



**We build Pride on the Southside**

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**May  
2023**

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## Cam's Corner



### A failure to communicate?

BY CAM GORDON

Many people were surprised when, on March 29, the city of Minneapolis announced plans to rehouse a police station at one of two locations in the Southside's 3rd Precinct.

According to the announcement, from July 2020 to December 2022 city staff had been examining potential sites for a new police station and had settled on two that met their criteria. One is at the former police facility at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. and the other is a vacant city-owned lot at 2600 Minnehaha Ave.

The required criteria are that a building be located within the precinct (bounded by the Mississippi River, the city's southern border, and highways I-35W and I-94,) be 1.5 acres or larger, have two points of entry, be zoned properly, and be easily accessed. The officers currently assigned to serve the precinct are now stationed in a city-owned building at 309 2nd Ave. S. downtown. City staff said a station in the area is needed to improve "police presence, partnerships and

See Cam, page 5



## Ward 8 City Council race: Jenkins vs. Stevenson

BY KAY SCHROVEN

Sometimes out of tragedy something meaningful is rendered. This is how Soren Stevenson describes his brave decision to run for a seat on the City Council representing the 8th Ward. Stevenson is running against Andrea Jenkins who has represented the ward

since 2018 and has been City Council president since 2022.

On May 31, 2020, in the wake of the murder of George Floyd by former officers of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), Stevenson was injured during a civil protest at University Avenue and the on-ramp for I-35W. He was shot by

a kinetic impact projectile (aka a nonlethal weapon/rubber bullet) by a Minneapolis police officer and lost his left eye. This experience led him to re-examine his city, himself and how he might contribute to what he views as an obvious need for change. Stevenson seeks to bring meaning to his experience by contributing to

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## MPD and the consent decree

BY KAY SCHROVEN

One thousand and forty days after the murder of George Floyd by a former Minneapolis police officer, the city has a settlement agreement, a legally binding consent decree. A consent decree is a court order that establishes an enforceable plan for sustainable reform. Minneapolis is not the first city to have a consent decree – the cities of Seattle, New Orleans, Portland, Newark and Albuquerque also have them, to name a few.

The agreement is in response to a two-year investigation conducted by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR), which revealed what some have known for a long while – that "there is a pattern of race discrimination in the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) that dates back at least a decade." Upon review of 700 hours of body camera footage, the report states that "Black people in Minneapolis are far more likely to be stopped, searched and arrested than white people." Black people make up about 19% of the city's population. From 2017 to 2020, 78% of police searches involved Black residents. The report further states that there is pervasive evidence of officers using slurs to demean Black people and women. Since Floyd's murder, the city of Minneapolis, the state and the federal Department of Justice have been involved in efforts to overhaul policing in the city. There have been numerous studies, both formal and informal, as well as meetings upon meetings involving the City Council, various communities, police, leaders, activists, academics and administrators. The city and the state, alone met more than 30 times over this agreement. The impact is yet to be seen. What we have is a 144-page document known as the settlement agreement, a court-enforceable agreement with a four-year term enforceable by a judge, aimed at revamping policing in Minneapolis. The City Council approved the new agreement on March 31 by a unanimous vote. Two million dollars have been allocated to get the process started.

Rebecca Lucero, commissioner of the MDHR, described the new agreement as a "powerful tool for change." Mayor Frey said, "It charts a clear road map for the future." Attorney Ben Crump, lead counsel for the Floyd family, called it "monumental." His co-counsel Antonio Romanucci praised its scope.

### What's in it?

The agreement addresses a long list of matters related to policing, including use of body cameras, mental health, officer wellness and compliance, use of force with chemicals and tasers, training, intervention with respect to officers reporting officers, protocol for paramedics, pretextual traffic stops, weapons, mar-

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# Celebrate Spring

34th Avenue  
Pages 2 & 3

38th Street  
Pages 7, 8 & 9

Minnehaha  
Pages 10, 11 & 12

No Place  
Like Home  
Pages 17, 18 & 19



# Celebrate Spring on 34th Avenue

## Spring on 34th Avenue

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

South 34th Avenue functions as a sort of Main Street for the tight-knit but diverse community around Lake Nokomis. The pandemic and economic disruption caused some closings but storefronts at the 34th Avenue and 50th Street hub and surrounding areas don't stay vacant for long. Five years ago there was a quite different lineup of businesses on 34th Avenue and 50th Street, but the ones there now seem strong and popular.

The corner space (5001 34th Ave. S.) is a spacious restaurant with a three-season patio. Although we have fond memories of its previous incarnation, Al Vento, Casa Maria is proving to be a more than worthy successor, having gained a loyal following in the few years they've been there. Their hours are 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday for the bistro menu (no reservations, eat inside, take out, or delivered). Then there is a weekend brunch, a fancy fixed-price, five-course affair for \$35 including beverages.

The hours for brunch are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. They also serve a patio dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings, with the same hours but only by reservation.

Casa Maria's bistro menu includes most of the Mexican favorites you would expect, as well as a few surprises and creations of their own, like the esquites (street corn), carne asada fries, and their own cauliflower and walnut chorizo for vegetarian choices. The patio dinner menu includes more formal fare, such as a 12-ounce rib eye carne asada dinner plate, a salmon dinner with almonds, fennel slaw and roasted pepper, and for dessert, a choice of churros with ice cream or flourless chocolate cake. The most interesting, though, is the brunch menu, which consists mostly of things you don't find on other Mexican menus around here. They also have a full bar, with cerveza, vino and cocteles.



Affogato from Crema Coffee + Cream

les. These are available for an extra charge at brunch, and for half price between 4 and 5 p.m.

Farther down the block is a true newcomer - Crema Coffee + Cream. Open seven days a week in the morning and afternoon, they serve coffee for people who love coffee, and the usual adjacent drinks like tea, chai and steamers. They also have a small selection of

delicious pastry items from Marc Heu Patisserie (often sold out by afternoon) and soft-serve gelato. It's mostly a to-go place and quite tiny, but they have some Adirondack chairs (inside or outside, depending on the weather!) if you want to linger.

Between these two bookends of the block are Asa's Bakery, which we covered previously, and a small private gym/studio. That would be Paddlesculpt, now known as Noko Strength, which is coming to its 10-year anniversary on 34th Avenue. They have added a few trainers and classes, and branched into virtual training during the pandemic (a few of these, particularly yoga, are still available) but founder Dori Johnson and crew have persisted and thrived.

A few blocks south, at 5501 34th Ave., is the Vegan East Bakery. This is not a full-service restaurant like the main Vegan East on Lyndale. There is no seating, and they carry only cakes and cupcakes and other baked dessert items, which you can buy online for pickup later or just purchase on-site. Their hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to all items being vegan, they have many gluten-free options.

Apart from restaurants and businesses, the neighborhood around 34th Avenue and 50th Street has a lot of the institutions that make a locale livable, such as churches, libraries, parks



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and multi-family housing. Two neighboring churches share a lot in common. Both are evangelical protestant congregations, both are over 90 years old and were founded by Scandinavian newcomers and, most importantly, both have survived to at least 2023, in a time when churches are closing all around.

The first one is Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod, one of the more conservative Lutheran synods). Located at 3430 E. 51st St., their current pastor is Rev. Jared Yogerst. If you want to check this church out, I recommend starting with their Facebook page, which has months' worth of live recorded services and the most up to date contact information. Faith hosts a number of weekly or monthly activities, including AA and NA groups, a book club, a senior exercise class, and a Blind Ministry.

The second one is Riverside Evangelical Free Church, which is 116 years old, although not always at its present site at 3401 Boardman St. The pastor is Rev. Prince Lee, who has been there since 2007. Their website has lots of current activities on the calendar, including Wednesday night prayer and Bible studies, new member classes on Sunday mornings, and open court basketball on Saturdays!

A prominent multi-family hous-

Noko Strength (formerly known as Paddlesculpt)

ing complex in the neighborhood is the Nokomis Square Cooperative, for seniors aged 55 or better. This 220-unit co-op was built with help from the neighborhood association and another neighborhood Lutheran church in 1986, after nearly 16 years of planning and discussion. I have been there for community events or to visit friends who live there, and it is really nice - well-maintained, with lots of resident-led activities and beautiful grounds. If you or someone you know is in the market for senior housing, definitely give

them a visit. They have a few units available now, but for some (like their scarce 3-bedroom units), there is a waitlist.

A final institution I must mention is the wonderful local library - the Nokomis Branch at 5100 34th Ave. S. The Hennepin County Library system upgraded the hours and services of almost all of its entire portfolio of libraries! Nokomis is now open every day but Sunday for a total of 48 hours per week. This is a Very Good Thing.

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MPD, from page 1

ijuana, data tracking, de-escalation and officer accountability. Some of the matters have been addressed in the past such as the use of no-knock search warrants and chokeholds. Others are new, including reining in the use of force, eliminating pretextual searches such as using the smell of marijuana or a burned-out tail light to pull over and search. In addition, officers are expected to report officers who are abusing citizens and/or policies. Officers are no longer allowed to make decisions regarding sedating a citizen who may be agitated. And all of it is accountable to a court of law.

