, apartments would be far more beneficial. When the Minneapolis teachers' union was striking, improved mental health services was one of their main demands, and yet our governor refused to support them, even as our state sits on a sizable budget surplus.

In addition to proactively funding more comprehensive mental health services, we really need to break down the stigma surrounding mental health issues. We need to make sure that people and their families are willing to seek out diagnosis and help without feeling that there is something wrong with them.

In the meantime we need to accept that we are choosing to live in a world of gun violence – gun violence that can, and increasingly will, happen anywhere. There will only be so much any amount of funding our police can do for us once the bullets start to fly. Uvalde, don't forget, budgeted over \$4 million dollars (37% of their general fund) to their police force and it neither prevented nor satisfactorily resolved the devastating attack on their school.

3rd Precinct update

Third Precinct Advisory Council (3PAC) Minutes

July 11, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Gwen McMahon at 6:39 p.m. 17 attendees.

Treasurer's report: Doris Overby, Treasurer, balance of \$1457.73 in our checking account at Wings Financial. Check

to reimburse Gwen McMahon will be written shortly for \$561.12.

Minutes: of the June meeting were approved as written.

Summer Picnic: will be August 11 at the temporary 3rd Precinct building. As in the past, 3PAC will be offering food for all three shifts. Serving times will be around the noon

hour and then again around the supper hour and early evening. Phil Williams has volunteered to pick up food at Corcoran Park and deliver to the precinct as parking is at a premium. Timing will be determined at the August meeting.

Officer of the month: This recognition has been brought back. Recognitions are being funded by the department

budget. A request was made to have the Inspector share the write up with 3PAC each meeting. Inspector Gomez was going to check and see if he could do that.

Updates from Inspector Gomez: Retention incentives for MPD officers. A plan is before the City Council to provide retention bonuses to patrol officers. Some of the guidelines include good standing and

employment as of December 31, 2022. A discussion of public services was had along with some of the current trends in the precinct. A more in-depth discussion of the Shot Spotter system was had and how that fits into the information at hand for investigations. Staffing has remained the same since last month. New hires seem to just replace officers leaving.

Question/answer opportunity: Doris Overby made a motion: 3PAC supports an action of the City Council to offer incentives for both patrol officers and upper ranks – command staff. Motion seconded and passed.

Gwen McMahon and Phil Williams will meet with Inspector Gomez to discuss the types of information 3PAC would like to have at future meetings, i.e., crime statistics, more detailed trends, etc. With the new Department of Public Safety information channels have changed.

The crime statistic dashboard link is public, but not necessarily easy to find. We will publish that link.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. **Next meeting is Monday, August 8, at Corcoran Park, 6:30 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Phil Williams, co-chair.

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Get ready to VOTE

BY LYDIA HOWELL

For the last three elections, Minnesota was number one in voter turnout, at almost 80% participation.

One reason for such high participation is Minnesota's Election Day ("same day") voter registration, passed in 1973.

"It's not just the absence of obstacles, but the presence of good laws. I use the baseball call of 'the tie goes to the runner.' In Minnesota, the tie goes to the voter," says Minnesota's three-term Secretary of State Steve Simon. "Over the years, we cleared obstacles in the path of voting. The idea of access for the voter has been deeply bipartisan. Minnesota was only one of three states to pass Election Day registration. Now, it's still only 15 or 16 states. Same day registration is the jewel in the crown of voting."

"Voter registration simply means show me you are who you say you are and you live where you say you live," Simon explains. "There's a long list of things you can use to prove that at mnvotes.gov."

Requirements to vote: be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Minnesota for at least 20 days, and 18 years old by election day. Being convicted for a felony does not stop you from voting, as long as you've completed all your sentence and are not "on paper"

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Bouza, from page 1

abandoned. Our leaders seem to prefer treasury-busting settlements to actually managing.

Cases like the Cindy Gerdes murder are neglected, eloquently illustrated by the indifference to promising leads.

The city is smashed, burned and destroyed, and the band plays on. Looters, window crashers and arsonists are cosseted or overlooked. Precincts—yes, police houses—are burned. Burned, and no one lifts a finger. O tempora, o mores!

The police union rules—and everyone who matters knows it. The City Council spins wheels, wrings hands, turns over the people's treasure to eager hunters, and the public gets pissed on while being handed figurative umbrellas in the form of pieties. The citizens who pleaded with Chauvin to ease up are heroes. The cops who paid for getting along by going along now know the cost.

I know. I go on and on. But I lived it, fought the union tooth and claw, served the people's interests and was amply rewarded—at least psychically.

A tiresome anecdote (how we geezers love 'em): Not long ago the ex-police chief to whom I turned over my expert witness business saw a documentary of my time in

– that is, you're not on parole, probation or supervised release.

Simon is part of a coalition-working to end the "on paper" block to voting.

Minnesota recognized African American men's right to vote in 1869 – a year before the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution did so. White women in Minnesota won voting rights in 1920, while women of color still struggled (depending on the state they lived in). Indigenous people marginally won voting rights in 1962, strengthened by the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Obstacles remain, as a Native American Rights Fund 2020 report shows, including non-traditional addresses (on reservations) and no address due to higher levels of homelessness (outside reservations), and fewer opportunities for voter registration.

Since 2020 was a U.S. census year, districts may be redrawn and polling places for in-person voting might be changed. Check mnvotes.gov for up-to-date information.

In the wake of Donald Trump's Jan. 6 attempt to overturn the 2020 election of President Joe Biden, some are questioning Minnesota's voting system, expressing concern about election day voter registration. Simon is reassuring about the state's cross-referencing system. "We catch people who are dou-

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the Bronx and was impressed. He called to tell me so and said that he would share his views with our former colleagues in the NYPD. The chat room is very appropriately called "Rant." I advised him to eschew the effort, but he was adamant.

Soon thereafter he called again, incredulous over the vitriol heaped upon me some 40 years after my departure:

"Never did a cop's job in his life."

"Uses fancy words to impress."

"A charlatan and a joke."

Most of the trenchant views more or less mirrored the lovable little old lady who muttered: "That Tony Bouza certainly is full of himself, isn't he?"

The cops would've added I was full of something else, too.

Cops do not want to be controlled.

That is the brutal truth.

Most do a good job, but no one loves leashes, least of all their wearers. For a time I entertained the notion of calling our agency Animal Control, but someone else stole the idea.

We all want admiration, rewards and prizes, and few of us like strife. Real public service means adherence to Cicero: "The good of the people is the highest law."

Good luck with that.

ble-registered. Double voters are very rare. Actual voter fraud in Minnesota is microscopic."

