



We build Pride on the Southside

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**October
2023**

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Cam's Corner



Is Avivo the answer?

BY CAM GORDON

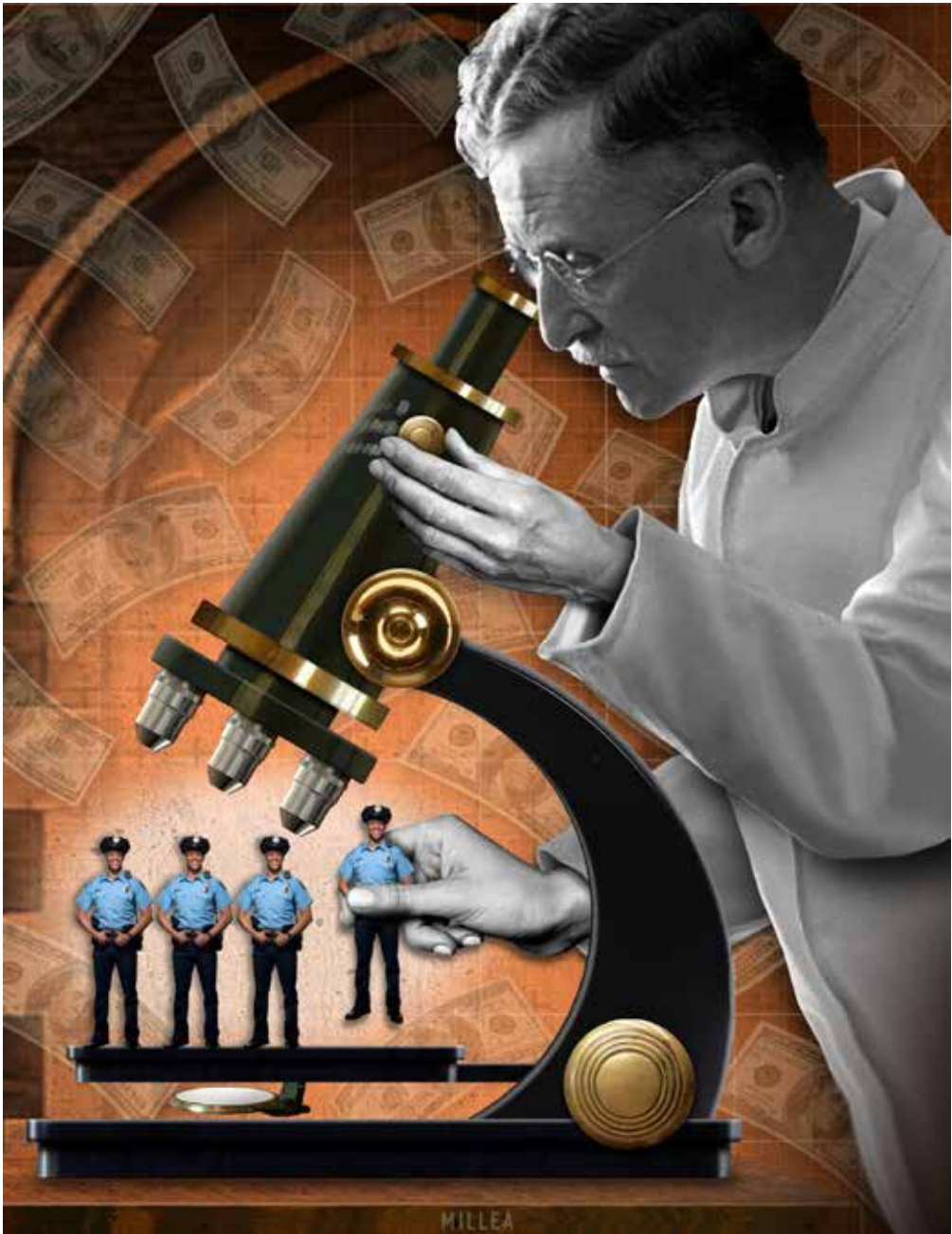
The Minneapolis City Council has taken a step toward bringing a new tiny-home shelter housing project to the Southside.

On Sept. 21, they voted unanimously to provide \$1 million as a match for state funds for a new Avivo Village South Project. The money would come from the city's contingency funds and will only be used if the nonprofit, Avivo, is awarded funding from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to acquire, design, and construct and/or renovate such an emergency homeless shelter.

"This sets in motion the city's commitment to the Avivo Village project and its expansion into south Minneapolis," said Ward 8 council member and City Council President Andrea Jenkins just before the vote.

If successful, the project would be modeled after the Avivo Village shelter housing that has been operating for roughly two years in the North Loop neighborhood in a warehouse near Plymouth and Washington Avenues.

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More funding, fewer cops

BY ETHAN BESSER
FREDRICK

Minnesotans have never paid so much for police departments only to have so few officers. In some places, police are disappearing altogether. In August, the police department of Goodhue, Minnesota, abolished itself – the entire department resigned for better paying jobs elsewhere. This is the most extreme example of a problem local governments face

across the state from Minneapolis to small towns. Despite soaring salary offers (from \$22 an hour in 2020 to at least \$30 an hour today) and hiring bonuses of up to \$70,000, cities can't fully staff police departments. If the pay has never been better, why can't they hire enough cops?

The basic cause of the police shortage is the increased public scrutiny and outright hostility police feel in their work. In the years

immediately after George Floyd's murder and the corresponding uprising, early retirements among officers nationally rose by 45% and resignations increased by 18%. Former Minneapolis police officers attribute their resignations to public criticism and oversight of how they do their brutal jobs. One former Minneapolis officer left to take a job in Iowa, whose Republican government expanded protections for police from

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City Council elections

BY ED FELIEN

City elections are coming up on Tuesday, Nov. 7. All 13 seats are up for grabs. Here's who we like:

Ward 1—Elliott Payne. He votes right all the time, very progressive, without grandstanding. Besides, he's a Black Diaper Baby. Children of communists and leftists are called Red Diaper Babies. Children of Black Panthers should be called Black Diaper Babies. He shares that distinction with Fani Willis, the Georgia prosecutor who wants to send Trump to jail. Her father, too, was a Black Panther. Payne: "I was an advertising executive, not a Black Panther like my dad. But I knew I had to be part of the struggle that brought my parents together."

Ward 2—Robin Wonsley. She exercises amazing leadership in storming the citadels of power in defense of the homeless, abused minorities and the Urban Farm in Phillips. We are grateful for her courage and her strength.

Ward 3—Marcus Mills. He has some good proposals, but too many glittering generali-



(Photo/Kay Schroven)

ties. The big thing in his favor is that he would more than likely support the progressive faction on the City Council.

Michael Rainville, the incumbent, is part of the current conservative majority.

The city election this year is a really big deal. It is possible that the balance of power could shift on the City Council—away from the conservative faction and toward the progressive faction that is in favor of rent control, the Urban Farm and accountability of the police.

Rainville is the latest incarnation of the

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Fall on
42nd & 28th
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Bridge to
Dinkytown
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Celebrate Fall on 42nd & 28th

Celebrate fall at 42nd Street and 28th Avenue



The SouthSide Vintage shop cat, Miss Luna

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BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

There are lots of fun things to do, see, eat, drink and buy in the area around 28th Avenue South and East 42nd Street. Some are new, while others have been around forever, and we are just now getting around to highlighting them. One fairly new thing – a little over a year ago we at Southside Pride relocated our office from above Modern Times to above A Baker's Wife. Fewer hash browns and more donuts, I guess. I work from home anyway, but my home is now even closer to the office.

In the spotlight on Cedar Avenue a few months ago, we mentioned how businesses at Cedar and 42nd Street had joined in with neighbors to protest the outcome of the intersection redesign there. It must have worked, because they are re-doing it to correct some of the confusing striping and restore some of the street parking for businesses. As I write this, the Cedar and 42nd Street intersection is closed to through traffic for a few days, but the businesses are posting that they're glad to sacrifice a few days' inconvenience for a long-term solution.

One of the businesses in that area that I have yet to patronize (although a lot of my friends do) is Cedar Inn, an iconic local tavern and hangout. Cedar Inn has a VIP program called Friends of Cedar Inn. The bar sponsors numerous sports teams, and has a packed calendar of trivia, karaoke, and all the traditional Minnesota bar events. And they are famous for their wings and their patio.