But does it have teeth?

The question on many minds is, will it be implemented? That is, enforced? And if so, how will accountability be handled? As it stands, state courts will monitor compliance. State and city officials will appoint an independent team to evaluate effectiveness and ultimately report its findings to Police Chief Brian O'Hara. Attorney Ben Crump has said, "Policy means nothing if you have a culture that is rotten, the culture has to respect the policy." O'Hara points out that often "culture trumps policy." Civil rights attorney Nekima Levy Armstrong echoes Crump and O'Hara's statements, saying, "It will take generations, written words alone will not repair the harm." If that is the case, the question becomes one of how to change the culture. It is believed that culture lives in the unconscious and can lead to unintended complicity. There are many studies and much in-

formation available on how to change a culture. Experts agree that basic steps must be taken, such as creating a new and clear mission, developing practices in support of the mission, developing strong leaders and employees, and implementing a method for continuous improvement. So what is the mission of the MPD? Their website states: "We provide safety services to support our environment and quality of life. We protect with courage and serve with compassion. We are responsible for enforcing laws, preventing crime, responding to emergencies and providing services." It may be difficult to convince the families of Jamar Clark, Terrance Franklin, Justine Damond, Travis Jordan, Amir Locke, Fong Lee, George Floyd and more that these mission statements are taken seriously.

The police

An important question - is there police buy-in? That is, will the force embrace the agreement? Or will they see it as a barrier to doing their jobs? Chief O'Hara said, "Officers need direction and support, extensive training is needed." In an interview with WCCO-TV, O'Hara stated that he prefers to "bring officers along" rather than go directly to discipline. The force is still down about 300 officers. There were 910 in 2020 and there are now 593. That's 138 shy of the 731 required by the city charter. O'Hara acknowledges that "terrible things have happened in Minneapolis and there is a need for change." He points out that the cops who remain on the force are resilient. Even with staff shortages, crime rates have come down, such

as homicides (non-negligent, 23.5%), carjackings (45.5%), shots fired (31.6%), gunshot wounds (35.9%), as well as assaults, larceny, theft and robbery. Motor vehicle thefts, however, are up 101.9%. The reality is that Minneapolis has a police staffing shortage coupled with crime rates that are higher than before George Floyd's murder and the pandemic. O'Hara described his challenge as "the perfect storm" as he inherited a hangover from the pandemic, the killing of Floyd, and an explosion of guns in the hands of citizens. O'Hara knows there is a divide between the police and the communities they serve, and that trust needs rebuilding. He further acknowledges that understanding and implementing the consent decree is a major challenge requiring extensive retraining.

My efforts to speak directly with MPD officers I know were met with, "We have direction from the Public Information Officer (PIO) and the Chief not to discuss this, sorry." On March 31, The New York Times requested an interview with Sherral Schmidt, president of the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, but received no response.

I Dissent

Not everyone is excited about this new document. While it is a step in the right direction, for some it falls short. There has been criticism of the process involved in creating the agreement as well as of the agreement itself. The primary criticism is that there has been a lack of transparency - what is perceived as secrecy around the agreement. Community groups

have expressed disappointment that there was no public access to the agreement prior to its approval by the City Council.

The Unity Community Mediation Team, along with the Rev. Ian Bethel Sr. of New Beginnings Baptist Tabernacle church, described the process as "rushed and toothless," preventing the community from having any real power. The team pointed out a lack of change in the disciplinary process. And, because the new review commission is to be appointed by City Council members and the mayor, the power remains with these city leaders. They see no evidence that the city, including the MPD, acknowledges the MDHR findings, hence taking no ownership. City Attorney Kristyn Anderson stated, "It's a typical term of settlement agreements that there is not an admission of liability."

A joint statement was given on April 6 by the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar (Clark) and Minneapolis for Community Control of Police (MCCP). Their views are in line with the goals of the grassroots, community-led historical demand by Minneapolis Civilian Police Accountability (CPAC) to enact community control of the Minneapolis Police Department. If implemented, CPAC would be an all-elected, all-civilian body directly accountable to the residents of Minneapolis. Instead of a temporary period of oversight, CPAC would be enshrined in the Minneapolis charter, making it difficult to remove or under-

mine its powers.

The question has been asked, "If the consent decree is a road map, who is driving us down the road?" There will be two forms of accountability: the Community Commission on Police Oversight and an independent evaluator team. Appointees will be selected by the City Council and the mayor. The independent evaluator will be selected by MDHR and the city and approved by the court. While the finalists will be required to make public presentations, there is no guarantee that the public's preferred evaluator will be approved by the court. The Rev. Bethel called it "undemocratic appointees, not accountable to the public." He asks, "Will leaders suddenly have discernment? Will it be different this time?" The settlement makes no provisions for disciplining and firing officers. The consent decree has a term, so it is not permanent. MCCP would like to see this committee elected, not appointed, and permanently part of the city's process. But for now the power remains with Mayor Frey, Safety Commissioner Cedric Alexander, and Police Chief O'Hara.

There's more

In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is still investigating the MPD with respect to patterns of discrimination, which could produce yet another agreement. If the state and federal consent decrees conflict, adjustments will be made.



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Cam, from page 1

connections to the community.”

“Identifying two viable locations for the 3rd Precinct building has been an enterprise-wide effort, and I’m grateful to our staff who have worked around the clock to produce a thorough analysis for neighbors to consider,” said Mayor Jacob Frey.

Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley was surprised by the announcement. Last year in May she helped secure funding for community engagement about the future of the now-vacant precinct building. Her motion, which was approved by the council and signed by the mayor, authorized using \$100,000 “as contract dollars for consulting services to establish a comprehensive engagement process to include stakeholders in the next steps and redevelopment of the 3rd Precinct site, which includes a community understanding and benefits agreement.”

“I was shocked to learn from the Interim COO [Chief Operating Officer] that the mayor had sidelined the original intent of my allocation to instead focus engagement around the relocation of the 3rd Precinct police facility,” Wonsley said after the announcement. “This was a complete bait and switch.” The 2600 Minnehaha site is in the ward she represents.

The other site, the previous police headquarters, is in Ward 9. “The 9th Ward is the most racially diverse ward in the en-

tire city of Minneapolis. Any approach should ensure that our diverse neighbors can participate,” wrote Ward 9 Council Member Jason Chavez following the city announcement. “My office has not been consulted or engaged on how to go about these efforts. In fact, council members were informed about these two locations only the night before it went public.”

Also in March, city officials announced that they were working with DeYoung Consulting Services and the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) to collect feedback, conduct a survey and convene a series of conversations about a location for the station.

LCC has been involved in the future of police services in the area since the 3rd Precinct police station was damaged and abandoned. In 2022 it convened meetings and conducted a survey to get input about alternative uses for the building and plans for the location of the 3rd Precinct officers.

At the time of the Request for Proposal LCC’s understanding was that it would be helping with a 12-month engagement process that would hold open discussions and forums asking where people felt a police station should be located and how it should serve residents. DeYoung was awarded a contract and LCC subcontracted with them to help organize and promote meetings.

Plans were put in place to hold five meetings in April and

then, just 13 days before the first meeting, the city announced that the focus would be on considering the two locations for a rehoused police station.

Those meetings concluded on April 19. They were led by the City Operations Officer, Heather Johnston, and a DeYoung consultant. An estimated 650 people attended, but as far as can be discerned, the mayor and any official representative from the police department did not attend any of the meetings. Some Southside council members were in attendance, including Wonsley and Chavez. They were both at the meeting at Midtown Global Market. Also there was someone who identified himself as a Southside resident and a Minneapolis police officer who commented from the audience.

Each of the meetings included a large-group presentation by city representatives and a brief question period, followed by small-group conversations with consultants facilitating the discussion and paid scribes taking notes.

“I had the opportunity to attend the business owners’ session at the Hook and Ladder,” said Chavez. “It was very clear that small business owners were frustrated about our current process. My small group spoke about their experiences that brought back trauma. It was abundantly clear that a truth and reconciliation process was needed years ago before this process was set to begin.”

At LCC’s most recent board meeting on April 18, the matter was discussed for over an hour. Two resolutions on the subject were presented and debated and one was amended until it was unanimously passed by the LCC board of directors.

That resolution, which they plan to share with other neighborhood organizations in the 3rd Precinct as well as with city officials, rejects any decision being made about the 3rd Precinct building until a new community engagement process has been carried out. It calls for the development of a new timeline “for defining a shared community vision for what a new facility or facilities should be, and how the former site of the 3rd Precinct should serve the community.” The resolution “supports an intentional and respectful outreach process to allow residents and business owners of the 3rd Precinct in Minneapolis to more comprehensively weigh in on the location of the 3rd Precinct building specifically and public safety in general” and “demands that the outreach process be community-led and managed by neighborhood organizations and other community organizations, not the city of Minneapolis, with a focus on restorative justice.”