Simon's likely challenger is Minnesota Republican Party-endorsed Kim Crockett, who echoes false claims about voting and fans fears rooted in bigotry. At the Republican Party's state convention in May, Crockett referred to George Soros as a "puppet-master controlling elections" with strings attached to Simon, who is also Jewish. These are antisemitic slurs, common among right-wing conspiracy theorists.

Like other Trump Republicans, Crockett attacks how absentee ballots were more easily available during the COVID-19 pandemic, calling it "an insecure chaotic absentee balloting system."

Before COVID, about 25% of Minnesotans voted by mail. In 2020, that rose to 58%.

"Vote by mail worked really well," Simon says. "We should

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Smells, from page 1

What is illegal is the dam/weir at 27th Avenue that is holding back five feet of water. You need a permit from the DNR to back up water into a wetland, and the area around Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis and Solomon Park is a wetland. The peat soil is like a sponge soaking up water and swampifying the whole area. Take down the dam/weir, dredge the creek so the water runs under the sanitary sewer lines, and you lower the lake level by five feet and drain the swamp. You

be proud that people didn't have to choose between their right to vote and their health."

Vote by mail is a two-part process. First, ask for an application for an absentee ballot. (In Minneapolis call 612-673-3000 or email minneapolisabsentee@minneapolismn.gov. Fill it out and return promptly in the provided envelope. Ask for a ballot for the Aug. 9 primary election (vote for candidates in only ONE party), the Nov. 8 general election, or for both. (You must provide a postage stamp for the application.) Next, when you get your ballot(s), carefully read the instructions. You will need to have a witness for your ballot (mate, family member, neighbor). Decide on candidate choices before you mark your ballot. (You can't cross out on a ballot.) Put your ballot in the "Witness envelope" and put that envelope in the official envelope. Postage is free for returning ballots.

Joan Growe, Minnesota's sec-

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would eliminate the collapsing infrastructure around Lake Nokomis, end flooded basements and eliminate pumping.

State regulations say, "Dams not subject to the dam safety rules will still require state and federal permits if they involve filling of public waters or wetlands."

It shouldn't take a writ of mandamus and a district court order to force the Park Board to follow the law and do what's best for our parks.

We need to flocculate Minnehaha Creek before it gets to Lake

retary of state from 1975 to 1999, made voter access her mission. She helped push "motor voter" through the state legislature in 1987, so that people could register to vote at the same time they renewed their driver's license. Motor voter became national in 1995.

Growe's legacy continues with Steve Simon. In her inspiring and informative memoir, "Turn-out" (written with Star Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant), Growe says, "If one believes voting is a right, it follows that few if any circumstances should disqualify a citizen from eligibility to vote. Screening requirements that deny eligible people access to the polls are unacceptable. Election policies should aim to facilitate voting, not impede it."

Lydia Howell is a Minneapolis journalist, winner of Dallas Press Club and (Minnesota) Premack Awards for Public Interest Journalism.

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Hiawatha. Like Richfield at Taft Lake, we need a system to filter the water and take out the phosphorus that is making us sick. And we need a flocculation system and a grit chamber filtering phosphorus and trash out of the city's storm sewer system that dumps poison and trash into Lake Hiawatha.

We all want the best for our parks. We all want to get past this stinking mess we keep coming back to. But first, we're probably going to have to find a strong de-Schroederant.



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City on fast track to restructure itself



BY CAM GORDON

The mayor and City Council are moving quickly to restructure city government.

Substantial ordinance amendments, which have yet to be shared with the public, could be approved by the end of August. The timeline presented by Mayor Jacob Frey in June called for the public hearing on August 4 and approval on August 20.

Some of it is already underway.

On June 30, the council approved two new executive positions: a community safety commissioner and a city operations officer to replace the city coordinator.

Ordinance amendments were approved to create the position of city operations officer, with a salary of \$269,943 to \$320,000, and the position of community safety commissioner, with a salary of \$295,250 to \$350,000.

Both salaries exceed the cap of \$192,144 imposed by state law and will require a waiver. Both positions will report to the mayor.

The city operations officer will oversee the proposed new Office of Public Service which would include the 311/Service Center, City Assessor, Civil Rights Department, Communications, Community Planning and Economic Development, Finance and Property Services, the Health Department, Human Resources, Information Technology, Intergovernmental Relations, Minneapolis Convention Center, Neighborhood and Community Relations, Public Works and Regulatory Services.

Then, on July 7, Mayor Frey announced his nomination of Cedric Alexander for the new position of community safety commissioner. As proposed, the commissioner would oversee the new Office of Community Safety, which would include the fire and police departments, 911, the Office of Emergency Management, and a new Office of Neighborhood Safety that will replace, or possibly include, the Office of Violence Prevention now housed in the Health Department. Alexander will be considered for the position by the City Council at their August 4 meeting follow-

ing a hearing on Aug. 2.

The council also approved adding a city auditor position to the internal audit department and increased the department's budget by \$75,000 to do so.

When Frey announced his selection of Cedric Alexander for the safety commissioner, he said that government restructuring is "the most important thing I will probably ever do as mayor."

Council Member Linea Palmisano (Ward 13) has given notice that she is authoring the restructuring amendments to repeal Chapters 17, 21 and 25 that relate to the offices of city attorney, internal auditor, and city coordinator and adding new chapters to "provide for the government structure and its Executive and Administrative Departments, including the offices of Public Service, City Attorney, and Community Safety" consistent with the mayor's plan.

Presently, and historically, 10 departments report jointly to the mayor and council. The proposed reorganization reduces the number reporting directly to the mayor to four and limits the departments reporting directly to the council to two. The city attorney is one of the four who will report to the mayor but their relationship to the council is unclear.

Some council members are concerned.

Council Members Elliot Payne (Ward 1) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) said that they are concerned about a lack of resources to support the work of the City Council as the legislative body. Council Member Jason Chavez (Ward 9) said he "still believes the pathway forward is through a charter change." Council Member LaTrisha Vetaw (Ward 4) said that she "is afraid some departments, like health, will be lost."

"We have to be mindful that Council still plays a role in approving department heads and that we don't have a dilution of financial oversight," said Council Member Andrew Johnson (Ward 12). He wants to ensure that there is no change in the level of financial authority currently held by the council.

"Question #1 has been implemented for nearly seven months, there is no reason to rush this process," said Council Member Robin Wonsley (Ward 2), who was the lone "no" vote on approving the new positions. "I know the public wants to be involved in charting a path forward for our city."