The website Streets.mn pub-

lished this in August:

"Jim Landvick bought the Cedar Inn Bar and Grill during the pandemic. He has continuously grown the business since then. The Cedar Inn is an iconic Minneapolis bar that has been around since the 1940s. Jim has been vocal (reaching out to me-

tion where everyone can thrive? That's where you come in. You with your love of bikes. With your love of pedestrian safety. You with your love of public transit. With your love of climate change mitigation. Bring your enthusiasm for improvements and creative solutions to our



The newly remodeled Northern Coffeeworks, still with lots of bikes

dia and elected officials) about wanting the city and county to come back and change the intersection again to bring back more parking spaces.

"So how do we create a situa-

Group Ride to Help Businesses Thrive at Cedar and 42nd. Join us on Thursday, August 31 at 5:30 p.m. We will meet at Powderhorn Park and ride to Cedar Inn."

Another business near that corner that was vocal was SouthSide Vintage & Quality Goods. They closed temporarily for the second construction but have now reopened. They have some amazing deals on home furnishings and more.

Northern Fires Pizza is a new business on 42nd Street about a block east. It opened in November 2020 in that location, after a few successful years of doing pop-ups at farmers' markets. Check out their website before you stop by. They are open restricted hours and have neither



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Six new pickleball courts at Lake Nokomis Community Center

dine-in space nor delivery, so you have to coordinate your order with a pickup. I have tried their wares and, speaking as an incorruptible restaurant reviewer, I say, “Totally worth it.”

Getting back to 28th Avenue, Northern Coffeeworks has reopened with slightly extended hours after closing in late summer for a major redesign. They are now open until 3 p.m. Northern Coffeeworks’ location used to be Angry Catfish, a combo coffee shop and bike shop, while “Northern Coffeeworks” was only the name of the roastery. The coffee shop is now also offering more food items. I need to get by there soon and try it out. Meanwhile, Angry Catfish (the bike shop, do keep up) is now doing business at a separate location a couple of blocks away at 2900 E. 42nd St.

A totally new venture on 28th Avenue is THC Dabbler Depot, a new business arm of the Dabbler Depot liquor outlet. This one is all THC, mostly drinks, plus some gummies and other edibles. Racket did a good article about their burgeoning empire and how Dabbler’s Lance Asher serendipitously picked our neighborhood when he saw a storefront for rent next to his chiropractor (tinyurl.com/DKRatSSPDabble). Check out their website for online shopping or better still, visit the shop to see the latest and over 100 THC drinks under one roof.

And that serendipitous chiropractic office next door? Well, it’s the very popular Spinal Frontier at 4154 28th Ave. S., founded by Dr. Tracie Fowler, who has been in practice for 20 years and is herself a resident of the neighborhood. According to Dr. Tracie, “about 250 of our neighborhood spines are here each week, getting well and staying well.” The Spinal Frontier even offers a monthly membership option that lets clients get all the

care they need for one low price. Check out their super fun website at thespinalfrontier.com for

Northern Coffeeworks’ new interior

all the details, as well as glowing reviews from their many happy and healthy customers.

One of the things I really love about the corner of 28th Avenue and 42nd Street is how close it is to my favorite tiny library, Roosevelt Library. We patrons, neighbors, and Friends of the Library have been clamoring for years to extend the hours, and our wish was granted last year, just a tad too late to make it into the Southside Pride piece. Hours at many Hennepin County libraries were increased in October of 2022, but Roosevelt’s hours doubled! Previously open only three days a week for eight hours a day, it’s now open six days a week. You can now visit the library in person on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Wednesday and Thursday from

noon to 8 p.m.

Right smack on the corner of 42nd and 28th is the incredible, old-school bakery called A Baker’s Wife Pastry Shop. Open every day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., they make their delicious doughnuts, breads, and pastries throughout the day, so there’s always a wide selection of fresh and tasty items to choose from anytime you stop in. It’s a great place to get decorated cakes for birthdays and other special occasions, too – just give them a call or go online (www.bakers-wife.com) to place your order 24 hours in advance.

Finally, two blocks east of 28th Avenue along Minnehaha Parkway, you will find the Lake Nokomis Community Center. The news there is that this sum-

Redoing the redesign at 42nd and Cedar

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The Tampa 5 – students face jail

BY DRAKE THOMAS MYERS,
MN ANTI-WAR COMMITTEE

“We’re not guilty. We came out to the press right away saying, we’re not f—ing apologizing for anything, not to the cops who groped a student and not to the university that wants to punish protesters for saying no to attacks on their schools!” – Chrisley Carpio, one of the Tampa 5.

Hillsborough County prosecutors have filed felony and misdemeanor charges

against a group of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) protesters who were brutalized and in one case sexually assaulted by University of South Florida (USF) campus police for holding a peaceful demonstration on their campus in March of this year.

Right: Chrisley Carpio and Lauren Pineiro of the Tampa 5, speaking at UMN SDS Solidarity Event (Photo/ Brad Sigal)



Cops, from page 1

most consequences after 2020. As the officer put it, “Down here they appreciate you, you get a lot of support from the community.”

By contrast, DFL lawmakers at the state and municipal level campaign intensely on police reform without changing policing in any meaningful way. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey is emblematic. He ran for reelection in 2021 promising to both fundamentally reform the police department and protect it from a

ballot initiative that would have removed mandatory police staffing levels from the city charter. Infamously, Frey announced a ban on no-knock warrants, the sort of policy that killed Breonna Taylor in Kentucky in 2020, only for Minneapolis police to murder Amir Locke a year later using just such a tactic. Frey then announced that now, for real this time, no-knock warrants would be banned – unless police officers felt it necessary to do it anyway. No senior police department or city officials lost their jobs. Such is the nature of

DFL police reform.

This contradiction – high talk of reform while still basing public safety entirely around police departments – is the source of the skyrocketing salaries and staff shortage. Police across the country have a simple and consistent message on reform: *Any civilian criticism, oversight, or punishment of our behavior is intolerable. We will leave and take a generous payout when we do.* This logic was made clear when the Minnesota state legislature this year forbade officers in schools from putting children in the same stress positions that killed George Floyd – officers quit instead of complying. Even when Attorney General Keith Ellison qualified that officers could put children in these deadly holds when officers feel there is a “threat of bodily harm” (a subjective metric that Derek Chauvin felt justified his actions), this did little to satisfy officers. Why comply with reform and scrutiny when you can get a starting bonus of several thousand dollars in the next county?

Police departments in Minnesota have been forced to offer more generous salaries, benefits, hiring bonuses, and other job perks in order to staff their departments. Officials that want to reform and protect police face an impossible conundrum: remake the policing system which violates human rights established at the state, national, and international level while at the same time hire cops who fight these changes tooth and nail. So far, the DFL has tried to smooth over this issue by trying to buy the loyalty of police departments.

Despite Republican talking points that Democrats abolished the police, the city of Minneapolis (and the state of Minne-

sota, in fact) is spending more on the police department than ever before. Police salaries have increased faster than inflation every year since 2020. The city offers generous hiring bonuses and is considering raising those. Police are allowed to work overtime beyond what any official policy allows, giving three-fourths of the department mind-boggling six-figure salaries. The department looks the other way when officers moonlight as private security using the training, tools, and connections of the police department. When officers face discipline for their behavior, the city keeps them on staff by giving them promotions instead. The policy is clear: stay in Minneapolis’ “reformed” police department in exchange for a huge payout. When the City Council suggested increasing the police budget by only \$7 million instead of \$8 million this year, the new police chief, Brian O’Hara, said even this reduction would prevent him from sufficiently staffing the department.

There are obvious limits to this carrot-and-no-stick strategy since the Minneapolis police department remains well below its charter-mandated staffing minimum. As metros with larger budgets hike wages, smaller cities like Goodhue find themselves impossibly outbid. This spending doesn’t even include the increasingly expensive spate of lawsuits cities must settle for the brutality meted out by unreformed police departments. Despite the famous promise made by the Minneapolis City Council in the midst of the rebellion, the police department has not been defunded – but it does seem to be slowly abolishing itself. The ironic result is that while all municipalities are short on cops, rural Minnesota towns that never

challenged police authority are the first to abolish the police, in a de facto if not planned state of affairs. At the same time, Minneapolis cops work longer hours and moonlight shifts, which evidence indicates leads exhausted officers to rely more heavily on force and racialized policing tactics.