“This whole process has been frustrating,” said LCC board president Lisa Boyd. “I think it’s the job of neighborhood organizations, like LCC, to represent the best interests of our whole community and to advocate for

their needs to the city. What was supposed to be a 12-month process got shortened to six weeks and limited to two options that the city wants. It’s like they just want us to rubberstamp what they’ve already decided. Well, we’re not going to do that. The LCC board rejects any decision made about the 3rd Precinct building until a better community engagement process is underway – one that is open, transparent, respectful to all community members and really listens to their needs.”

Apparently, not only have elected policy makers and other city leaders failed to communicate effectively with each other, but also with community members and organizations who are ready and able to help.

“During the past three years we have witnessed incredible energy, creativity and determination to create a new system of community care,” said Michele Braley, executive director of Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice. “Tragically, the proposed plans for the 3rd Precinct do nothing to incorporate new ideas and only recreate an outdated and harmful form of policing. I urge the city of Minneapolis to engage in a rigorous process of accountability for past and historical harms by the MPD and then to work with residents to create a system of care that will ensure these harms never happen again.”

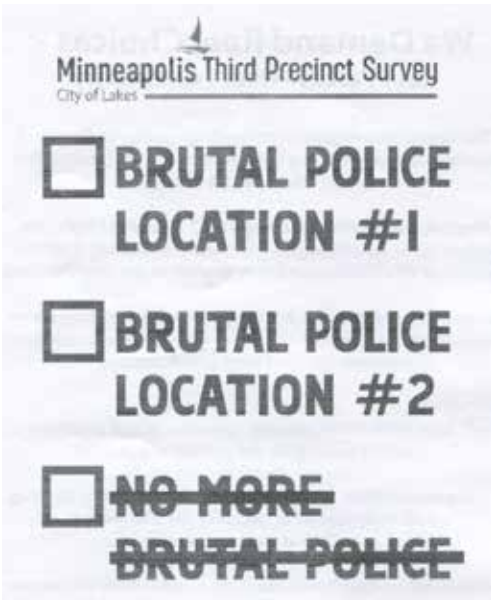
# Community conversations about 3rd Precinct building

BY SUE KOLSTAD

On April 11, the first of a series of meetings was held, ostensibly to give community members the chance to decide on the location of a new 3rd Precinct building. This was to be the first of a series of “conversations” hurriedly called to push through a new building. There were a lot of comments and questions that the promoters of this project may not have expected. There were also many more people there than were expected, most of them angry. Several people wondered why the rush. Others wondered why the city is talking about a new building when there has been no work to fulfill the agreements in the consent decree with the state and we haven’t even seen the federal one yet. People wondered why the only sites offered were the former building and a site four blocks north, although one of the criteria for potential locations was for it to be centrally located within the 3rd Precinct geographic area. We were told that the city looked at 28 sites throughout the precinct and those two were the only ones that fit the criteria.

There was general agreement

that the community was being herded into supporting something that is insupportable. The community asks for reconciliation and conversation about the history of the 3rd Precinct as well as the events of May/June 2020. A building is not the most important thing for the city to do. There are still questions that need to be addressed. Who told the cops to go up on that roof and shoot off the tear gas that filled the neighborhood for three blocks? Who told the fire department not to come out? Who ordered officers to destroy all documents in the precinct building? Why has the heat been kept on in the building? They could turn off the water. Is that fiscally responsible? People spoke of their experiences the night the building burned – the community was filled with tear gas, and the police fired on the protesters even though at that time they were peaceful. Neighbors spoke of how they stood their ground to protect their neighborhoods after the group changed and there was no police presence (although in retrospect no po-



A flyer that a community member passed out at the event

lice was probably a good thing). We heard about children playing in their yards who suffered from the effects of the tear gas. We heard that the 3rd Precinct police have a disturbing history of abuse of citizens, especially those most vulnerable to their predations. The consensus relating to the location of the precinct building seemed to be “none of the above.” The mood of the crowd was that until there

is a serious attempt at reconciliation, a building will not have the support of the community, at least in the area proposed.

A Hobson’s choice it isn’t. At least with that the customer wanted what was offered.

Another “community conversation” was held, this time at Midtown Global Market. The noise from the air circulation was so loud it was impossible to hear. After it was over someone revealed that there are conference rooms downstairs that are quiet and would have been large enough for the meeting. This time statements by the facilitator were greeted with shouts and when people commented there was much applause. This was another crowd who saw through the attempt of the city to push through its agenda without reforming the police first. The Director of Property Services said they looked at around 30 sites in the 3rd Precinct and the two proposed were the only ones that fit most of the requirements. It seems that the city is not willing to let us know what

sites were looked at and were deemed not to fit the criteria. The only item these two proposed locations missed is that it should be centrally located (that would be closer to Hiawatha Golf Course). A person said this was clearly a list manufactured to make the two locations the only ones possible.

It seems that the people at this conversation felt that deciding the location of the building is premature. First figure out what the police will look like after the consent decrees are satisfied. Some people are in favor of smaller neighborhood-based sites.

The biggest excitement came when the head of homicide chose to speak. He was shouted down and decided it would be good to make a quick exit. As at the first meeting, the group was broken up into smaller groups to give more people a chance to speak.

A group is being organized to have serious discussions about police and the precinct location issues. Their first meeting was on April 22 at Walker Church. This group will consist of grassroots volunteers who plan to have monthly meetings for about a year.



# The Roof Depot demolition is not just East Phillips’ problem

BY DANIEL COLTEN SCHMIDT,  
EAST PHILLIPS RESIDENT

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and a society is only as prosperous as its most marginalized community. East Phillips Neighborhood Institute’s (EPNI) plan for a cooperatively owned indoor urban farm, massive solar array, community space and low-income housing complex would be a wealth generator, community safety net and clean energy resiliency hub. Although the indoor urban farm would serve the East Phillips community most directly because of its location, it would serve the whole city with nutritional food, carbon reduction, over 500 well-paying jobs, and renewable energy security in the case of disaster. By support-

ing our poorest communities, we raise the quality of life for the entire city.

The Roof Depot issue is one of self-determination and community participation in governance. With the intent to reduce pollution in the East Phillips neighborhood— whose population currently suffers some of the worst health disparities in the state— EPNI identified over \$5 million to purchase the Roof Depot in 2015. In a turn of events, the city threatened to take the property through eminent domain, and bought the Roof Depot for almost \$7 million. Over the last seven years, the city claims to have invested roughly \$10 million in architectural plans and security. Now, after the city has created a mess of public discontent, Mayor Frey

offered to sell the entire Roof Depot site to EPNI if they can repay the \$17 million that the city spent frivolously on “planning” the massively unpopular project.

This is not the only time that Minneapolis city officials have made a mockery of the public participation law. In Ward 10, Public Works upended the community-designed Bryant Avenue reconstruction plans when they unveiled brand new blueprints days before construction, which no one from the community had ever seen. In Ward 5, Minneapolisans have been fighting for almost 15 years to stop burning waste at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC), which spews lead and other toxic materials into our precious air. Now, the city is running sham public participation meetings

to discuss the proposed new 3rd Precinct police station. The city is not asking “What does the community want?” Instead it is asking, “Do you want your police station where it used to be, or four blocks north?”

Do city officials find true public participation too onerous? The city is acting out of a paternalistic mindset. The city does not prioritize the health, nor the quality of life, nor the dignity of its citizens. Instead, it cuts deals with developers and financiers, and cudgels people for profit. If the city sells the Roof Depot to EPNI, it will not be for altruism. The city will have succeeded in funneling millions of Minnesota tax dollars to private sector individuals.

And yet the East Phillips neighborhood vision for an in-

door urban farm begins a new era of reversing environmental racism. But more than the benefits gained through its infrastructure, the EPNI fight for the Roof Depot will be a victory for the environmental justice movement nationally. Solidarity across neighborhoods on issues of self-determination is the key to ensuring real community engagement is practiced here in Minneapolis. East Phillips’ fight for justice ripples outward to every neighborhood in the city.

*Editor’s Note: Perhaps the best solution would be for Mayor Frey to look for a new site for the Water Department consolidation outside the city of Minneapolis on industrial land near highways, rather than contribute to the pollution of the inner city.*

# City’s new climate action plan needs your comments

BY ULLA NILSEN, MN350

On April 19, the city of Minneapolis released a new 10-year climate action plan for public comment. Why should I care, you ask?

Without a city-coordinated program, most households will be unable to access the \$14,000 of federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding. This means they will be unable to use IRA

funding to save money on energy bills and cut out the indoor air pollution that causes asthma and heart disease. Without city investment for the clean energy transition, we can’t create thousands of new family-sustaining clean energy jobs and make those jobs accessible to communities of color in Minneapolis.

WITH city investment, we can transform Minneapolis to an equitable clean energy city that we

can be proud of. While the current city plan has worthy goals, it lacks the concrete steps and investment needed to meet those goals. Our comments can help push the city to move beyond nice words to action. MN350 is working with the Just Transition Fund, a coalition of climate, environmental and racial justice organizations, to make sure residents get their voices heard.