At the June 18 council meeting, Wonsley asked the mayor about community engagement on the

proposal, and he highlighted the 2021 campaign and his work group. That work group was established in late 2021 without a single current, or newly elected, council member serving on it. None of its meetings were open to the public. In 2021, Question #1 won with 52.4% of the vote and was defeated in six out of the 13 wards.

"The mayor could take the time to work with Council and the public to shape an equitable transparent restructure package, instead he is rushing through an ordinance process to avoid public scrutiny," Wonsley wrote following that meeting. "The current proposal lacks robust programs and resources on the legislative side that Council needs to best serve constituents."

About lack of public participation, Wonsley said, "For comparison, the city did a multi-phased engagement process for the city's Transportation Action Plan that received thousands of comments and created a process that allowed the public to see how their feedback shaped adjustments in the proposals. The guiding principles of this government structure were offered by the mayor's Government

See Cam, page 13



*Old homes! old hearts! Upon my soul forever
Their peace and gladness lie like tears and laughter;
Like love they touch me, through the years that sever,
With simple faith; like friendship, draw me after
The dreamy patience that is theirs forever.*

Madison Julius Cawein

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CELEBRATE SUMMER ON BLOOMINGTON AVE.

Summer on Bloomington Avenue

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Retail shops on Bloomington Avenue

Mercado Central, a non-profit venue on the corner of Bloomington Avenue and Lake Street, contains several retail businesses. It serves as a business incubator specifically geared toward Latinos, as both business owners and customers. There has been some turnover among the vendors there, especially since the pandemic and civil unrest (during which Mercado Central sustained some of the worst vandalism but was fortunately not burned) but there is usually a good mix of clothing, jewelry and watches, shoes, florists, sporting equipment, general and specialty food stores, and more.

The Quilt Shop Co-op is a fabric and sewing supplies store that caters to quilters. As just a normal small business, the quilt shop (formerly called Glad Creations) has been there for over 40 years, but a little over three years ago, when it closed due to the owners' retirement, its loyal customer base got together and formed a consumer cooperative to buy it out. The Quilt Shop Co-op also sells finished quilts, as well as patterns and even kits, so if you think you might want to start a new hobby, they're there for you.

Another innovative sewing-related business on Bloomington Avenue is RETHINK Tailoring and Sewing Lounge at 3449 Bloomington Ave. This business combines "upcycling" worn clothing

into new clothing or other items, sewing new items (with used fabric) from patterns, a basic tailoring service (which is currently paused), classes in all of the above, and retail sales of their clever and attractive upcycled products. Now in the not-quite-post pandemic period, RETHINK is offering both in-person and virtual classes. Classes cover such indispensable skills as "Machine denim repair," "Take in waist on jeans," and "Intro to pockets." They also have kids' summer camps, going on now, and it's not too late to join.

KNO Woodworks at 4649 Bloomington builds, designs and sells wooden fences, pergolas and decks. They custom design solutions for privacy, shade, pet safety, curb appeal or whatever your needs. They



Reverie's parklet dining area

have been in business about 10 years and have a 5/5 rating on Google. Check out the enormous gallery of pictures on their website.

Irreverent Bookworm is an independent, queer-woman-owned bookstore selling new books, used books, book-related items, notebooks and journals, and tarot decks and similar items. For their used books, they offer store credit in exchange for your gently used books in categories that align with their customers, purpose and inventory. Although they don't appear to have any upcoming events at the moment, they have hosted book clubs and author events in the past and hopefully will again. Irreverent Bookworm is at 5163 Bloomington Ave. and is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Food and drink on Bloomington Avenue

Mercado Central, which I mentioned above under retail shops, is also all about food. A lot of successful Mexican and other Latino food businesses were incubated in Mercado Central, including Manny's Tortas, where I often got

lunch when I worked across the street at In the Heart of the Beast. (Manny's has graduated out of Mercado Central but can still be found at Midtown Global Market and other places.) A visit to Mercado Central may be in order to see what's up there these days.

A bit farther south is the busy corner of 35th and Bloomington, where you will find two really excellent (and really different) places to eat. May Day Cafe was closed for a long time due to the pandemic but is now open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday through Monday. May Day Cafe has been in business since 1996 and has some of the most scrumptious baked goods you'll find anywhere.

Across 35th Street is the second incarnation and location of the vegan restaurant and bar Reverie. They have a small but excellent list of wines, beers and ciders, mostly from local breweries, cideries and wineries. They are now serving weekend brunches as well as dinner. They do a brisk takeout business, and also have a large and comfortable patio.

See Bloomington, page 8



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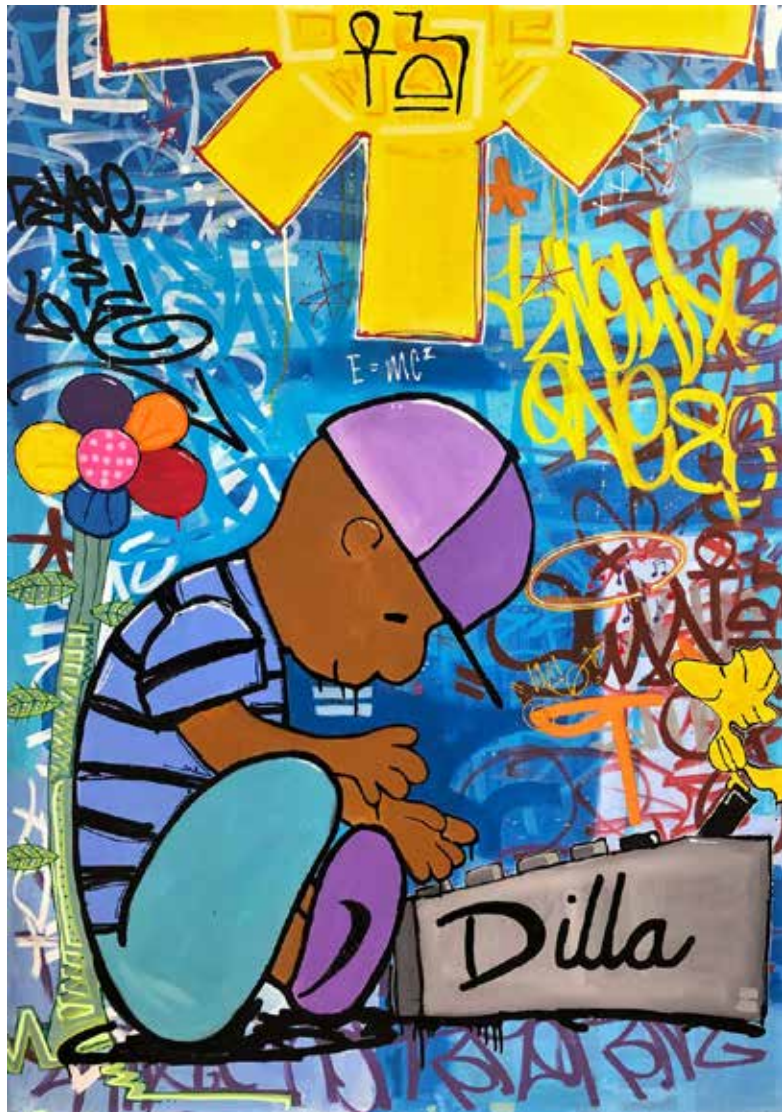
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CELEBRATE SUMMER ON BLOOMINGTON AVE.