How can we end this inflationary cycle? The cops have been clear: *Stop trying to reform or criticize us.* However, politicians and residents talk about reform quite a bit. Political leaders facing a never-ending rise in policing costs may decide to clamp down on even the window dressing of reform to satisfy officers. Frey may be starting on this path; he announced that the police will create their own rules on internal discipline with no civilian input. Alternatively, mayors like Frey could maintain the whiff of reform and just keep increasing police pay and benefits even as taxes are raised, and other public programs suffer. Are pro-police DFL voters ready to stomach tax hikes and cuts to libraries, parks and schools, all to pay for evasive police reform? New York City Democrats are facing this situation under Mayor Eric Adams who is slashing all spending to support the police department. Another possible outcome is that in the near future, there is another uprising caused by a police murder. A rebellion would certainly overstrain the now short-staffed policing system. Based on payroll data, there were likely 900 police officers in Minneapolis in 2020 when George Floyd was murdered compared to around 585 in 2023. Police were unable to keep order even then. By contrast, the working people of Minneapolis are quite organized in their opposition to police rule.

The only realistic solution for public officials interested in avoiding bankruptcy and riot is simple: Find and support other forms of public safety that free us from the police inflationary spiral we find ourselves in. Crime levels in the past five years have fallen, risen, and fallen again regardless of how many police are on the streets. Police departments are not a solution to the public safety crisis – they are the crisis.

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Chief O'Hara and the MPD's new structure

BY KAY SCHROVEN

Changes

Ten months into his position as the 54th chief of the Minneapolis Police Department, Brian O'Hara is encouraged, especially about the recent restructuring of the department. He is also acutely aware of the challenges the MPD faces. O'Hara accepted the position knowing he would be walking into the city's slow recovery from the murder of George Floyd in 2020, the riots that followed, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The mission of the MPD is to reduce serious street crime while rebuilding people's trust, pride, and the department itself. O'Hara believes the restructuring will support this mission. "We need to move out of the darkness and trauma of the last three years and into a brighter future together," he said.

The recent restructuring is designed to meet the chief's vision for the department and is aimed at increasing accountability. It took time to create the new structure due to administrative processes, legislative issues and approval required by the City Council. O'Hara sought what the Minneapolis Fire Department has had for a while – a fire chief and five direct reports who have additional staff reporting to them.

MPD's new organization consists of the chief, two assistant chiefs, five deputy chiefs, and two inspectors for the 2nd and 5th Precincts, Nick Torberg and Christie Nelson. Assistant Chief Katie Blackwell, with 20-plus years on the force, leads the Operations group which is focused on patrols and investigation. Assistant Chief Christopher Gaiters (30 years on the force, 14 in Homicide) leads the Community Engagement and Trust group which consists of three sworn members and approximately 20 paid civilians. His role involves internal affairs and implementing change per the state court-enforced agreement and expected U.S. Department of Justice consent decree. Additional appointments include the following five deputy chiefs:

Jon Kingsbury – Patrol; Jason Case – Investigation; Travis Glampe – Constitutional Policing; DeChristopher Granger – Internal Affairs; and Mark Montgomery – Professional Standards.

O'Hara says that the new structure addresses gaps and creates a better channel for accountability. The structure had been bottom heavy, and O'Hara needed executive level leadership in order to increase accountability. Now the structure is similar to that of other large cities, especially those under consent decrees. O'Hara views the restructuring as part of the needed culture change.

The new leadership includes nine veterans of the MPD. There

has been criticism from the community with respect to some of the choices because of their records, which include complaints against them. In addition, there are community members who continually oppose adding staff (top down) at the higher levels



Chief Brian O'Hara (Photo/ Minneapolis Police Department)

rather than bottom-up additions. One popular suggestion is to use some of the \$19 million of public safety funding (signed into law by Gov. Walz) to hire community ambassadors to actively engage with communities, especially those most troubled, to gather ideas on services and their delivery. These ambassadors would serve as liaisons and point persons for the police in an effort to support the mission and increase trust between the police and the communities they serve.

O'Hara says that "morale on the force is challenging." Those officers who remain after the exodus that began in 2020 are tough and have been through a lot, as have the communities they serve. Officers face a broadly brushed, negative view of the police among some community members. This impacts them. They need support, including having the community work with, not against them. Given what Minneapolis has been through it will take time to establish trust.

Community meetings

On Wednesday, Sept. 6, the ninth and final community meeting (per the agreement) was held at Plymouth Congregational Church on Nicollet Avenue. The evening included free pizza, a presentation, and an opportunity for attendees to discuss and give input on the topics addressed in the presentation, including MPD's mission, values and goals. Suggestions and comments were written and collected at the end of the session. Chief O'Hara was in attendance along with several officers, DeYoung Consulting Services representatives, Raj Sethuraju, professor of criminal justice at Metro State University, and a room full of community members. The overall message was "change is slow and requires community involvement." Commander Yolanda Wilkes, who

has a lead role in the implementation of the agreement, handled much of the presentation. In closing she informed the community that there will be more sessions scheduled in the future for culturally specific groups.

Recruiting and retention

It's no secret that recruiting officers is an issue across the country. In Minneapolis there has been a 34% decline in the police force since 2018, according to the DOJ. Why is it so difficult to recruit and hire police officers? The are multiple reasons, including the vetting process, which is rigorous and can take months, even a year. Background checks often involve employment history, character references, academic records, residency history, physical ability, polygraphs, and criminal and credit checks. Approximately one out of every 10 applicants makes it through and becomes a viable candidate. Add to this the negative public opinion and scrutiny about policing, plus an increase in line-of-duty injuries and deaths, and you have a situation where there are layers of hurdles to overcome for successful recruiting.

O'Hara says he could use 300 more cops today. He came to Minneapolis from Newark, New Jersey, where he was on the police force from 2001-2022. Newark is smaller than Minneapolis, yet has 1,033 sworn officers versus Minneapolis' 585, nearly twice as many. Newark's population is 280,888 versus Minneapolis' population of 425,336, and Newark covers an area of 26.11 square miles while Minneapolis covers 57.49 square miles. Crime rates in Minneapolis are higher than in Newark, especially property crimes, and are considerably higher than the national average.

Generational differences and challenges

Recruiting today is primarily from Gen Z (born between 1997-2012) and millennials (born between 1981-1996) – roughly today's high school students through those in their late 30s. These generations often have different views of policing than

their parents. Their values and expectations are often at odds with policing and they are reluctant to commit to any one employer. Studies indicate that they value work/life balance, flexible schedules, career growth, social responsibility, shared values, meaningful work, skill development, and collaboration, and expect benefits such as health care and assistance with educational costs. Low starting salaries, demanding work schedules including holidays, and the hierarchy of policing itself can be deterrents for them.

O'Hara believes there are career opportunities on the force including educational support that incentivizes careers for those with a true interest in policing. "We have to get the word out, especially to the schools," he said.

According to the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), success will require changes in what is offered to new recruits and how they are retained. Proposed ideas include increasing the DOJ's grant funding to assist state and local agencies; providing financial incentives such as sign-on or year-end bonuses; offering educational support; considering part-time shifts; and subsidized child care

and parental leave as well as health-related benefits such as fitness memberships. Some policy changes being considered include such things as eliminating the requirement that candidates not have tattoos, and overlooking dated records regarding the use of marijuana. With 23 of 50 states having legalized use, policies are being revisited. The use of web-based recruiting may be better received than traditional recruiting methods. Younger recruits also respond well to on-line training. Retention could be improved if new recruits came in with realistic views of policing. Perhaps ride-alongs should be part of initial training so that recruits can distinguish real police work from popular television programs such as "Law & Order," "NCIS" and "Blue Bloods."

The landscape of policing is rapidly changing. Police chiefs across the country are challenged on many fronts. The experts say that the profession must be rebuilt which will require full commitment from the leaders of cities, counties, states and the federal government. The future will rely less on weapons and more on social skills such as counseling, negotiation and de-escalation rather than force.

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Murray on Assange, whistleblowers and the press

BY AMY BLUMENSHINE

On the recent anniversary of 9/11, over a hundred people came to hear whistleblower and former British ambassador Craig Murray at the Hook and Ladder. A Scotsman and career diplomat for the United Kingdom, Murray had been ambassador to Uzbekistan as our “Global War on Terror” was the excuse for that dic-

theless, the elder whistleblower spent the night reviewing the information and delivered his countering testimony at the wee hour.

To the government’s claim that Assange endangered individuals, Ellsberg pointed out that no such victim had been identified whereas the post-9/11 internationally illegal U.S. wars – which the WikiLeaks revela-

Assange who withers, awaiting extradition for a possible U.S. trial, in Belmarsh maximum security prison with draconian threats on his life and liberty – all contrary to British law, explained Murray.