“For too long, working class Minneapolis residents have borne the burden of high energy costs. With Minneapolis’ commitment to reducing climate pollution and increasing racial equity, we have the opportunity to reduce energy cost burdens for families in our city,” Greg Namacher, president of SEIU Local 26, commented. “We want to see new revenue for climate action, with spending targeted in neighborhoods – like our city’s green zones – in which people most need help to make their homes more energy efficient and less expensive to run.”

A good city plan can help address longstanding racial disparities and build well-being in Minneapolis. It can make Minneapolis a model for climate action in the Midwest.

“The people of Minneapolis are clear that we need to address the transition to clean energy and a climate-resilient future from a racial justice lens,” said Emilia Gonzalez Avalos, executive director of Unidos MN. “This means putting wealth-building mechanisms in place so that communities that have faced the

brunt of environmental racism – and continue to be historically under-invested in and excluded – get real investments.”

It’s no secret that the challenge of ensuring a just transition to a clean energy economy is enormous – and the timeline to meet it is short. A recent study by Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) and city staff cited a total cost of more than \$2 billion to meet city climate goals by 2040 (<https://www.mncee.org/electrificationminneapolis>).

“We are glad to see the city continue to make clear commitments to ambitious reductions in climate pollution and to reduce the racial health and wealth disparities in the city, but we need more than commitments,” MN350 Executive Director Tee McClenty said. “We want the commitments to turn into actual change in our neighborhoods. To do so, Minneapolis needs to go a step further by putting new, dedicated funding behind these climate equity commitments to make them real.”

MN350 and partner organizations are encouraging Minneapolis residents to comment on the plan in order to make sure we can take full advantage of Minnesota’s recent legislation committing us to 100% clean energy by 2040 (<https://fresh-energy.org/minnesotas-100-clean-electricity-bill-explained>), as well as the historic federal investments in clean energy and climate action through the Inflation Reduction Act. State and federal leadership makes it easier for

Minneapolis to meet its climate equity commitments, but the city will need to step up with funding and programs to make sure this transition happens at the pace necessary and in ways that reduce racial disparities.

“We all deserve a healthy city and a just future, no matter our neighborhood or how much money we have. Everyday Minnesotans and our elected officials at the state level are stepping up to solve the climate crisis. It’s time for our Minneapolis elected leaders to do the same,” said Hannah Merrill, ISAIAH board member and Young Adult Coalition core leader. “Our actions must be scaled to the problem, and the scale of climate change is too large to be addressed by individuals alone. Scaled and equitable solutions require real and serious investment, and the city’s action plan is a good start. We have a chance to be a model for other cities while making the investments we need so that all of us can thrive.”

So, what’s next? It’s our turn to be heard! The 10-year climate action plan is open for public comment through June 5. This is our chance to weigh in before it goes for a vote before the City Council. Visit [mn350.org](https://mn350.org) to read analysis of the current plan and get the resources you need to submit a comment.

By raising our voices together, we can make sure Minneapolis adopts a climate plan of the highest quality to guide us over the next 10 years.



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# Celebrate Spring on 38th Street

## Spring on East 38th Street



A performer at Duck Duck Coffee's comedy hour

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Boludo El 38

Spring has come to East 38th Street! East 38th Street stretches from Nicollet Avenue to Mississippi River Boulevard, but we're going to start just a tiny bit west of there with Boludo, the Argentinian restaurant taking the local food scene by storm. Boludo El 38 is its latest spot, at 8 W. 38th St.

Boludo El 38 has a minimalist menu with lots of things unique to Boludo, such as small, crisp, diamond-shaped Argentinian pizza. The menu has exactly six empanada choices, seven varieties of pizza, two salads, and two desserts. The bar and drink menus are similarly spare, and then a surprise – a THC drinks menu with three selections, all from different producers.

**Tacos El Kevin – one of the best** favorites like pozole, sopas, tortas, barbacoa chivos and slushy jamaicas. They were just cited in two separate pieces in Twin Cities Eater's "best of" lists, one on Mexican restaurants and the



**I have a feeling that Atuvava is going to be pretty popular!**

convenience store at the corner of Portland Avenue and 38th. But apparently they make really good tacos and other Mexican other focused only on taquerias. We're all so proud!

**See East 38th, page 8**

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# Celebrate Spring on 38th Street

East 38th, from page 7

## George Floyd Square and Tiny Diner

I've checked in on George Floyd Square a few times in the

last six months. I've noticed a new look at the coffee shop, which was called ForReal when I visited last August last year. It's now called Onyx Coffee-house, but I think it's run by the same person, Billy Jones. Also

at GFS, Cup Foods, the grocery store outside of which Floyd was murdered, recently changed its name to Unity Foods, although there don't appear to be any other changes in the store's ownership or business operations.

In March, KSTP and other news outlets reported that the city of Minneapolis was asking the state Legislature for \$25 million to help struggling businesses in George Floyd Square. Also, Ward 8 Council Member Andrea Jenkins has talked with the recently opened African American History Museum, in Charleston, South Carolina, about ways to redesign GFS so that it can both honor Black lives and also provide a boost to African American businesses.

There's good news at Tiny Diner, which has resumed dinner service now that spring is here. Over the winter, they served breakfast and lunch only from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., but in April they reopened for dinner as well, and are now open dai-



DreamHaven Books & Comics

ly from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Check their Facebook page for the full schedule of Tiny Diner's events and farmers markets, which are held in their parking lot. On April 27, they also participated in the annual Dining Out for Life day, with a portion of their sales

benefiting the Aliveness Project in Minnesota.

## Two coffee shops where you can get a form notarized

On April 5, the online local alt-weekly Racket (racketmn.



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Key West Bistro’s housemade key lime pie

com) reported on a suitably weird Twin Cities phenomenon using the subtitle, “Incredibly, multiple Twin Cities restaurants

have been offering free pop-up notary services.” Even more incredibly, two of those are on East 38th Street less than a mile apart. (And with “multiple” in this article meaning “three,” that comprises a two-thirds majority of them and 100% of those in Minneapolis.) One is Duck Duck Coffee at 1830 E. 38th St., and the other is Key West Bistro at 2803 E. 38th St. Both places are very nice spots to get a cup of joe, even without notary services.

DreamHaven and Audrey Rose

Also close together, one on either side of 23rd Avenue on the south side of East 38th, are two delightful retail shops. One is a longtime veteran of the Twin Cities science fiction books and bookstores scene, and the other is a relatively recent business, a shop doing “heirloom preser-

vation and curated vintage” and also selling THC gummies and sparkling waters on the side. The first shop is DreamHaven Books. This is such an amazing store that I almost never go there even though it’s two blocks from where I live. I am overwhelmed in bookstores anyway, and this one is more than books, with a staggering selection of comics, graphic novels, manga, golden and silver age science fiction, pulp fiction, fantasy, new books, old books, and collectible items such as action figures. The second shop is Audrey Rose Vintage. I don’t know enough about this niche subject to do it justice, so visit their excellent website at audreyrose-vintage.com, and then visit the shop at 2237 E. 38th St. and see for yourself. And have a gummy if that’s your thing.

New bakery coming soon looks like a hit

Atuvava gluten-free bakery is now the tenant at 2800 E. 38th St. (formerly Infused Life, and before that, A Cupcake Social). But it’s not really open yet. So far, they have been having Saturday “soft opens” from 2 to 6 p.m. that have proven to be so popular that block-long lines form to get in (like the day I tried to visit), and they usually sell out before their hours are up. So if you want to go, try to arrive early and be ready to wait a bit, though if you check out their website and social media posts you’ll see why Atuvava’s baked goods look to be to-



Onyx Coffeehouse owner Billy Jones

tally worth the wait. According to their Facebook page, they’re planning to add at least one additional day by mid-May, and build more hours from there. On their website, Atuvava’s founder, Alex Ellison, shares the story of how the bakery came into being, when first her young daughter, and then Alex herself, were diagnosed with celiac disease, fueling Alex’s passion for

gluten-free baking. The name Atuvava was invented by her daughter as a toddler, as something she would say to people that could mean either, “Would you like some food?” or “Can I have some food?” The word Atuvava sums up the bakery’s philosophy “that food is a resource best shared and that everyone is welcome.”