Artwork for sale at Modus Locus

Bloomington, from page 7

A few blocks farther south is Mama Sheila's House of Soul, with buffet-style service. Mama Sheila's is one of the few places in Minnesota I have been to that takes me back to East Point, Ga., where I grew up eating soul food and not even knowing it, so I guess that means it's "authentic." It's good, that's all I can say.

Finally, at 5204 Bloomington Ave. there is Hot Plate. Another down-to-earth eatery of some longevity, Hot Plate is a breakfast place, open from 8 a.m. every day but Tuesday, and closing at 1 p.m. on weekdays, 2 p.m. on weekends.

Services, organizations and nonprofits on Bloomington Avenue

Bloomington Avenue has a larger-than-average number of services, service organizations and nonprofits along its length in Minneapolis. Right at the start of the avenue, at 2001 Bloomington Ave., you'll find Minneapolis's most well-known community clinic. Pronounced "kook," its actual name is Community-Uni-

versity Health Care Center or CUHCC. Besides being a community clinic, it's also a teaching clinic for the University of Minnesota Medical School and Dental School. CUHCC is run by some really excellent people. They will walk you through applying for MNsure or MinnesotaCare or Medicaid, and if you're too high-income for any programs, but still low-income, they have their own discount sliding scale you can apply for.

East of Bloomington Avenue, at 2600 E. 38th St., is Friendship Academy of the Arts (FAA), a tuition-free, K-8 public charter school with a private school feel. First opened in 2001, FAA has continued to grow each year, and now has two campuses, one for kindergarten through first grade, and the other for students in grades 2-8. Their fine arts-focused curriculum provides students with daily art experiences. FAA's teachers and arts specialists not only help students learn about their own arts heritage and the importance of fine arts to all cultures, but also integrate the arts throughout the core cur-

riculum subjects of reading, math, science, social studies, physical education and health. At Friendship Academy of the Arts, children develop the skills and attitudes to build lifelong meaning through music, dance, theater and visual art.

Another interesting organization back on Bloomington Avenue and 35th Street is Greenbrier Montessori, a micro-school for children ages three through six. Greenbrier Montessori is part of the Wildflower School Network which is described as "an ecosystem of decentralized Montessori micro-schools that support children, teachers, and parents."

Modus Locus is on this same corner, right next to Reverie. Modus Locus is an art gallery but several other things in addition. It is a co-office space with two current resident offices on site. It is an event space that you can rent for special art shows, yoga classes, film screenings, workshops, rehearsals or a variety of other uses. It's a community educational resource with classes on a variety of topics.



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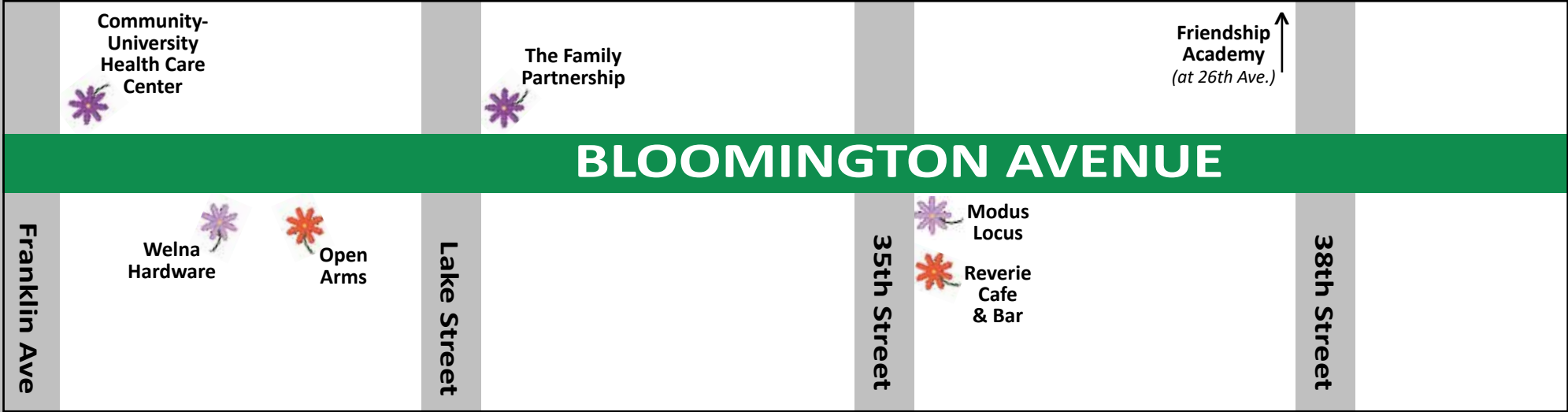
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Greenbrier kids visit Powderhorn chickens on a field trip.

They also sell art.

There are a couple of bike shops or repair places on Bloomington. One of the oldest and most respected is No-komis Cycle. It's a private business but very community-oriented (as the best bike

shops are). It was founded in 1994 as initially just a repair shop. Now they also sell bikes – new ones, custom-built ones, and electric bikes – as well as bike accessories. And they have a long-standing tradition of the Monday Night Ride.

Every Monday from March to September, weather permitting, bike riders set off at 7 p.m. from the shop to do a circuit around nearby lakes.

The other one is more consciously a community-led organization. This is The Grease Pit, which we have covered for the last few years, but due to COVID and other forces, the story has changed a bit every year. The Grease Pit started as a “not for profit DIY bike repair shop.” Basically, it was a bike repair tool library with an all-volunteer team of helpers. People who used their services were encouraged to give back in time, money or a bike. They recycled and sold cheap bikes to fund the project, pure uncontrolled mutual aid. As might be expected, in the time of the uprising in 2020, The Grease Pit became a hub of all sorts of help beyond bike repair. It's now settling back into something more like its earlier form. The shop itself is open Wednesday and Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 3 to 6 p.m.