The horrific tortured deaths in Uzbekistan of which Murray had personal knowledge were excused and supported by the U.K. and U.S. as supportive of the War on Terror. In actual fact, these horrors were committed to terrorize the Uzbeks, maintaining the dictator’s rule while currying aid and political support from the U.S. and U.K. war-makers. Murray also knew that one of the victims, persecuted as being in al-Qaida, was actually a Jehovah’s Witness. Murray explained that George H.W. Bush had a financial interest in building the oil pipeline through Uzbekistan, which shared a border with Afghanistan. The geographic location facilitated profits from trafficking the opiate trade which produced over 90% of the global illicit trade during the U.S. occupation.

The local Southside connection is not just the opioid catastrophe here, but also the presence in our neighborhoods of so many Ecuadorian refugees. The Ecuadorian president, Rafael Correa, who offered asylum to Assange in the Ecuadorian London embassy also oversaw a major reduction in poverty in Ecuador. But U.S. covert actions helped effect regime change in Ecuador, Murray asserts. The asylum-offering Correa was succeeded by presidents who allowed U.S. surveillance within the embassy and ultimately expelled Assange, seizing his legal case preparation documents and giving them to the prosecution.

(That action alone would cause dismissal of most trials.) The replacement Ecuadorian regime also instituted immiserating conditions which are triggering an influx of refugees in our city.

Another local impact, of course, is the chilling effect on all journalism of penalizing the publishers of truths that are embarrassing to the government. “A society that prohibits the capacity to speak in truth extinguishes the capacity to live in justice,” was a Chris Hedges quote offered by Coleen Rowley, local FBI whistleblower as she introduced the quickly organized event. Gary King, of Amnesty International, in preliminary remarks, noted that Assange was the epitome of what they call a prisoner of conscience: someone imprisoned by their government

not for violence but for speaking inconvenient truths.

Murray quoted Assange: “If wars can be started by lies then wars can be ended by truth.” Murray urged all present to act if Assange is extradited to the U.S. He urged impacting the narrative on that day, including providing visuals of photographs of protests for alternative local media.

Murray left with this exhortation: “We need to rescue from persecution the leading proponent against war. This is the fight for truth, for justice, for the very principle of freedom of speech, against war, for the fundamental virtues in society that good people should be pursuing. I know that everyone here will be doing that with me.”



Former British ambassador to Uzbekistan and ‘War on Terror’ anti-torture whistleblower Craig John Murray led a discussion on the defense of Julian Assange and freedom of speech and the press with local activists. (Photo/Amy Blumenshine)

tator to boil alive his opponents.

Murray’s mission while in the U.S., however, was to plead for protections for whistleblowers and the press who publish them – most especially Julian Assange. Assange has been in captivity – neither tried nor convicted – for over 13 years for publishing the truth about U.S. government crimes. Murray detailed the slow-motion execution that the U.S. and U.K. governments have waged on Assange. A U.N. special rapporteur on torture who investigated Assange’s treatment and condition has characterized it as that of torture.

Assange’s transparency-dedicated organization WikiLeaks published leaked documents revealing wrongful actions of various countries’ governments and corporations. The WikiLeaks revelations about U.S. torture, the Iraq War Logs, the Afghan War Diary, and even the political shenanigans of politicians earned him the vengeance of the security forces of the U.S., said Murray, and have resulted in the obviously unconstitutional assault on press freedom.

Murray also honored the late whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg who testified in defense of Assange near his own life’s end. The kangaroo U.K. court conducting the case for extradition attempted to sabotage Ellsberg’s testimony by allowing access to the 600 pages of evidence only the evening before he was to testify (online) at 5:30 a.m. Never-

tions sought to end – have resulted in the deaths of at least one million people and displacement of over 27 million more.

Murray’s own story was that after exhausting internal channels to change his government’s support of the torturing dictator, he took the story to a British paper. There were repercussions and he was given seven years’ pay to resign early. His treatment was in contrast to that of

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Open Streets Lyndale is an autumn celebration



Dogs are welcome at Open Streets Lyndale.

BY STEPHANIE FOX

Open Streets Lyndale, the final Open Streets event for the season, will be held on Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lyndale Avenue will be closed to motor traffic from 42nd Street to 22nd Street, and open to pedestrians, bikes, rollerblades and skateboards. The street will be lined with entertainment opportunities, places to grab a bite to eat, small shops, and chances to get information about nonprofits and city services. This will be the 12th year for Open Streets, events held to showcase what Minneapolis streets might be like without

traffic. During that time, the popular event has drawn more than 600,000 people, growing more popular each year. But this might be the last chance for Open Streets fans to attend. In August, The Minneapolis Public Works Department announced that they planned to end their partnership with Open Streets, an announcement made with no advance discussion and no mention of a chance for future events. Currently, negotiations

Streets to hold 13 events in the coming year, showcasing all 13 wards in the city. Meanwhile, this year's Open Streets Lyndale will include a number of fun things for people of all ages. **Up-Down Minneapolis** Near the corner of Lyndale and Lake Street, this popular arcade bar will be partnering with F1RST Wrestling, with live wrestling matches at their



Veterans for Peace bus with free peace sign buttons, stickers and literature

are underway, with the Open Streets organization considering making these multi-department funded events. "Our organization has relied on grants, sponsorships, and registration fees to either break even or at a loss, and the city of Minneapolis has declined years of requests to fund the program," said Carly Ellefsen, Communications Manager at Our Streets Minneapolis. The organization has submitted three budget ideas to the city. One proposal is for Open

front door throughout the day. "Most fun part? Possibly the Indeed beer truck that will be pulling up outside next to the wrestling ring," said Tucker Cox, Up-Down's general manager. A Redbull bar will also offer beverages for those who need a lift. "We see Open Streets as a community-forward event showcasing neighborhoods across the city and we want to contribute to our little slice of the city as much as possible to help grow the community and



introduce folks from farther away to see what the neighborhood has to offer,” said Cox.

HUGE Improv Theater

HUGE is a nonprofit organization offering classes in improv theater that help people develop social skills, public speaking confidence and storytelling expertise, all in a fun setting oriented around games and interactive play.

The theater recently moved three blocks down the street from its old space to a new location at 2728 Lyndale and, said Valerie Blomberg of HUGE, “We need to get the word out to the community that we moved and that HUGE Theater is alive, well and thriving.”

“We are planning our Open Streets participation to highlight these amazing successes to the broader community and to invite neighbors to come to our shows and to support local theater,” Blomberg added.

At Open Streets Lyndale, HUGE is offering a chalk-drawn street stage with amplified sound and various improvisational acts on the hour during



Hoop Jams

Don’t look for a Hoop Jams booth. Instead, look along the route for members of this dance flow/hoop group interacting with those attending. “We supply hula hoops and other flow props for folks to use for fun. We supply the music as well,” said Raija Langhoff.

“This is our second year at Open Streets,” Langhoff said. “We love the energy and the connections we create there.” Hoop Jams has events, both

East Lake Street, this popular restaurant is now located where The Egg and I once served customers, at 2828 Lyndale Ave.

“Participating in Open Streets 2023 will provide me with an opportunity to show the community who we are through the foods we are serving that day,” said Abi.

The restaurant at Open Streets Lyndale will have a special menu showcasing various Latin American foods. Get ready to sample dishes like pica pollo, a traditional Dominican fried chicken street food.

“Outside we will make pupusas on the spot and will have fresh roasted corn,” Abi said. Pupusas are Salvadoran corn flour pouches with various savory fillings.

The food and experience might be different than what you might expect, she explained. “For example, people expect that everyone who works here or comes to eat here are Mexicans. Sometimes we must remember we don’t all come from the same country. We are fortunate to have some very sweet and supporting regular clients from the community.”

“I am excited to bring this to Open Streets. It will be different and unique. This will be a perfect way to interact and be engaged with the community and to get to know each other better. This event truly strengthens community as it influences people not only to find who lives around the neighborhood, but the event also

supports local businesses,” Abi said.

Veterans for Peace

This group shows up to Open Streets each year in their easy-to-spot bus, giving out thousands of free multi-colored peace sign buttons, stickers and literature. “Open Streets has been a wonderful opportunity for us to meet the public and to answer, as best we can, any questions about our work,” said Dave Logsdon, the group’s president and a Vietnam War veteran.

“Over the years,” Logsdon said, “we have led or participated in hundreds of demonstrations throughout the state and beyond. Our mission is centered on arts, education and action as we find healing from our moral war-related injuries by telling our stories. Our all-volunteer group has been busy and since world peace does not appear to be imminent, we will remain busy for a while.”



Dave Logsdon, president of Veterans for Peace, Minnesota Chapter 27


the festival. In addition, cast members from various shows will arrive in Starfleet costumes from their show “Star Trek: the Next Improvisation.” “Of course, the theater also offers shows almost every night of the week, and tickets are cheaper than you might think,” said Blomberg.

indoors and out, all year long. Come and learn where and when you (and the kids) can show up for more chances to play.