Jessie Witte at the opening of her shop, Audrey Rose Vintage, in June 2021



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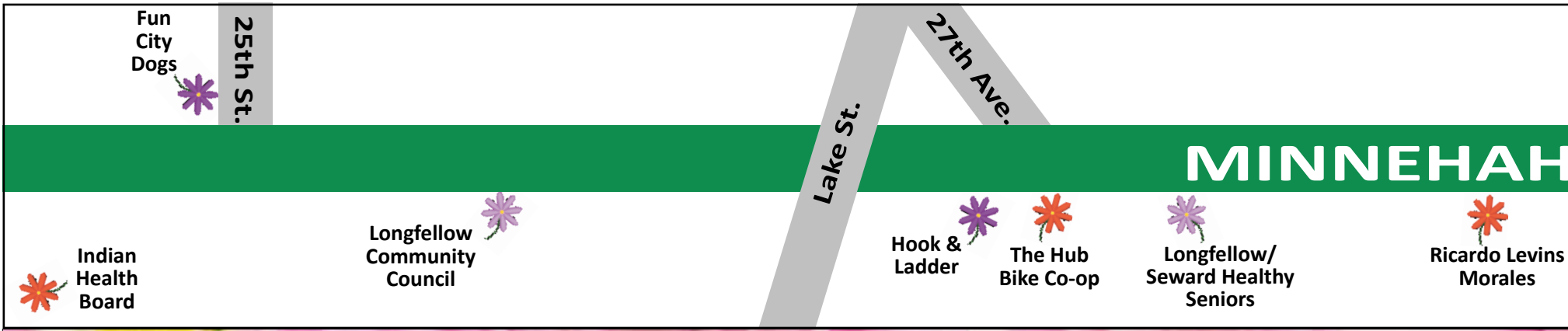
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# Spring on Minnehaha Avenue

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Spring is coming on for real now; my allergies tell me so. Despite allergies and other struggles, spring is very beau-

tiful along Minnehaha Avenue this year. It's culturally blooming, lush with arts, community-building, and the fusion of the two. In addition to our old favorites like Moon Palace Books, the

Hook and Ladder, and Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio, there are some lesser-known cultural spots (some new, some newish, some just recently discovered) which we will highlight here. Let's do it geographically.

Starting at the Seward end of the avenue is the building at 2200 Minnehaha, which hous-

es two interesting places. The first is Soomaal House of Art, a collective of Somali artists. The Cities are full of small art collectives that boost the work of BI-POC and other less empowered communities, including some others we will mention shortly, but as far as I know, this is the first one just for Somali artists.

Their website includes a shopping site, a little history, and bios of the founders and staff: [www.soomaalhouse.com](http://www.soomaalhouse.com).



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The other is called the Feminist Book Club (FBC). Now you might wonder why a book club needs a brick-and-mortar presence, whether feminist or not. Well, FBC is more than just a book club. Minnesota Monthly magazine featured Renee Powers, founder of FBC, in a piece in April 2022 which said: "For the FBC, monthly Zoom meetings are just the tip of the iceberg. In online community groups, members can also regularly discuss feminist issues and ... the FBC creates content to engage the community in feminist discussions through a newsletter, podcast, and blog."

With these added value services, the FBC has become a business as well as a community. Members can pay a subscription to receive each book of the month, optionally including a themed goodie box of products from women-, BIPOC-, or queer-owned producers. The storefront location serves as an office, outlet store and community center, and there is also an online outlet store with Pango Books.





# g on Minnehaha



Black Table Arts Cooperative

Just a block away is 2213 Snelling Ave., also known as the Focus Arts Building, which houses a handful of small arts organizations. One of these is Threads Dance Project, a professional dance company founded by Karen Charles in 2011. Charles's career in dance, choreography, arts



Karen Charles, founder of  
Threads Dance Project

education and arts organization leadership, including awards and fellowships, is too extensive to cover here, so check out the website of Threads Dance Project to learn more. Sign up for the newsletter if you don't want to miss future performances.

Another at the same building is Red Eye Theater. Red Eye was founded in 1983 and led for 35 years by Steve Busa and Miriam Must. Since 2019, Red Eye has been led by a group of seven artistic directors in a collaborative leadership model.

In 2021, Red Eye Theater moved into the Focus Arts Building, which is managed by neighborhood nonprofit Seward Redesign. They built

at 2501 Minnehaha Ave. on the southern edge of the Seward neighborhood, reflects the culture of community and caring. This is Chuck and Don's Pet Wellness Center, the newish home of the People and Pets Together pet food shelf, additionally partnered with animal welfare organization Second-hand Hounds, and also offering veterinary care and more to pets whose people are housing insecure or in financial straits. The objective of the nonprofit organization is to keep beloved pets with their families, regardless of their economic and housing situation, which according to their mission "allows rescues to concentrate on truly homeless animals."

Crossing Lake Street, we come to Wildflyer Coffee at 3262 Minnehaha Ave. If that address sounds familiar, it's because it used to be the longtime home of Peace Coffee's first and largest coffee shop. And since it didn't really change that much in appearance and flavor, you could be forgiven for thinking it's still

the same. But Wildflyer has one key difference: it's not solely in the business of making and selling coffee. It's in the business of saving homeless youth from a downward spiral and giving them a chance to thrive as adults - through the making and selling of coffee.

Through numerous partnerships, Wildflyer offers youth between the ages of 16 and 24 a four-month training and counseling program that includes a regular shift at one of the two Wildflyer Coffee shops

See *Minnehaha*, page 12



Feminist Book Club at a book fair

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# Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha

## Minnehaha, from page 11

(there is now one in St. Paul as well), barista training, coffee industry training, soft skills, financial literacy, problem solving and employment readiness. Wildflyer on Minnehaha is still the same pleasant, chill hang-out with superlative coffee, but now additionally you are contributing to a cause just by spending money there.

Proceeding ever southward, we come to Black Table Arts Cooperative at 3737 Minnehaha Ave. This is just what it sounds like – a cooperative of Black artists. Black Table Arts

was midwifed into existence in its physical space by Artspace, the leading real estate developer strictly for artists, which was started here in the Twin Cities in the early 1980s but is now national in scope.

Here's a brief description of Black Table Arts from the Artspace website: "Black Table Arts makes bold the connection between art and grassroots organizing by providing programs that invite local artists to see themselves as change-makers and organizers of their collective liberation. Founded by Keno Evol, the Black Table Arts space includes

a bookstore, private meeting rooms, shared workspace, and a performance space." You can learn more about them at the Facebook page Black Table Arts Co-op.

The last stop on our southward journey is Minnehaha Recording Company at 4501 Minnehaha Ave. Minnehaha Recording's studio was built in 2014 by the studio's founders, who gutted and rehabbed the building which had once housed a sporting goods and air gunsmith company, and was originally built as a gas and service station in the 1930s. They really must know what



## Soomaal House of Art

they're doing because the business has grown beyond recording and way beyond the already copious boundaries of the Twin Cities music world.

Not only does their photo wall of artists who have recorded with them stretch past 100, but simply their list of

available services is mind-boggling, including audiobooks, voiceovers, podcast production, location filming and forensic audio. Oh, and they have merch, because everybody has to have merch. It's T-shirts, though, not recordings.

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# Minneapolis food shelves struggle to feed those in need

BY STEPHANIE FOX

It's another frigid Monday afternoon in mid-March and the lines of people are already beginning to form outside of New Creations Ministries, a South Minneapolis church at the corner of 51st Street and 13th Avenue. It's an hour before the food shelf opens to the public. Senior Pastor Darrick Granison, his wife Brenda (known as the First Lady), along with a group of volunteers are getting ready, setting out boxes of free food for the church's weekly food shelf. Granison hopes that the food they provide will last families for at least three days.

Their mission is to provide access to healthy food for people faced with missing meals. No one coming is forced to prove that they are in need. Simply show up and you'll be welcomed.

There has always been a need for food for those who are down on their luck, but COVID-19 made that need worse as jobs disappeared when businesses closed to prevent the spread of the disease.

"We've seen the numbers almost double across the state," said Colleen Moriarty, the executive director of Hunger Solutions, an advocacy group concerned with food security. People got emergency funding during the worst of the pandemic but after much of the government support ended, the number of people visiting food shelves around the Twin Cities and the rest of the state skyrocketed. There are now more than 500 food shelves in Minnesota.

"Minnesotans made 5.5 million visits to food shelves in 2022, according to the latest figures available," Moriarty said. "That's 1.9 million more visits than in 2021."

Promptly at 5:30 p.m. the doors at New Creations opened. Announcements are made in English and Spanish. The first group invited to collect from the boxes of food lining the walkway leading to the church doors are those aged 70 and older. "We don't want to burden them and make them have to stand so long waiting," said Granison. "And many don't move as fast as younger people. The past week, a couple of people who came were in wheelchairs and used crutches."

Granison says he was motivated as a young boy to help others. "We've been doing the food shelves for 12 years," he said. "As a little boy, my family was struggling. My dad would take us to a soup kitchen, and we'd get our clothes from the Salvation Army."

Loss of income, losing a family breadwinner to the pandemic, and rising food prices are some of the reasons that people who once could buy enough

on their own now come to food shelves. "We serve all sorts of people," said Granison. "People who come are Hispanic, white, African and African American. We even have Ukrainians. If we can help you not have to spend so much money on food, we are here to help eliminate some of that burden."

On that chilly March day, New Creations gave out 208 boxes of food, more than 32,000 pounds. Inside, 100 boxes designed so families could make full meals waited inside the church basement.

Just a couple of miles from New Creations Church another food shelf is helping distribute food to those in need. Minnehaha United Methodist Church distributes food on Tuesday afternoons. Sara Olson, who coordinates the food shelf, says that many of their clients are newly arrived immigrants from Ecuador. That situation has caused unique problems.

"Many of these people are from the rural areas of Ecuador," she said. "They dress in traditional clothing, and we hear a lot of Indigenous languages. We are searching for volunteers who speak Spanish and can help translate."