A segment of the mural at Community-University Health Care Center



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EVENTS

Community Listening Sessions on Police Union Contract Negotiations

Wednesday, Aug. 3, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Whittier Park Recreation Center
425 W. 26th St., Mpls.

Monday, Aug. 15, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park
Recreation Center

4055 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.

The city is holding three community listening sessions to receive input on topics related to a new three-year contract with the Police Federation of Minneapolis. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

This past spring Mayor Jacob Frey convened an internal workgroup focused on collaboration and developing a shared set of priorities in advance of the 2023-2025 police union contract negotiations. The group, comprised of Council President Andrea Jenkins, Council Member Lisa Goodman, Council Member Aisha Chughtai, Council Member LaTrisha Vetaw and city staff, meets monthly and is hosting these listening sessions as an extension of its work.

In these sessions, the city will explain the negotiation process and hold workgroups where people can collaborate on ideas related to the contract. This process will help inform the city in its negotiations with the Police Federation. Information on the negotiations is available on the city's website: <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/hr/labor-agreements/contract-negotiations/>.

gov/government/departments/hr/labor-agreements/contract-negotiations/.

Earlier this year, the city approved a three-year collective bargaining agreement that retroactively covered years union members worked without a contract. That agreement expires Dec. 31, 2022.

Summer Block Party

Thursday, Aug. 4, 4 to 8 p.m.

Lake Street & Chicago Avenue

810 E. Lake St., Mpls.

Join Lake Street Council in celebrating summer on Lake Street with a fun community block party! Lake Street residents, business owners and visitors are welcome to enjoy family-friendly art activities, delicious food, and more. Event attendees will be able to go on a guided walking tour of the nearby vibrant murals. Free and open to all. More info at <https://www.facebook.com/events/754697968988576>.

Green Roof Poetry:

Coalition of the Possible

Thursday, Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m.

Walker Art Center

725 Vineland Pl., Mpls.

What if a better world is ahead of us? How can our imaginations lead us to action? Curator Chris Fischbach invites four local writers to collaborate on imagining a climate and ecological future, not shaped by doomsaying, but rather a roadmap of storytelling and poetry that visualizes a world worth fighting for. Victoria Blanco,

Seth Bockley, Douglas Kearney and Halee Kirkwood present their projections of the future of the Twin Cities and beyond, inspiring all of us to see ourselves as a coalition of the possible.

FREE COPIES of "Braiding Sweetgrass" and other books are generously provided to early arrivals to the night, courtesy of Milkweed Editions! In addition, Birchbark Books will have a table of a curated selection of books handpicked by the curator and writers. Free! ASL interpretation will be provided. This outdoor event will move inside if it's rainy or too hot. More information at <http://walkerart.org/calendar/2022/green-roof-poetry-coalition-of-the-possible-curated-by-chris-fischbach>.

31st Annual Powderhorn Art Fair

Aug. 6 – 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Powderhorn Park

3400 15th Ave. S., Mpls.

Make plans to attend the Powderhorn Art Fair on August 6 and 7, back (in person!) at Powderhorn Park. The Powderhorn Art Fair is proud to feature artwork across 20 mediums from over 150 artists across the U.S. Whether you're just starting an art collection or a seasoned buyer, we have the perfect piece for you. New in 2022: Don't miss the opening ceremony, immersive art installations, and the Family Zone! Check out food vendors serving up sweet and savory delights and the Reverie Beer Garden with music from KRSN Radio. Learn more at www.powderhornartfair.com.

powderhornartfair.com.

MPRB's Group Bike Rides for Teens

Through August

Make friends and explore the city on FREE rides, led by MPRB naturalists. Bikes and helmets provided!

Take to the trails and explore Minneapolis green spaces on two wheels. Youth ages 12 to 17 can develop safe bicycling skills, navigate the city's outstanding trail system and have fun while making new friends. All rides are FREE and led by MPRB naturalists. Bicycles and required helmets are provided (riders can bring their own equipment).

For youth ages 12-17 who can ride a pedal bike without training wheels. Rides run 1 to 2 hours and cover about 2 to 8 miles. Wear summer clothes and bring a water bottle – it's hot out! At least two adult supervisors ride with each group.

Locations and times:

Upper South Minneapolis

East Phillips Park, 2307 S. 17th

Ave., Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Stewart Park, 2700 S. 12th Ave.,

Thursdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Lower South Minneapolis

Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Ave.

S., Wednesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Southwest Minneapolis

Whittier Park, 425 W. 26th St.,

Mondays 5 to 7 p.m.

Ready to ride? Sign-up is encouraged but not required:

Online: bit.ly/BikeWithANaturalist

Phone: 612-230-6400 (Mon. – Fri.,

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

In person: Visit any recreation center and talk to MPRB staff

The Autoptic Festival

Exhibition – Saturday, Aug. 13, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Coffman Memorial Union

300 Washington Ave. SE, Mpls.

Panel Discussions – Sunday, Aug. 14, 1 to 6 p.m. (also livestreamed)

Minneapolis College of Art & Design

2501 Stevens Ave., Mpls.

The Autoptic Festival is an independent bi-annual festival celebrating the best of DIY print culture, with an emphasis on comics, zines, posters and other printed materials. The Autoptic Festival will include panels, workshops, interviews, book signings, parties and a day-long floorshow where over 120 artists can display their art, sell their work and meet the public. This year's festival will feature the debut of our new two-day split schedule format with our floor show exhibition on Saturday and all of our panels and programming on Sunday. On Saturday, Aug. 13, we'll have exhibitors tabling at The Coffman Memorial Union on the beautiful and commuter friendly campus of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Then, on Sunday, Aug. 14, we'll be hosting a day of panels and programming at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in Minneapolis, in a hybrid, in-person/remote format.

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POWDERHORN EDITION

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

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

Southside Pride

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / POWDERHORN EDITION

year include Hyena Hell, Anders Nilson, Ari Mulch, Tom Kaczynski, John Vasquez-Meijas, Jim Keefe, Sean Knickerbocker, Caroline Cash, Kameron White and Zak Sally. Questions: info@autoptic.org. More info at www.autoptic.org.

HomeHelpMN program open for applications

Deadline extended through 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 or calling the Call Center at 1-800-388-3226. That website and phone number are also where they can apply for funds. 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.

Volunteer for the Greenway!

Can you spare a few hours to help support the trail and our community? Consider volunteering for the Midtown Bike + Walk Ambassadors for a walk or bike ride along Lake Street and the Greenway this summer. Help welcome visitors to the area, provide directions, and visit small businesses to show

support. Greenway users and Lake Street business owners tell us they really appreciate our Ambassadors. Meet new people and help support our community! Walks and rides go out every week. More information here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQQAJqHhiyUFV1v4Er-OrCrZXDZqFwwQLLm43s4MH-vKqgFBw/viewform>

Friday Night Summer Movie Series

Fridays, doors open at 5 p.m. Movie starts at 6 p.m.