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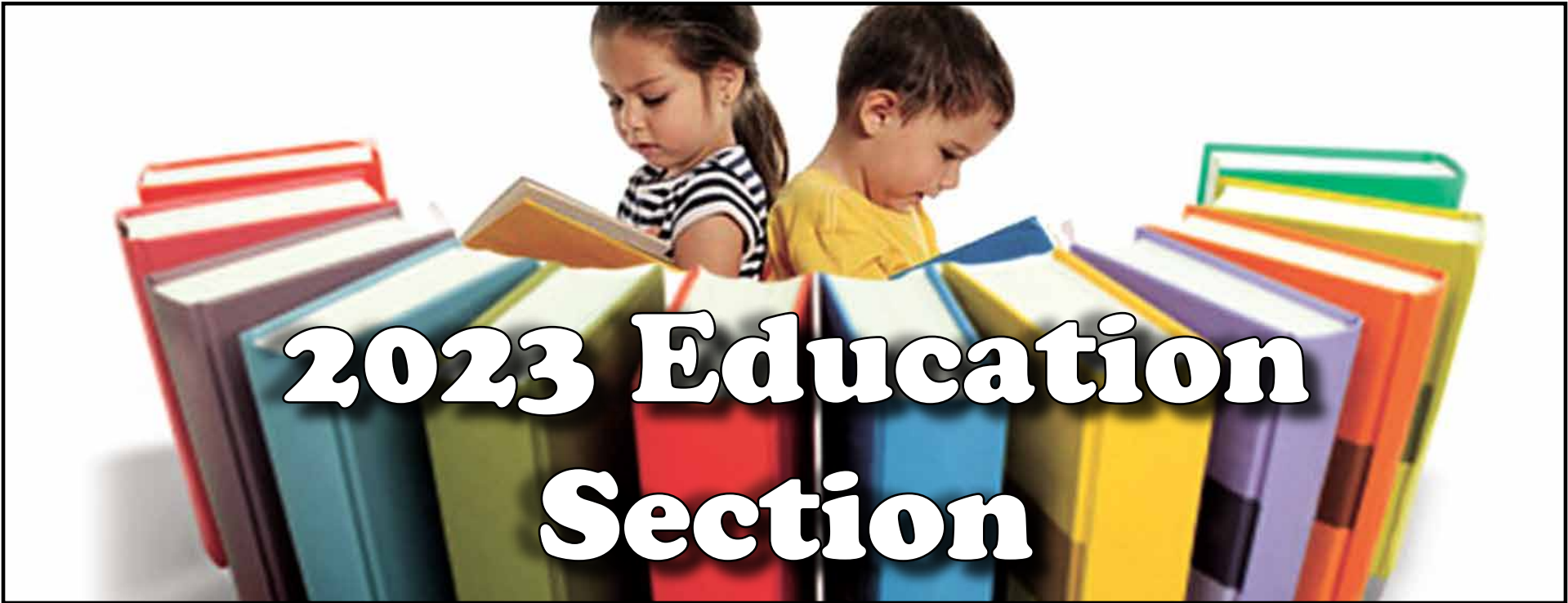
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2023 Education Section

The state of public education

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

What does the internet say?

I don't watch TV anymore, so I never see TV news; I never did listen to the ra-

dio much and I can't afford the Strib. How do I stay so well-informed, you ask? I have learned to maximize the internet. It's true; I get all my news from social media, email newsletters, and free online

papers.

If you see all my friends' kids and grandkids with their adorable and hopeful first day of school pictures and read the majority of education workers' "glad to be back" posts without delving into just what's wrong with what they're coming back to, you'd think schools are in great shape. Especially in Minnesota, and if you temporarily forget that, go back to midsummer and look at that picture of all the kiddies swarming Gov. Walz with hugs because he had just signed a bill making all school lunches free for kids. But what if you're in, say, Florida?

I got my major reality check



A walking bus at a community school

from a meme, showing comedian Wanda Sykes making a statement that reflects the basic crack in today's education policies and politics: "Until a drag queen walks into a school and beats eight kids to death with a copy of 'To Kill A Mockingbird,' I think you're

focusing on the wrong s**t."

As the 2023-24 school year begins, child poverty is rising sharply, and the shortage of qualified teachers far outstrips the already large general labor shortage. State governments badly fumbled protecting kids during the

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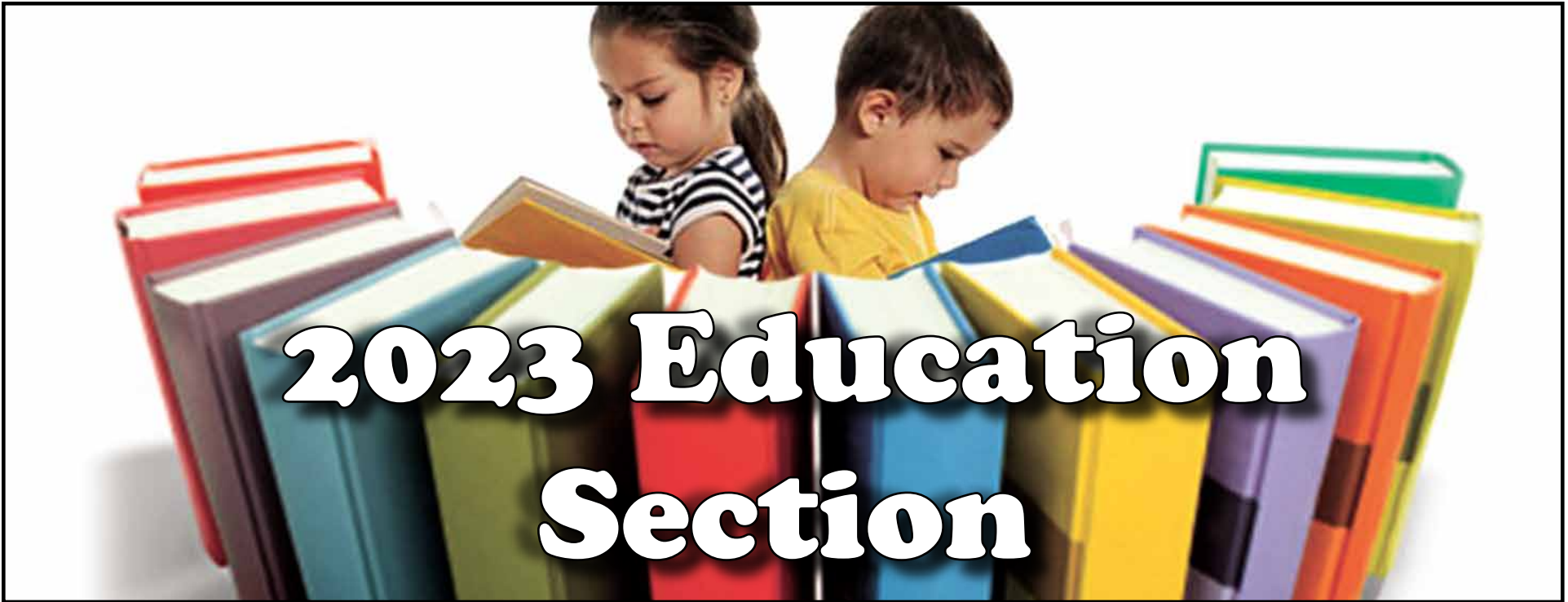
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pandemic, so we have little faith in how they will cope with inevitable future crises. And every so often a bad guy with a gun just breaks in and shoots and kills a bunch of kids while armed cops cower in fear in the parking lot. But a large chunk of the elected officials in charge believes the biggest threats to kids are drag queens, trans people and critical race theory. The following are some



St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter welcoming a student to the first day of school (Photo/Alex Kormann, Star Tribune)



short takes, along with their internet sources, on some of the aspects of the continuing education crisis, looking at labor issues, lunches, libraries and more. As well as a little incidental good news. We'll start with the national outlook, then home in on Minnesota and the metro area.

The overall impact of anti-education laws (Zinn Education Project)

Here are some quotes from educators around the U.S.:

- Our school library now looks like a ghost town. — Florida
- Teachers feel like they can't

teach factual history or even talk about current events without fear of losing their job. — Texas

- I have been threatened by anti-education parents. — Utah
- I am an American History teacher. Every lesson I teach is a chance that I will enrage the wrong person and put a target on my back. — Virginia

- It is creating divides among teachers who are scared of the law and those who refuse to stop teaching the truth. — New Hampshire

The Zinn Education Project is galvanizing resistance by offering a “Pledge to Teach the Truth” that educators can

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2023 Education S

Education, from page 11

sign on to, and use their solidarity with others as a bulwark against the unjust laws aim-

ing to destroy public education. Read it here: tinyurl.com/DKRarSSPZinn.