"Since January 2022, our client list has nearly tripled," Olson said. "In June 2022, we saw 1,020 clients. That's when the numbers started going up. Last December, we saw 2,792 and this January, we served 3,175 people. We get more and more people all the time. We open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., but people start lining up at 5:30 in the morning."

"The thing is," she said, "if you come early you get a choice of everything we have. People go through the fresh stuff, pre-packed fresh fruits and vegetables. People also want dried beans and rice, so we try to get these kinds of foods, not the processed foods that many Americans are eating."

People who come to the church need to show some kind of ID with their address but can live anywhere in the metro area. "People come from Brooklyn Park, Bloomington, but most come from South Minneapolis. There are always hungry people, so giving out free food is always useful in a community," Olson says. "The USA is not always able to provide for its citizens. The problem of hunger is here and in most American cities."

New Creations Church gets much of their donated food from Kowalski's, Cub Foods, Aldi, Lunds & Byerlys and Fresh Thyme grocery stores, as well as buying discount groceries from organizations like Second Harvest, a hunger-relief organization. New Creations also accepts donations of food and money from individuals who want to help.

"One thing that we do is that we pull our products before they are expired," said Kowalski's Parkview Market's assistant manager Luanne Schroeck. "Things like fresh produce, fresh bakery and deli items. We have people from several food-sharing organizations who pick up donations every day. It's just a way to create sustainability in the neighborhood for those who are struggling," she said.

While many emergency food shelves are church-operated, many others are run by community-based organizations including the Teamsters, the Salvation Army, Waite House, the Division of Indian Work, the Aliveness Project, the Center for Asians and Pacific Islanders and more. There are more than 55 food shelf locations in Minneapolis alone, not including places that provide free meals to those who would otherwise go hungry.

"Now that the food aid is getting cut back more and more, I think we'll be getting more and more people," said Olson. "We're becoming almost a political organization, working on how to get money and to pay to keep everything going. This is a basic need and it's appalling to me that money is not going to human needs."

With the need still growing, the Minnesota Legislature recently passed additional funding going directly to food shelves to stem the financial pressure they are currently facing. Gov. Walz signed a bill to provide \$5 million in emergency funds to the Minnesota Food Shelf Program, which provides grants to food shelves that are part of the Minnesota Emergency Food Assistance Program. The bill passed the House with a unanimous vote. In the Senate, seven members of the GOP delegation voted against the bill. The funding will help rescue many organizations, say people who work at food shelves.

"No one should ever go hungry in Minnesota. To address the food insecurity that some Minnesota families face, we are taking action to ensure that



Pastor Darrick Granison, ready to share food at New Creations church Monday food shelf

Minnesotans can put food on their tables and don't have to choose between food and other essential bills to pay," said Rep. Emma Greenman, who serves a district in South Minneapolis. "This year we have passed laws to ensure that Minnesota food shelves are stocked with enough food to meet the needs of their communities and to feed every Minnesota school kid."

Food shelves still need volunteers and donations from the public, both money and goods, including healthy food, diapers, toothpaste and deodorants, women's products and other essentials, said Granison. "Food shelves are here to serve the community. If you know anyone who can donate or who needs a food shelf, spread the word. We turn no one away."



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EVENTS

**Holy Name Church Rummage Sale May 4 – 6**  
Holy Name Catholic Church  
3637 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.  
Thursday, May 4 – Preview Sale from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1 per person.  
Friday, May 5 – 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, May 6 – Bag Day (\$2 per bag) from 9 a.m. to noon.  
We have books, clothing, furniture, household items, jewelry, toys and more. Check out our Oval Room with nicer items! For more information, call 612-724-5465.

**Transnational Oppression in the U.S. and Abroad**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 7 to 9 p.m.**  
**Online via Zoom**  
Speakers will address specific actions of Russia and China to harass and intimidate people in the U.S. and other countries who oppose their governments’ policies. Speakers will also highlight U.S. laws to protect victims and prosecute the perpetrators of this crime. Learn more and register at <http://worldwithoutgenocide.org/programs/upcoming-events/transnationalrepression>.

**The Listening Ear at Living Spirit: Mental Health for Everyone**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.**  
**In-person and online**  
Living Spirit United Methodist Church  
4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls.  
Living Spirit offers a monthly night

of mental health education and check-ins on third Wednesdays. The event on May 17 begins at 6:30 p.m. with a half-hour education session, followed by some practical exercises. At 7:30 p.m., participants can meet one-on-one with a trained listener to check in about their mental health in general or discuss a particular issue. The event is free and open to people of any (or no) faith traditions. Participate in person at Living Spirit or online via our livestream/Zoom. More information at our website: <https://livingspiritumc.org/listeningear>.

**Responding to Christian Nationalism Workshop**  
**Saturday, May 20, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
Hennepin Avenue UMC, Art Gallery  
511 Groveland Ave., Mpls.  
Christian nationalism is a troubling ideology that seeks to merge Christian and American identities. It distorts both the Christian faith and America’s constitutional democracy. Using material provided by Christians Against Christian Nationalism, this workshop will provide a description of, discuss biblical responses to, and outline how to stand up against Christian nationalism. Learn more and register at <https://onrealm.org/HennepinAvenueU/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MGFhNjgOYTQ-tY2NIZS00NThjLTlhYzMtYWZiZnAwZjc1Y2M4>.

**Shifting the Spotlight**  
**Thursday, May 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
Being a white ally means playing a supporting role as BIPOC people take center stage. During this historic shift, how can white Christians embrace roles where they cease to be the stars of the film but are instead cast as extras – people whose advancement of the plot is good but not essential to the future? And how can BIPOC people regain agency and become the leaders they are meant to be? On the third anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, Minnesota Council of Churches invites people of faith to an evening with music from Sounds of Blackness and a prophetic word from Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. Learn more and register at <https://www.mnchurches.org/shifting-spotlight>.

**Donation needs for newly arriving refugee families**  
From the Minnesota Council of Churches: Of all the household items we are required to supply to arriving families, we urgently need the following:  
• Large cooking pots/kettles/frying pans.

- Tall kitchen wastebaskets/garbage bags.
- Shower curtains or heavy-duty liners with hooks.

Interested in donating any of these items? Please email [Rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org](mailto:Rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org) or call 612-230-3291. To stay current with donation needs and refugee/immigrant issues, please also follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/mcc.refugeeservices/>.

SHARING FOOD

**Calvary Emergency Food Shelf**  
**2553 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-827-2504, ext. 3**  
The Calvary Food Shelf has reopened in our new location at 3553 Chicago Ave. and continues to create access to fresh, nutritious food for the community. We are open for individual choice shopping BY APPOINTMENT on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 612-827-2504, ext. 3 for more information.

**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.

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

*Christian*  
**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Worshipping at 2742 15th Ave. S.**  
612-827-2504 or [www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org)  
Sunday Worship at 10 am  
Interim Pastor Kjell Ferris  
*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

**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  
Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook)  
Sunday 12 noon  
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/>  
Blind Ministry - May 20, noon to 2 pm  
Education Hour - 10:30 am  
AA group - Mondays 6:30 pm

Senior Exercise Class - Mondays 10 am  
NA groups - Wednesdays 7:30 pm  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jared Yogerst

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
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[holycrossmpls.org](http://holycrossmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am  
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**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
The Center for Changing Lives  
2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831  
[www.messiahlutheranmpls.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmpls.org)  
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Sunday 11 am Messiah Praise  
Worship

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4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527  
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[www.minnehahacommunion.org](http://www.minnehahacommunion.org)  
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**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/NewCreationBaptistChurch](http://www.Facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch)  
<https://newcreationbaptist-churchmn.org/>  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie

**NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**  
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612-825-6846  
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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

### EVENTS

**Civic Buzz Town Hall:**  
**MPD Chief Brian O'Hara**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara will be the guest speaker at a Town Hall at Plymouth Congregational Church at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 2. O'Hara is expected to talk about the complexities of police reform and his plans to increase public safety in the City of Minneapolis. Plymouth's Re-Imagining Community Safety Committee and Mill City Commons. The event is free and open to the public.

**Puppet and Mask Lending Library**  
**In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre**

**Beginning Saturday, May 6**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Avalon Theater  
1500 E. Lake St., Mpls.  
In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre has opened the Twin Cities' first Puppet and Mask Lending Library! This hands-on opportunity will help kids and families embrace and participate in using puppets through a free two-week checkout system, just as they would do with a book at the library. The puppets can be used for community events, school plays, personal celebrations and more. All who check out a puppet or mask will get a lesson on how to wear and operate what they're borrowing. Some puppets in the library will require puppeteers and/or transportation for a fee. The library will be open the first and third Saturday of every month, beginning May 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre nurtures creative empowerment through the joy and magic of puppetry performance and education. <https://hobt.org/>

**Cornbread's 96th B-Day Party Extravaganza**  
**Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m.**  
The Hook and Ladder Theater  
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.  
The Hook & Ladder Theater presents a very special outdoor concert event celebrating the 96<sup>th</sup> birthday

of legendary Twin Cities performer, James Samuel "Cornbread" Harris Sr., his band of friends and some very special guests! Doors 6 p.m., music 7 p.m. Ages 21+. Tickets available at [thehookmpls.com](http://thehookmpls.com).