Sabathani Community Center 310 E. 38th St., Mpls. Hosted by Agape Movement, theagapemovement.com For more info contact Bridgette Stewart at (612) 824-4017 or agapebwestewart@gmail.com.

Fulton Farmers Market Saturdays through Oct. 29

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 49th St. & Chowen Ave. S., Mpls. <https://www.neighborhood-rootsmn.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) <https://www.neighborhood-rootsmn.org/>

'Posturing' by Joshua McGarvey Through Oct. 30

Minneapolis Institute of Art U.S. Bank Gallery 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. "Posturing" is a multimedia installation by Minneapolis-based interdisciplinary artist Joshua McGarvey that explores the abstraction of truth. Through sculptural installations, the exhibition invites visitors to consider how museums like Mia often display objects out of their original context to imbue different meanings. The exhibi-

tion also features video work that experiments with the concept of truth and the presentation of self. Presented as part of Mia's Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program (MAEP), the exhibition will be on view from July 23 through October 30, 2022, in Mia's U.S. Bank Gallery. artsmia.org

Scott Lloyd Anderson Oil Paintings Through Aug. 27

Doug Flanders & Associates 5025 France Ave. S., Mpls. DF&A will present the second solo exhibition featuring the work of plein air painter Scott Lloyd Anderson. Scott Lloyd Anderson is a quintessential landscape painter of the 21st century. In addition to interpreting the beauty of nature or the vitality of the cityscape, Scott has explored that area where so much of our experience lies — the suburbs. He proves it is possible to paint a good picture of anything by combining detailed realism with abstract playfulness. flandersart.com

'Local Vibes'

Wednesdays at 8 p.m. CST On YouTube

"Local Vibes" — come for the music, stay for the stories. "Local Vibes" is a one-of-a-kind show documenting and creating space for the Twin Cities hip-hop community and their voices through performance and interview. It's music that sounds like Minnesota, and it's only on the Vanguard, Radio K's 24-hour, college-student curated online hip-hop stream. "Local Vibes" opens a door into the vibrant local hip-hop scene that you won't be able to find

anywhere else on commercial airwaves. The show's unique performance setup and fun yet informative interviews make for memorable content you won't find anywhere else in Minnesota. You'll hear voices that are enhancing the Twin Cities culturally and socially, and are testing the bounds of music as we know it. Tune in to watch interviews from your favorite Twin Cities artists, and to discover up-and-coming artists that you'll want on your radar. Twin Cities hip-hop has something special to offer, and we want to let you in on the ground floor. The Vanguard is a student-curated, uncensored, 24-hour online stream dedicated to hip-hop. It's one of the first non-commercial stations in the county to exclusively feature hip-hop, and it's the only place to hear hip-hop 24/7 in the Twin Cities. Tune in to watch "Local Vibes" in a late-night talk show format on Radio K's YouTube channel each Wednesday at 8 p.m. CST and catch updates on the

Vanguard's Instagram (@radiok-vanguard). Stream The Vanguard here: <https://www.radiok.org/the-vanguard/>.

NAMI Mental Health Support Groups Online

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a variety of free online peer support groups for adults and young adults living with a mental illness, their families, friends, spouses/partners, as well as parents of children and teens. African American, GLBTQ and BIPOC community focused groups are also offered. Led by trained peer facilitators, the support groups help individuals and families learn coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. Find a complete listing of group meetings and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Support Groups" or go straight to <https://namimn.org/support/nami-minnesota-support-groups/>.



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EVENTS

Single Best Day Ever

Saturday, Aug. 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.

Are you ready for the most exciting, fun, inspiring day of your entire summer? The Single Best Day Ever is a pop-up, traveling camp experience that partners with churches across the diocese to engage the children and youth not only in their churches, but in their entire cities. A one-day experience allows people of all ages and levels of safety mitigation to join in a fun and transformational experience that's also highly flexible. Open to ages 5 to 17, The Single Best Day Ever is an immersive, single day camp experience

that engages kids' souls, minds and bodies. Plus, it's going to be fun—like, a lot of fun. Learn more and register at <https://episcopalmn.org/events/youth/single-best-day-ever-st-marks-cathedral-minneapolis>.

A Listening Ear: Mental Health for Everyone

Wednesday, 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 the 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>.

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 minneapolisfriends.org for more information. All are welcome!

Healing Minnesota Stories Open Sacred Site Tours

Sunday, Oct. 2, 1 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 30, 1 to 5 p.m.

Church of St. Peter

1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy., St. Paul While dozens of private Sacred Sites Tours have taken place for groups this year, the Minnesota Council of Churches is happy to announce two open-to-the-public tours, led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican) and Kelly Sherman Conroy (Oglala Lakota). The tours offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through storytelling and experiencing the sites in silence/meditation/reflection. Learn more about how you can participate in Healing Minnesota Stories by absorbing the sacred narratives of Minnesota places. Get more info and register at <http://mnchurches.org/what-we-do/healing-minnesota-stories>.

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 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. 38th St., Mpls.

Food Hub

Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods.

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Born with a mission

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

Steve Floyd is a man with a heart for others.

He has raised four children—the fifth is still under his supervision; he nurtures dozens of other youth through the Agape Movement and through his work as a mental health counselor at Change, Inc.; he makes award-winning photographs; he practices healthy living to support his transplanted kidney; he travels the globe; and he has connected to thousands over his love for basketball. There are so many areas that he tends to. His life is complex but not complicated. He exudes a rare serenity.

Co-founder of the Agape Movement, formed in the 1980s, Floyd has spent the past 40-plus years helping to bring love, safety, inspiration and opportunity into the community, particularly to former gang members as they find new paths for their lives.

Currently, Floyd goes out almost nightly with Agape members as they create a peaceful presence in the streets. There are always situations to deescalate. Agape also offers its non-violent presence in the schools, replacing the armed police that used to patrol the halls until June of 2020 when the MPS board voted to cut its contract with the Minneapolis Police Department.

Floyd, who has been to Africa many times, organizes trips for young Black men to visit Senegal in West Africa through the Agape's Rite of Passage program. Their latest trip was last October and November. Floyd takes them to see the shores from which captured Africans were shipped to North America. He knows how Black culture has been destroyed. His compassion for himself and those who share his history leads him to work toward healing.