Community schools vs. the right wing (In the Public Interest)

Right-wing politicians paint public schools as centers of indoctrination and antithetical to the desires and needs of parents and families.

“We’re going to be making sure that time in school is being spent learning and not just being targets of indoctrination,” [Florida governor] DeSantis said before the passing of his Stop WOKE Act last year. ... [At a speech in] Iowa in March, Trump promised, ‘I will bring parental rights back into our school system.’ Those talking points are part of a right-wing strategy that seeks to weaken, control [and eventually privatize] public education.”

But often it’s public schools that respond to the real fears and needs of parents, while it’s the right wing that’s doing the indoctrination (or trying to). This is especially the case with community schools, which proactively engage families to ensure the school is responding to the community. So far, community schools have had many successes making measurable



Check and Connect student engagement staff at Minneapolis Edison High School

improvements in everything from attendance to graduation rates. Results for banning books and hating drag queens have been ... elusive.

‘War on woke’ causing a brain-drain (The Nation)

Speaking of Gov. DeSantis and his war on woke, he has dropped his references to the word “woke” in his speeches since anecdotal evidence began pouring in that educators were leaving either the profession or the state in droves.

Andrew Spar, head of the Florida Education Association (FEA), heard from many teach-



Matt Shaver, policy director for E. Feist shown at a meeting of the H. Stearns. (Photo/Peter Callaghan, Minneapolis Star Tribune)

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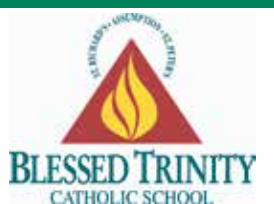
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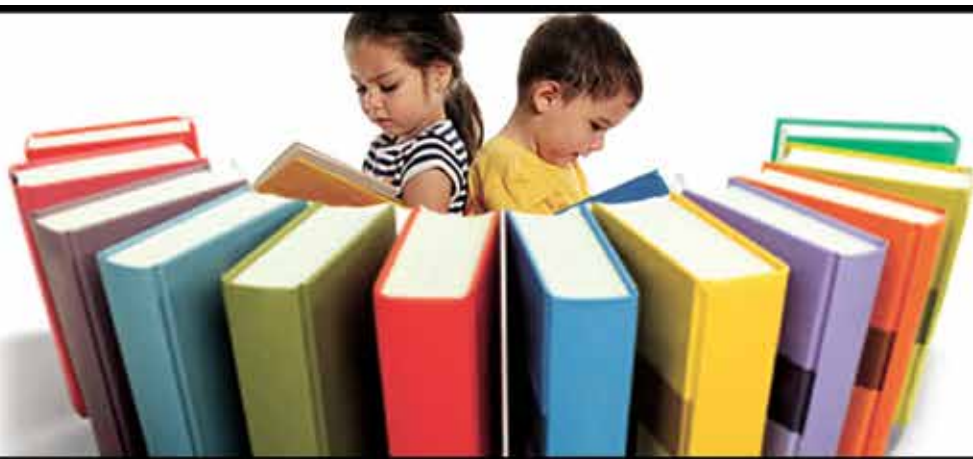
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Section



ers about their problems now with impossible policies and public vilification and even threats, compounding the issue of low pay (Florida ranks 48th in the U.S. for educator pay scales).

“Spar’s anecdotal experiences are borne out by statistics. In January 2019, when DeSantis was sworn into his first term as governor, there were 2,217 teacher vacancies in the state’s K-12 public schools. As he entered his second term in January 2023, that number had ballooned to 5,294, according to the FEA. This August, the FEA found the number of unfilled positions neared a staggering 7,000.”



dAllies, and state Rep. Sandra House Education Finance Committee Post)

It’s not just K-12 schools either. Higher education faculty are also leaving in droves, and a majority of college-bound seniors are looking only outside their home state for education. Still, even though he’s not talking about it as much, the Florida governor is doubling down on the actual conduct of



Waconia resident Kris Worm holds up a sign reading ‘Love Not Hate! Books Not Bans!’ during a public meeting in Chaska, Minn., on Tuesday. (Photo/Ben Hovland, MPR News)

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his phony war, telling graduating seniors to “go to Berkeley.”

School lunch horrors and joys (Civil Eats)

Two phrases that would not exist in a sane society – 1. School-lunch debt (now estimated at about \$262 million!)

and 2. school-lunch debt shaming. Civil Eats reports:

“Prior to the pandemic [when free meals were instituted nationwide for two years], some schools had resorted to tactics that embarrassed kids, such as stamping their hands to remind

See Education, page 14

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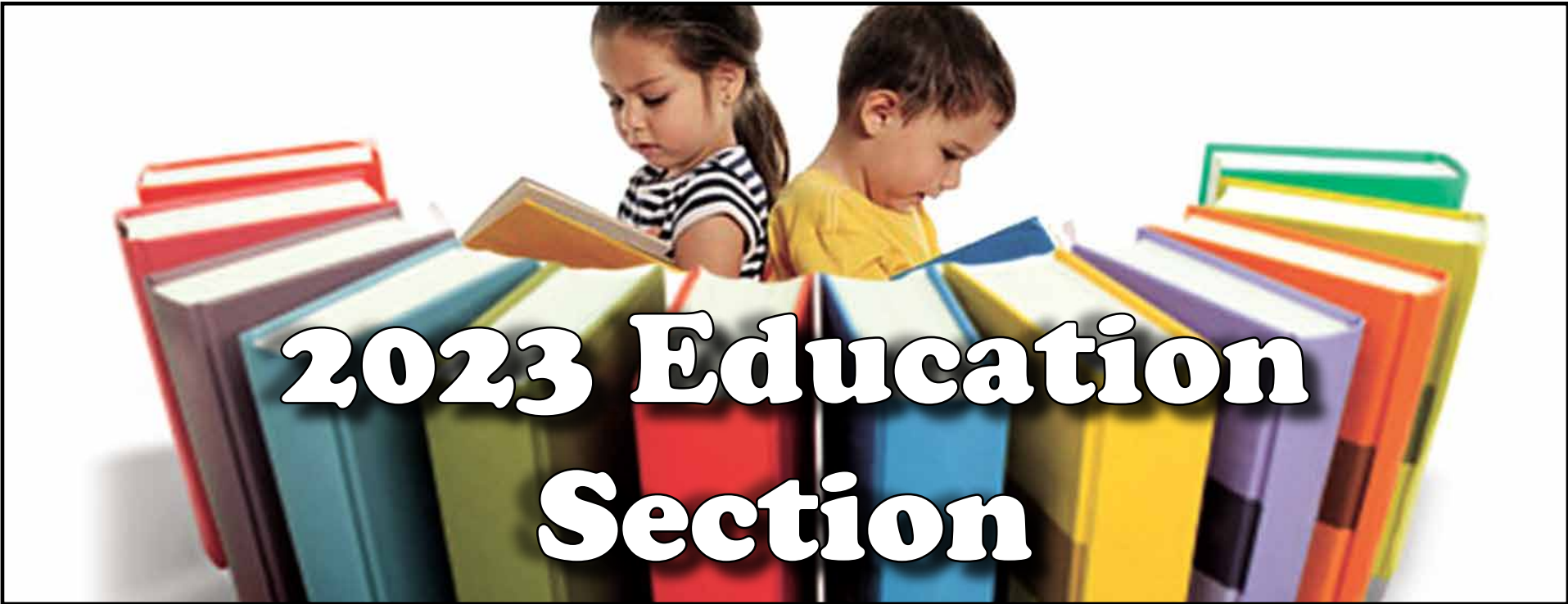
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Education, from page 13

parents of unpaid bills and substituting cold cheese sandwiches for hot meals. Sometimes meals were thrown away in front of children. And while experts say that fewer districts have resumed these practices—often dubbed ‘lunch shaming’—they haven’t