**Phillips Spring Welcoming and Food Sovereignty Celebration**  
**Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
Four Sisters Urban Farm and 2800 block of 18th Ave. S. (We're shutting down the street but most of the activity will be at the south end of the street near the farm and the greenway entrance.)  
NACDI (Native American Community Development Institute) and EPIC (East Phillips Improvement Coalition) are holding EPIC's annual meeting and the season opening of Four Sisters Urban Farm. There will be food, informational tables and a seedling giveaway. This event is for those interested in food sovereignty, civic engagement, getting to know your neighbors and being in community.

**Furniture + Drive**  
**Saturday May 13, 9 a.m. to noon**  
Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
Parking Lot  
SE corner of 31st St. and Chicago  
(Note this is a new location this year)  
Bring your donations of gently used furniture, household goods and clothing! These donations will be collected by St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, and vouchers provided to member congregations for use by Align direct service guests to shop

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for free. If you would like to help volunteer at the Furniture Drive please email Katie, [katie@alignmpls.org](mailto:katie@alignmpls.org).

**Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors Senior Social & Health Talks**  
**May: The Senior LinkAge Line**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls.  
Learn about Medicare and health insurance options or ask questions about housing and support services in your neighborhood! A speaker

from Trellis (formerly MN Metro Area Agency on Aging), explains how the Senior LinkAge Line connects consumers to programs that can help you live independently longer. Senior Social and Health Talks occur the third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and feature guest speakers on health/wellness issues, and time to socialize! Refreshments are provided! A Nurse is In/ Blood Pressure Clinic is also offered. All socials are held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls.

## May Candidate Forums hosted by Community Power

Come hear all candidates seeking to represent Wards 6 & 7 on the Minneapolis City Council share their visions on how to meet Minneapolis' upcoming Climate & Equity Plan goals and answer additional environmental justice & local energy democracy perspectives.

- Audience members can submit questions!
- There will be informal social time following each Q & A

**Ward 7** City Council Candidate Forum on Local Energy & Climate Justice with Katie Cashman, Kenneth Foxworth, Mark Globus & Scott Graham

- Tuesday, May 9, 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
- Loring Community Arts Center, 1382 Willow St., Mpls.
- RSVPs appreciated at [bit.ly/W7Forum](http://bit.ly/W7Forum)

**Ward 6** City Council Candidate Forum on Local Energy & Climate Justice with Abdirizak Bihi, Jamal Osman, Kayseh Magan & Tiger Worku

- Thursday, May 11, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Brian Coyle Center, 420 S. 15th Ave., Mpls.
- RSVPs appreciated at <https://bit.ly/3KGM3EL>

Both forums will also be livestreamed on their respective Community Power Facebook Event Pages.

Community Power is a Minneapolis-based energy democracy C3 nonprofit which originated as the 2013 Minneapolis Energy Options campaign that led directly to the City forming its first-in-the-Nation Clean Energy Partnership with Xcel and Center-Point.

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Ward 8, from page 1

the well-being of the city and its residents. He views his injury as a call to action for transformational change.

Stevenson seeks a “kinder, safer Minneapolis” with priorities on safety, police accountability, affordable housing and the climate crisis. His background is in nonprofit, affordable housing. He would like to see Minneapolis implement a strong rent control program with tenants having the opportunity to purchase. Mayor Frey has said that he would veto a 3% cap (as St. Paul has) on residential rent increases which leaves Minneapolis without rent control.

Jenkins favors “rent stabilization.” She describes this as a program offering subsidized rent to those who qualify, similar to Universal Basic Income (UBI) programs currently in place in a number of U.S. cities and on a pilot run in Minneapolis from 2022 to 2024. UBI programs are social welfare programs that are government sponsored and designed to fight poverty by providing a monthly economic boost to those who qualify. “We need to provide aid to our most vulnerable,” says Jenkins, who points out that the most vulnerable are often women of color who reside in particular zip codes/neighborhoods such as the East Phillips neighborhood. Jenkins cites two additional Minneapolis programs that align with tackling poverty, Strive and Stable Homes-Stable

Schools.

Regarding 38th and Chicago (George Floyd Square) as well as the unoccupied 3rd Precinct building at Minnehaha Avenue and Lake Street, it is Stevenson’s view that the communities around these locations have not been heard. “The city is not listening; until they listen it is difficult to move forward,” Stevenson said. He points out that the two sites that have been identified as potentials for the new precinct are prescribed by city authorities and are “false choices.” One is the existing (burned) site and the other is a lot a few blocks away. The cost to build at the new site is estimated at about twice the cost of rebuilding at the Lake and Minnehaha site. Renovate or build? Stevenson would like to see additional options that honor the community’s concerns. While he aligns himself with some of the current City Council members, he does not believe the council has been effective in resolving the issues connected to these two sites.

Jenkins reports that she gets many calls, emails and texts from community members with many diverse opinions and ideas about the “cop shop” for the 3rd Precinct, including voices who want no police presence. She spoke of perhaps having several satellite sites in the 3rd Precinct rather than one major site. Regarding policing, Stevenson points out that the police union contract needs serious attention and revision. “It is anti-accountability,” he said. “This is one of

the most important things we can do for our city.”

Jenkins definitely has a vision for 38th and Chicago Avenue. She said that recently while at the location she met women from Detroit and from Florida who came to George Floyd Square to be part of it. “It is a national landmark,” Jenkins said, “and we have an opportunity to do something important here.” Jenkins would like to see a permanent memorial that honors lives lost to police brutality and a call to end racism. She envisions a mini-Nicollet Mall without cars, pedestrian-friendly, with safe public transit, green spaces and good lighting. She’d like to see small businesses and affordable housing developed in the area. Jenkins is pleased to see businesses popping up including a clothing store, a smokehouse and an arts center. In addition, she believes 38th and Chicago should be a place of healing, providing multiple modalities such as massage, yoga and acupuncture. “Harm has been done and healing is much needed,” Jenkins said.

Stevenson supports the Urban Farm project for the Roof Depot site at 1860 E. 28th St., an established Superfund site since 2007 in the East Phillips neighborhood. The battle has gone on for years with the city, whose plan has been to build a public works facility which would house water and sewage systems and a large parking garage. The community activists of the East Phillips Neighborhood In-

stitute (EPNI), a local nonprofit, have fought the city in favor of a community center with an urban farm, cooperatively owned businesses and affordable housing with the community’s unsheltered residents in mind. The site’s history of containing arsenic trioxide remains a key concern. As Stevenson and I discussed the injunction currently in place with respect to the property, news broke that the city is willing to sell the 7.6-acre property to EPNI if the group can secure funding of \$16.7 million from the state Legislature. Sahan Journal reports: “This is a win for the land-back movement.” Jenkins points out that the city needs a water maintenance facility. “I would like to find middle ground on this project where we could meet both the community’s needs as well as the city’s,” Jenkins said. “Meeting the needs of both could provide training, jobs and support families if done right.”

Stevenson believes that the creation of the Minneapolis Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR) team is a step in the right direction but does not believe it is adequately supported. “It needs to be expanded,” he said. Secured through Canopy Mental Health and Consulting, this team provides crisis intervention and counseling. Stevenson notes the wide discrepancy in budgets for this team, with just \$1,450,000 allocated versus the MPD’s \$195 million budget. Stevenson is in favor of expanding the BCR staff and improving and

increasing their resources, such as vehicles. “We need experts to address the issues of mental health, not cops; there needs to be a better balancing of these two groups,” he said. Jenkins points out that the BCR serviced more than 7,000 individuals in 2022 on multiple shifts, including weekends, providing intervention and de-escalation. She too sees a need for expansion of the program.

Jenkins expressed how honored she is to serve her city during these unprecedented times with major challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and civil upheaval after the murder of George Floyd. “We’ve been faced with pernicious issues that not only happen in Minneapolis but across the country, such as homelessness. There is a lack of faith in government and attacks on democracy,” Jenkins said. She is proud of her work on the council including the introduction of the Department of Safety, the Avivo affordable housing development, the 2040 Plan designed to increase housing options, advances in reproductive health care and more, saying that she looks forward to making additional contributions. Jenkins believes that progress has been made in Minneapolis and that the new, enforceable consent decree between the state and the city will aid accountability of the MPD, “but it will take time, especially with the continuing shortage of officers.”




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**Southside Pride**

**NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION**

Southside Pride is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the First Monday of each month to convenient locations in and around our Southside communities. 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**  
2721 E. 42ND STREET SUITE B  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406  
CALL US AT 612-822-4662  
email: editor@southsidepride.com

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# In spring, we turn to thoughts of zero waste and decluttering

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Spring thoughts

A project a lot of people are undertaking this spring is to

make their home as close to zero waste as possible. It makes a lot of sense. News from the ever-growing Great Pacific Garbage Patch is troubling, Minneapolis environmentalists are pressuring Henne-

pin County to close the HERC incinerator, and new companies are making a lot by promising to take practically anything to recycle – for a fee, of course. And this is related to the long-running craze

for decluttering. It all reduces down to a simpler day-to-day life.