Steve Floyd was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. His 17-year-old mother struggled, had no one to lean on, was abusive. His father drank a lot, went to Vietnam, was decorated for bravery, responded violently when he was called the N-word (he used a firearm to destroy property) and spent nine years in prison for it.

Steve grew up with three sisters and five younger brothers. Since their dad "wasn't in the home enough to provide the guidance, love and care needed by six young men," Steve, as the oldest, took on the task. He became the man in his brothers' lives. His brothers were

all "in groups the equivalent of gangs, but they didn't call themselves that." They were basically neighborhoods that fought other neighborhoods. Now, many years later, all of them have ended up OK.

Growing up, Steve always envied his friends who went home at suppertime because their dads would be there. He didn't have a dad to go home to. One of the themes I've heard Floyd express a number of times is that he wants to provide his kids and other kids with everything he didn't have.

As a kid, Steve lived for basketball. Just loved it. He loved the game so much that he got the idea to create a basketball court by burning down the family garage, which was in ruins and not in use anyway. Nobody was hurt and when the rubble was cleared his mother wondered what to do with all that space. Steve innocently suggested, "Maybe we could build a basketball court." Years later it came out who was responsible for the fire, but by then it was water under the bridge.

In his junior year of high school Steve got cut from the basketball team, a political decision. He was so distressed he dropped out of school—on a Monday. That Friday he got into an altercation and "a bullet grazed my temple." It scared him enough to start praying, and the next Sunday he went to church, which was all new to him because his family didn't go to church.

The next day Steve went back to school. One day he was reinstated on the team.

He was invited to attend a church camp where he thought there would be basketball, but it was all religious. He didn't behave very well at the camp, but then he started thinking about sin. He had stolen food stamps from his mom (even though he had used them to buy food for people at the park), he had set the garage on fire, and he was fighting all the time. At the camp he had stolen T-shirts and tried to let the horses out. His soul-searching led him to the conclusion that he didn't like the church because it used fear to control people, but he liked Jesus. He decided he would change and follow Jesus' teachings.

Floyd went to college at the Assemblies of God North Central Bible Institute in Minneapolis (now North Central University), where he studied theology and played basketball. He was all-American in basketball, and

after graduation he stayed on for two more years to coach the sport.

Steve didn't like the business aspect of the church, the corporate ladder. He was more interested in basketball—and helping people.

During college he had been inspired by country preacher David Wilkerson, whose book and later film adaptation, "The Cross and the Switchblade," told of Wilkerson's calling to go to New York City and bring love and hope to gang members there. Floyd was on his way to Detroit to do a similar kind of work when Pastor Art Erickson from Park Avenue United Methodist invited him to work with youth in the neighborhood.

Just as he was getting started as a leader of youth, Floyd's father, who had never recovered from Vietnam, was beaten to death in Chicago, a murder that was never solved.

From then on, Floyd has used his considerable energy to nurture young people who might not otherwise have a chance. All the difficulties and tragedy of his youth were converted to a mentality of compassion.

At Park Avenue he saw many of the kids "drifting toward gang membership" and he wanted to get them out of their four- to eight-block area so he took them camping to Mexico, to Washington, D.C., and eventually to Africa. He wanted to show them other options. He knew from trips to Europe in college how much travel can change your worldview.

Floyd saw many needs that he responded to. He started doing presentations in schools about unconditional love (agape), in which he told funny stories about each ethnic group, making fun of the stereotypes, and then talked about all coming together to value each other. He presented a vision. "Kids would run out crying. It was hitting and challenging them where they were. Hundreds were marching in Agape marches," he said. Now, in 2022, because of COVID, the assemblies have slowed down. In 1987 he started a basketball league called Youth in the City, followed in 1990 by another league that included other sports besides basketball: S.T.R.E.E.T.S. (Striving to reach educational excellence through sports).

In 1985, when the Disciples gang executed 16-year-old Christine Kreitz, who they thought had "snitched," Steve found himself speaking on TV

leaders should be making decisions when credibility and public trust is at an all-time low, the public deserves better."

Wonsley also raised concerns about the lack of any independent legal counsel to advise council members.

Given the many concerns raised by council members about the potential significance

of this restructuring to further divide and eliminate checks and balances in our government, the council could decide to take a slower and more inclusive process going forward. If not, it could be written, approved, and enacted into law by the end of the month.



Steve Floyd

and radio. He was explaining that gangs formed because kids needed support and protection they didn't get from adults in their lives.

Because of Floyd's close association with gangs, he was under investigation by the FBI.

He joined The City Inc. where he started Champions of Agape, in which gang members from all different gangs worked together on life skills, went camping, took trips, built relationships. This valuable work was interrupted in 1992 when Police Officer Jerry Haaf was murdered by the Vice Lords gang.

From 1995 to 1998, the murder rate went up; there were three to four homicides per week. City Attorney Amy Klobuchar hired Steve to be an advocate for victims of gang violence and homicide because he had credibility with all gangs.

He would get calls to show up as police were putting up the yellow tape. His role was to calm people down and wait until the family arrived.

"It allowed me to understand the pain of mothers, the experience of delivering a child. It

would get quiet, and you knew the mother was coming. The scream would be the same as the scream of giving birth. The hardest thing to do was hear the mother. I understood her pain. She had to get to her baby."

He went through funerals and trials until one day he couldn't stop crying. He went into a deep depression and his colleagues encouraged him to take time off. After that breakdown, he traveled a lot more and began his passion for photography. He had to get away from "dealing with so much homicide."

Over the years he developed a deep connection to Africa and in 2017 considered moving there. When he first saw the slave houses in Senegal, it brought about a "change in his choices as far as Christianity went. Christians promoted slavery; they used the Bible and scriptures for control." He moved away from organized Christianity and focused on "the rhythm of the universe, animals and plants as well as Jesus, his belief in humanity and serving humanity." Floyd states, "Agape in action, that's my religion."