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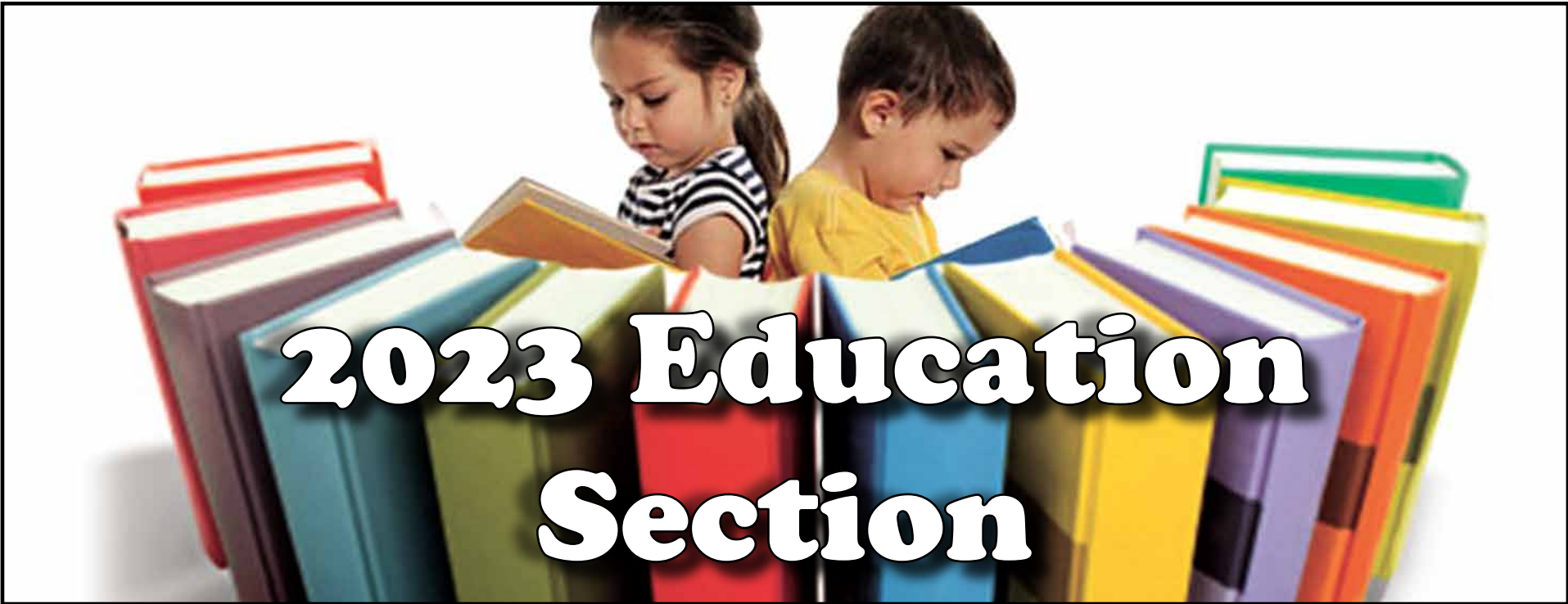



gone away entirely either.”

At least that’s one thing Minnesota kids, teachers and parents won’t have to worry about, thanks to our 2022 electoral trifecta. The above article reports further:

“And in a small handful of states, they haven’t gone back: Lawmakers in California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Vermont have made universally free school meals permanent.”





Further down in the same issue, Civil Eats covered the impact of the labor shortage on U.S. school cafeterias, and a synergy was discovered. When free school meals are instituted in a state, revenue goes up (more kids eat the meals) and admin costs go down, and this helps to alleviate the labor shortage by allowing for more pay and more stability.

Teacher and other labor shortages in Minnesota (MPR News)

The teacher shortages, as well as paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, bus drivers and more, were bad before



the pandemic. Now they are dire in some parts of the state. Openings that used to attract 20 or more applicants now attract one or two. As of Aug. 9 this year, there were an estimated 2,000 open jobs in education with zero applicants. Various school districts are using different means to attract more staff. In St. Paul, hefty hiring bonuses and a series of job fairs came close to closing the gap. Local educators' unions are also addressing the problem.

Book ban fails in Carver County (MPR News)

In September, the Carver County library board voted not to ban a book that had received a complaint and request for banning from a



Gov. Walz signing the free school lunch bill

single person after virtually all the respondents in public meetings or via email urged them to not ban the book. The book in question was "Gender Queer: A Memoir," written and illustrated by Maia Kobabe. It is at the top of the American Library Association's most challenged books list, and describes Kobabe's childhood growing up in California and coming out to family and friends. The author

said in an interview in January that when the book was published in 2019, "it was met with initially ... this absolute wave of love and support."

Absenteeism crisis in Minnesota schools (Axios Twin Cities)

About 30% of Minnesota kids were chronically absent from public schools last year, a figure that doubles the 2019

rate of 15%. ("Chronically absent" is defined as missing 10% or more school days in a school year.) Rates are even worse in Minneapolis, where MPS reported 2019's attendance rate as 79% and 2022's as only 46%! Across the board, the

numbers are worse, roughly double in some cases, for students of color, lower incomes, and those receiving special education services. MPS is ramping up its "Check and Connect" program in response.

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Autumn at Midtown Global Market

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Here's your yearly update on how things are going at Midtown Global Market and its nearby environs. I visited the Market in mid-September, and I hate to start out on a sad note, but it was partly to say goodbye to two businesses I



A fanciful backyard rooster by author and illustrator Susan Gainen



MGM chefs and business owners who contributed recipes to the MGM Cookbook

heard were leaving. The first one is the Eastlake Craft Brewery. Unlike Dangerous Man in Northeast, Eastlake is not just closing the taproom and moving brewing to a cheaper location, they are quitting full-stop. This is a minor tragedy, not only for the Market but for the whole neighborhood. Their quitting announcement was widely reported in the papers.

The second business is another favorite of mine, Grass Roots Gourmet, and I heard about their closing from a friend. When I stopped by, their stock was somewhat sparse, so I asked whether it was true they were closing, and if so, when, and would they be having a sale? The owner confirmed that it's true, they will be closing, but don't have a date yet. There may be a sale when the closing date is certain.

I bought lunch. I got a grain bowl from the Indigenous Food Lab Market, one of the major new things since last year. (It was announced here last year but didn't open until many months later.)

the educational and advocacy non-profit behind the IFL. They have a small but outstanding menu of ready-to-eat or drink items, plus a selection of grocery, apothecary and educational items to buy. Their offerings range from chocolate oat milk and coffee beans to Indigenous medicine soaps and salves, from CBD cream to tepary beans and wild rice, from silver jewelry to frozen wild game meat to games that teach you Ojibwe or Lakota.

Last year I mentioned the new redesign that was just beginning. Most parts of that - IFL's retail space, Momo Dosa, Slice pizza, the expanded and relocated Art Shoppe, and the Cultural Wellness Center across the Midtown Exchange lobby from the Market - have been fully realized. The beauty node is coming along. As of mid-September, the barber shop was open and doing business, and there was a "coming soon" sign for the hair salon. For the nail bar, the allocated space is empty, with no signage.

The enlarged Art Shoppe, also moved to a prime location near the entrance, is doing well. In July I stopped in and bought a few cool Minnesota things to bring to my relatives in Atlanta when I visited there in September. I was taken by Susan Gainen's little art books about fictitious llamas and possibly fictitious or maybe just exaggerated backyard roosters of St. Paul. These can appeal to children and adults alike and make great gifts.

Another thing they have at The Art Shoppe is the Midtown Global Market Cookbook, with 23 recipe contributions from numerous vendors and chefs associated with MGM. You (or your giftee) can make a hominy and bison grain bowl with blueberry wojapi from acclaimed "Sioux Chef" Sean Sherman or a vegan tamale recipe from the owner of Salsa a la Salsa. Non-food vendors contributed some of the most interesting recipes: Kookoo Sabzi, a sort of Persian frittata, from the owner of Leila's Brow Art; flan from a Mexican jewelry store owner; and two sweet cereal-based snack foods from members of The Art Shoppe collective. You can also buy the cookbook online from Friends of Global Market, but if you buy it at the Art Shoppe, you save the \$10

I got my usual drink from Eastlake, an almond milk stout, and kept the beer mat as a keepsake. I shopped a bit at Grass Roots Gourmet too - a maple cocktail syrup from Tapped with an infusion of cherry bark-vanilla bitters from Bittercube, a jar of fig and black tea jam, and two packs of pistachio shortbread.

But I don't want to gloss over the Indigenous Food Lab (IFL) Market! It's one of the great things at MGM, and buying their products both supports Indigenous producers and supports NATIFS,



Indigenous grain bowl with pulled turkey, plus an almond milk stout from Eastlake Craft Brewery

shipping cost. Not available in bookstores!