### Approaching zero waste – the philosophy, the resources

The first thing to say about zero waste is that of course it will never mean zero. Waste cycles are an inseparable part of life cycles. To live on the earth with no im-

waste is shorthand for trying to reduce your waste output to a manageable level.

The philosophy includes less primary consumption, less over-consumption (i.e., buying more than you can use for whatever reason), and buying more thoughtfully, which means fewer disposables, more reusables, and less packaging. And also that more



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Woven laundry hamper



Small house with small kids, decluttered

print at all, you would have to be a ghost. But if absolute zero waste is unnatural, so too is having so much overproduction and waste that the vast oceans are clogging up with plastic objects. So zero

of the packaging you do consume is biodegradable, compostable or at least nontoxic. Another way to reduce primary consumption is to remember that needs or wants

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Home, from page 17

can be satisfied in ways that don't involve buying at all. Consider and use the gift economy, the stuff your friends are going to throw away, foraging, gardening, and DIY with something you already own.

Since a key to a lot of this is reducing plastics and other cheap-but-toxic disposables, it can be more expensive in individual cases to do zero waste. But if you're not also reducing primary consumption, which will offset these higher costs with savings, you're doing it wrong anyway. Here are a few quick examples of a more expensive, less wasteful choice, offset by a less expensive, less wasteful choice.

- In the bathroom, stop buying plastic toothbrushes that last three months and are thrown out.



Decluttering in progress

Buy bamboo replaceable head toothbrushes which are more expensive but less wasteful.

- In the bathroom, stop throwing out plastic pump bottles when

the liquid hand soap runs out. Instead refill the bottle by making your own from old bar soap scraps, or buying a concentrate, or buying hand soap in bulk without packaging at the co-op or zero-waste shop, thus saving money too.

- In the kitchen, stop buying

plastic wrap, drastically reduce the amount of Ziploc bags you buy by washing and reusing them, and buy a small number of silicone non-disposable food storage bags, which are more expensive but less

mac and cheese, or buffalo wings) in bulk, from scratch, freezing them in the silicone bags, glass storage bowls, or reused Ziplocs, thus saving money too.

Another way to reduce plas-



Zero-waste products

wasteful.

- In the kitchen, stop buying premade frozen bean burgers in disposable plastic packaging, and make your own bean burgers (or

tic is to stop using plastic storage bins, tools, etc. and when you need a new storage object or cleaning tool, buy or make a natural one that will decompose when you throw it out. I am old enough to remember when all laundry baskets were actually baskets, i.e., woven willow or something similar. This will also improve the aesthetics of your home.

For storing clothes, you can use wood, cardboard, canvas or woven willow instead of plastic. For a bucket, or a trash or composting receptacle, use metal; for a mop, use a string mop with a wooden handle. Use natural brushes, natural sponges and soft cotton rags.

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Resources:

- Tare Market in Minneapolis and similar zero-waste shops.
- Bulk section in your food co-op; water filter pitcher and steel water bottle instead of plastic bottled water, also from co-op (or grocer).
- Other retail bulk sales such as at environmentally conscious health and beauty retailers, garden centers and hardware stores.
- Online shopping - Amazon, Dropps, etee.com, Grove, Vermont Country Store, Duluth Trading Company and hundreds more.
- Zero-waste bloggers and websites for ideas and recommendations.
- Cloth diaper services, if you struggle to keep up with your own laundering of cloth diapers.
- Books (you won't believe how many there are - but borrow them from the library or buy them as ebooks).
- When remote shopping or subscription buying online, ask about packaging and shipping, and choose the most waste-reducing.
- City, county or private recycling and composting services.





- Community education classes in zero waste and DIY solutions.
- Thrift stores, vintage stores, Buy Nothing groups on Facebook, the Really Really Free Market in Minneapolis, alleys and curbs (both for reducing new consump-

tion and for recycling your own stuff to keep it out of the waste stream). Start simple; 2. Document your nostalgia; 3. Lose duplicates; 4. Nix the guilt; 5. Stop bringing so much home; and 6. Everything in its place.



**Bulk products at Tare Market**

tion and for recycling your own stuff to keep it out of the waste stream).

too many! However, here is my favorite: Don't focus on what you're losing, focus on what you're keeping.

**Decluttering your home – the philosophy, the resources**

I was just as overwhelmed by the amount of material, both on-line and in books and magazines, about decluttering. One thing decluttering experts love to do is make rules. Strict adherence to these is rather silly, in my view, but I offer a representative sample as a way to spark your own motivation (and mine) to declutter.

- The 20/20 rule – if something can be replaced with \$20 or less in 20 minutes or less, you don't need to keep it.
- The 90-90 rule – if you haven't used it in the past 90 days, and won't need it in the next 90 days, don't keep it. (Not sure this applies to Minnesota. We would throw out our boots every summer!)
- The five-second rule – hold the thing and ask yourself when you last used it; if you can't remember in five seconds, don't keep it.
- The four-box rule – you have four boxes labeled Toss/Give/Keep/Store. Sort into boxes. If you don't have storage and can't afford to rent storage, use only the first three.
- Six rules for decluttering – 1.

These aren't exactly rules, but are rule-like structures and lists.

- The 80/20 rule or Pareto Principle applied to decluttering (OK, so this applies to clutter certainly) – you only use 20% of what's in your space 80% of the time. But if you get rid of the 80% you don't use, then what? Does the rule cease to exist, or do you start using less again, and repeat until you're sitting by the road with a begging bowl?
- Five types of clutter (I found this one the most helpful) – see link below.
- What clutter experts never have in their bedrooms – tech devices, books, paperwork, out of season clothes, under-bed storage, old health and beauty items, clothing piles.

**Links to resources**

- littlemissorganised.com.au/5-types-of-clutter
- unep.org/news-and-stories/story/cities-embrace-zero-waste-philosophy-amidst-torments-trash
- epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool/how-communities-have-defined-zero-waste
- mspmag.com/arts-and-culture/how-to-start-composting
- thrivemarket.com/blog/how-to-reduce-waste-in-every-room
- facebook.com/BuyNothingProject



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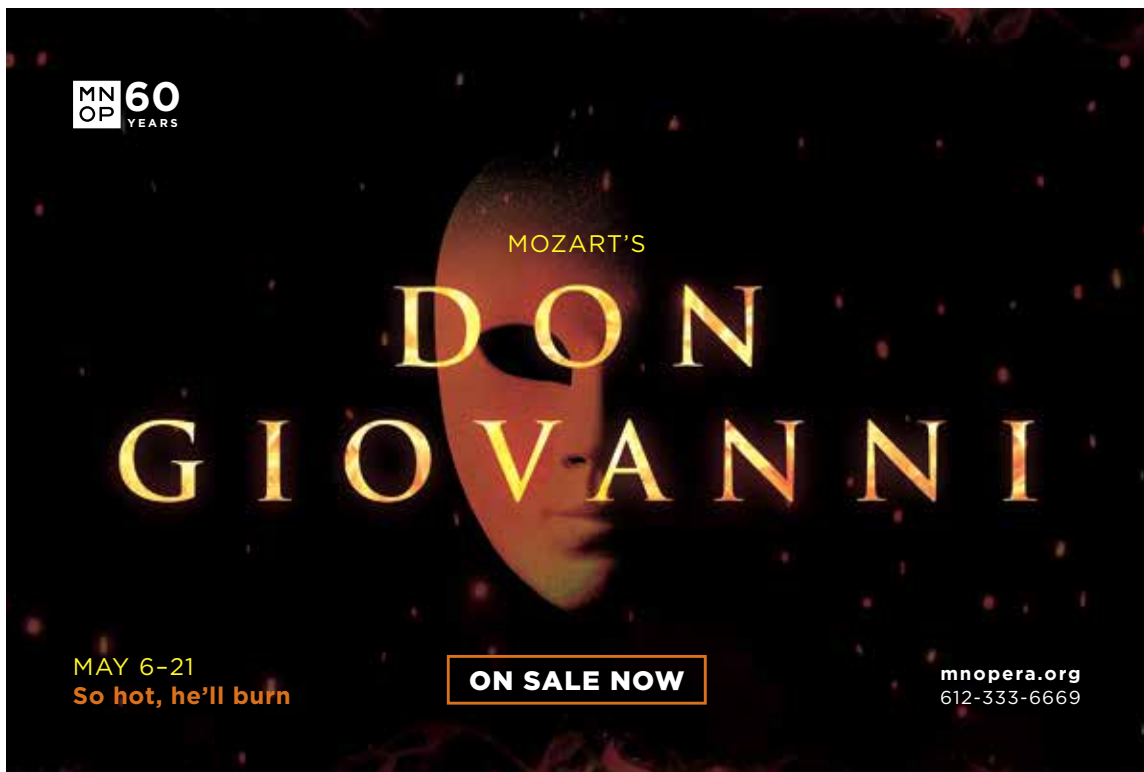


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