Cam, from page 6

Structure Work Group and the public safety plan was based on recommendations from the mayor's Public Safety Work Group. Both work groups were hand-picked by the mayor and met behind closed doors with little to no opportunity for public comment. This is not how elected



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Graffiti – art and crime

BY KAY SCHROVEN

Crime

Graffiti is a polarizing issue. Some regard it as art that should be preserved, perhaps even in a museum, like Banksy, whose work was recently on display in North Minneapolis and who remains unidentified. It is said that he remains unidentified to protect himself from authorities who may charge him with the crime of graffiti. It is estimated that he is now worth 50 million British pounds. Others regard graffiti as vandalism, a crime punishable by law. Several business owners on East Lake Street have shared with me that they have a weekly budget for removing graffiti from their walls, windows, etc. I am not thrilled when I find my garage tagged and have to paint over it (city ordinance). The city of Minneapolis regards graffiti as a crime (Statute 617.90) and defines it as “Unauthorized markings of paint, dye or similar substances, or the unauthorized etchings or scratching of surfaces of such real or personal property any of which markings, scratching or etching is visible

from premises that are open to the public.” Public properties and owners of private properties can bring legal action and damages may be recovered up to three times the cost of restoring

\$539,420 on prevention, removal and enforcement. The city has four levels of conviction, considering factors such as damage, risk and value. Sentences can involve both fines (up to \$10,000)

mans and animals (horses, deer, bulls), the beauty around them, and the hunting activities which dominated their lives. These images demonstrated fantastic imagination, such as unicorns.

“Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.” – Banksy

Miguel Quiñones grew up in Southwest Chicago, the son of Mexican immigrants. He is now a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Miguel remembers how graffiti spoke to him at an early age: “It was colorful and I could relate to it. It was the visual art of my neighborhood.” He started drawing in the styles he saw around him. He had a close friend who was experimenting with photography. Together they explored sights heavy with graffiti and took photos. Miguel says, “You don’t have to be rich or go to art school, all you need is some spray paint.” They were careful about where they put their projects, intending to avoid criminal charges, “so we only worked sites already full of graffiti and off the beaten path such as industrial sites and abandoned buildings,” he said. They then discovered an alley in their neighborhood between two buildings that seemed to be a “laboratory” for graffiti. It became Miguel’s go-to place. There he could observe others’ work and add his own.

Miguel grew accustomed to his work being painted over by others and came to regard his alley as a place of “stories and expression – a living, breathing evolution – a voice.” Graffiti is often the voice of rebellion, social commentary and politics. It has been described as the voice of the unheard and disenfranchised. Miguel points out that originally hip-hop was regarded as noise and overlooked, but it evolved into a billion-dollar industry, its worth estimated at \$15.7 billion in 2016 with a projected growth rate of \$4.08 billion year by year. He further points out that sometimes hip-hop and graffiti become entrances to the arts, maybe the only entrance for some low-income urban youth.

There are many types and styles of graffiti such as bomb-

See Graffiti, page 15



We can change the world

the damage. Or a defendant may be ordered to restore the property. The parents of underage offenders can be held responsible (Statute 540.18). In 2016 the Minneapolis Graffiti Abatement and Enforcement program spent

and jail time (up to five years) and are most often charged as misdemeanors.

Art

Since 2020, Minneapolis has become more familiar with graffiti, murals and tagging. The murder of George Floyd, followed by civil unrest, seems to have created a need for residents to express themselves. The portrait of George Floyd at Chicago and 38th Street has been seen all across the country and beyond. The image symbolizes a variety of themes including justice – especially racial justice – police brutality, legal and human matters, such as compassion and humanitarianism.

Symbolism and abstraction have been around for a very long time, as has the human need for self-expression. Primitive peoples drew on cave walls and rocks. Anthropologists have identified images created by Neanderthals and Denisovans as far back as 64,000 years ago in the caves of La Pasiega, Maltravieso and Ardales of Spain. These cave dwellers depicted images of hu-

The oldest known cave painting is of a life-size wild pig depicted in Indonesia 45,500 years ago. Anthropologists summarize that these early cave dwellers wanted to express feelings and depict their lives and daily activities. Perhaps it was to remind them of something, to remember something or someone. It is believed via the study of hieroglyphics and petroglyphs that such images were precursors to what we now know as language. The oldest prehistoric art was not found in a cave, however, but rather on a rock in Africa, estimated to be 73,000 years old. Alistair W.G. Pike, the head of archaeological sciences at the University of Southampton in the U.K., points out the common use of symbolism and the spiritual significance of these ancient images. Even in North America into the 19th century, cave paintings have been identified in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. Fortunately, caves are perfect homes for these paintings, preserving them and allowing us to study them so many years later.

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Graffiti from page 14

ing, burning, tagging, letters, character and gang. Styles include wild, stencil, sticker, slap, blockbuster and so on. Cities known for their graffiti include New York, Mexico City, Los Angeles, Berlin, Prague, Melbourne, San Francisco, Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Delhi. At @149st you can find documented history of New York City's subway graffiti. Hardcore graffiti artists pride themselves on the risk they take, looking down on those who ask for permission. Well-known graffiti artists include Lady Pink, Vhils, Toxic, Keith Haring and Seen (Richard Miranda), who is considered the godfather of graffiti. If you Goo-

gle Minneapolis graffiti you will find 34 images, with 28 of the artists identified and 6 not identified. Graffiti supply sites offer 11 categories of products and 17 different brands.

A conversation piece

If you are a fan of Greek food you probably know about Christos award-winning restaurant and catering, in the Whittier neighborhood since 1988. Owned by Gus Parpas, he and his staff bring delicious, authentic Greek dishes with specialties from the island of Cyprus, ambience of an island taverna, reasonable prices and quality service to their customers.

During the riots of 2020, as anger and frustrations grew in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, Christos, like many businesses, boarded up their property against the violence and destruction that was taking place. As protesters marched down Nicollet Avenue, a young man entered the restaurant and asked to see the manager. When Carol Parpas met with him he asked if he could paint on the plywood boards covering the windows. He seemed polite and determined. Carol gave permission and off he went. When he finished his creation he returned and asked if Carol would like to see it. She was impressed. They chatted; he was offered a meal and then went on his way.

The protests on Nicollet Avenue were peaceful and damage was minimal. The boards were taken down and a contractor moved them to a storage room intending to repurpose them at a later date. One of the boards was eventually used for another project, then returned, but in two pieces. Fortunately the art work was not damaged. For the next year and a half the boards collected dust until Gus came



Miguel's graffiti

across them while rummaging for something else. He removed the boards, set them up against a wall and admired the work for some time. He felt that the artist had conveyed the anguish caused by George Floyd's murder at the hands of former MPD officers. Gus also saw hope in the artist's work, a colorful, turbulent, compelling piece. Rather than letting it languish in a storage room it was decided that the art should be shared. It now hangs on the back wall of the restaurant's dining room, raw and unvarnished, a reminder

of the issues unleashed during that stormy time and our duty to continue to address them. The graffiti brightens the room and is a conversation piece, a history lesson. In spite of a photo taken of the artist at work at Christos, he has not been identified and remains a mystery.

We are social beings. Whether an image appears in a gallery, a cave, a building, an office, a living room or on the street, it's clear that we humans have a need to express ourselves and share our experiences.

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