Midtown Global Market is an event space as well as a hub for retail, dining and services. On Oct. 14, MGM will host Barriletes Kite Festival featuring traditional Guatemalan kite art, accompanied by the regular Saturday Sounds concert by Ina Yukka. Then, on Oct. 28, celebrate Dia de Muertos with alebrije-making, catrinas, an ofrenda, live music and food specials. (Alebrijes, in case you didn't

website (midtownglobalmarket.org.) And most Saturdays, from noon to 2 p.m., you can have an interesting lunch while listening to Saturday Sounds, a series of short free concerts from local musicians and bands.

In the last couple of years, a few new restaurant booths (in addition to the IFL Market) have arrived at MGM. Try pizza by the slice from Slice, a New York-style slice shop that has taken the town by storm. Another very popular concept,



Celebrate Dia de Muertos at MGM on Oct. 28.

know, are mythical or fantastical animals.) Another popular holiday, this one from India - Diwali - will be celebrated at the Market on Nov. 4.

MGM also has several series of recurring events. Open Mic is held on the fourth Friday of every month (Oct. 27, Nov. 24, and Dec. 22) from 6 to 8 p.m. On the second Friday of each month, during the day, the Market hosts a Community Resource Fair. If you have or are associated with a nonprofit or free service provider, see if your group qualifies to participate and register in advance via the MGM

launched at Malcolm Yards before it moved into MGM, is Momo Dosa, where you can have a choice of two delicious street foods from the Indian subcontinent, momos or a dosa. (I have tasted both and can highly recommended them, but, hot tip, only get the dosas to eat right away, as they don't travel well.) You can accompany that with a mango lassi or a masala chai. And don't forget the Oasis Mediterranean Grill, which serves Middle Eastern food, including favorites like falafel and chicken shawarma.

Manny's Tortas
GOURMET MEXICAN SANDWICHES

Global Market
920 E. Lake Street
612.870.3930
mannystortas.com

Huge thanks to everyone for a great 18 years.

Grass Roots Gourmet will be closing Sept 30th and I'll miss you all, but look forward to bumping into you around the neighborhood.

Warmest thanks for all of your support,

Vicki
Grass Roots Gourmet

EVENTS

Blessing of the Animals

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 6 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.
All God’s creatures are invited to Holy Cross Lutheran Church for a special worship service outside on the church lawn on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 6 p.m. Bring your pet dogs, cats, hamsters and any other beloved animal companions for a time of singing, prayer, scripture and celebration. Let us together give thanks for the animals that enrich our lives. Holy Cross is located at 1720 E. Minnehaha Parkway.

Community Event Against Gun Violence

Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar St., St. Paul
Central Presbyterian Church will be hosting a community-wide event called “Lament and Hope: Facing Gun Violence in our Communities” to speak out against gun violence. The day will include a program with a variety of speakers, as well as an information/action fair which will provide concrete ways in which individuals, churches and community groups can make a difference. As attendees leave, two blacksmiths will be converting guns into garden tools. Registration is at 10 a.m. with the program to begin at 10:30 a.m. To learn more, go to www.centralfor-good.org/gun-violence.

The Listening Ear at Living Spirit: Mental Health for Everyone

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.

In-person and online
Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls.
Living Spirit offers listening ears, mental health education, and mental health check-ins to any member of the community. The program runs

from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and has three parts—6:30 p.m. Mental Health Education; 7 p.m. Guided Exercises for Mental Wellness; 7:30 p.m. Individual Listening Sessions. The education portion is led by a variety of experts and focuses on a different topic each month. Trained listeners (mental health professionals, marriage and family therapy students, and certified coaches) will be available from 7:30 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. The events are free and open to community members of all ages, races, genders, and religious affiliations. Participate in person at Living Spirit or online via our livestream/Zoom. More information at our website: www.livingspiritumc.org/aboutle.

Artaria String Quartet

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2:30 p.m.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.
The magnificent Artaria String Quartet makes a welcome return to Saint Mark’s music series. Program to include Quartet VI – Bartok. Free admission. <https://ourcathedral.org/event/artaria-string-quartet/>

‘What Christians Get Wrong About Judaism and Why It Matters’

Thursday, Oct. 26, noon to 1:10 p.m.

McNeely Hall 100
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul
From early on, Christians have defined Christianity in relation to the Jewish tradition from which it emerged. But when articulating Christian faith vis-à-vis Judaism, most Christian teachers and preachers down through the centuries have misrepresented Judaism, expressing anti-Jewish perspectives that often have fanned the flames of antisemitic attitudes and behaviors. The result of this has not only been dire for Jews, including in the last several years in the United States where there has been a dramatic increase of hate

crimes against Jews, but has also distorted Christian self-understanding and faith. In this presentation, Rabbi Ryan Dulkan will focus on several things that Christians generally misunderstand about Judaism and why this matters for Jews, Christians and others. Registration is helpful but not required. Free and open to the public – all are welcome. For more information and to register, go to https://ir.stthomas.edu/cas_jpc_programs/events/2023/6/.

SHARING FOOD

Sunday Evening Community Meals

These Sunday evening community meals are hosted and provided by Align Minneapolis member congregations and are free and open to all.

1st Sunday: Oct. 1, 5-6 p.m.

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

511 Groveland Ave., Mpls.

In-person meal around tables

2nd Sunday: Oct. 8, 5-6 p.m.

Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.

(Enter from Nicollet Ave. side near 19th St.)

To-go meal, produce and groceries from Groveland Food Shelf

3rd Sunday: Oct. 15, 5-6 p.m.

Plymouth Congregational Church

(Enter from Nicollet Ave. side near 19th St.)

To-go meal, produce and groceries from Groveland Food Shelf

4th Sunday: Oct. 22, 5-6 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1200 Marquette Ave., Mpls.

In-person meal around tables

5th Sunday: Oct. 29, 5-6 p.m.

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

511 Groveland Ave., Mpls.

In-person meal around tables

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. 48th St., Mpls.

612-825-6933

We’re still here to serve you on the first through the fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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 5th Saturdays) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Grey door on the corner of 48th St. and 15th Ave.)

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.

612-825-6846

Serving Loaves and Fishes free community meals on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. Free, to-go meals served from side door on 53rd Street. Open to everyone, no questions asked. Whatever your circumstances, 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.

First Nations Kitchen

3044 Longfellow Ave., Mpls.

612-791-1253

First Nations Kitchen, an outreach of All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission, welcomes all to our weekly To Go meals and Produce Give Away every Sunday from 4-5 p.m. outside our building. We cook fresh, organic, indigenous meals and give away organic produce rain or shine. This is a barrier-free food program. To donate or volunteer contact us at director@firstnationskitchen.org or go to our website: <https://firstnationskitchen.org>.

Minnehaha United

Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St., Mpls.

612-721-6231

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

Holy Name Fall Festival

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Church of the Holy Name

37th and 12th Avenue South, Minneapolis

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Delicious Pancake Breakfast, Eat Street, Bingo, Children’s Games, Beer Garden, Raffle, Silent Auction and More!

For more information, call 612-724-5465 or www.churchoftheholynome.org

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612-823-3494
Minneapolis.Bahai@gmail.com
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See www.minneapolisbahai.org
So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.
-Baha’u’llah

Christian

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worshiping at 2742 15th Ave. S.

612-827-2504 or 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

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

Sunday Worship 9 am and online on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/felc-mpls/>

Blind Ministry – Oct. 21, noon to 2 pm

Spaghetti dinner – Sunday,

Oct. 29 , 11:30 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)

1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

holycrossmpls.org

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 6 pm

Blessing of the Animals!

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2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831

www.messiahlutheranmpls.org

Sunday 9 am Traditional Worship

with Holy Communion

Sunday 11 am Praise Worship

(Holy Communion on Oct. 15 and

Oct. 29)

Sunday 12:30 p.m. Fellowship

Lunch

MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527

Interim Pastor Matthew Johnson

9:45 am Sunday Worship in person & livestream

Go to church website for info

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1414 E. 48th St.

612-825-6933

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10:45 am

Also on Facebook at:

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

[ationBaptistChurch](https://newcreationbaptist-churchmn.org/)

[https://newcreationbaptist-](https://newcreationbaptist-churchmn.org/)

[churchmn.org/](https://newcreationbaptist-churchmn.org/)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B.

McKizzie

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

5300 10th Ave. S.

612-825-6846

www.nokomisheights.org

Bilingual (English/Spanish) Sunday worship, 10 am in sanctuary.

Communion on 1st and 3rd

Sundays.

Adult Forum and Sunday School at 9 am

Sunday worship is recorded live for viewing on Monday mornings on Facebook and YouTube.

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[tion.org](http://www.trinitylutherancongregation.org)

Sunday Worship 11 am

Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee &

Alem Asmelash

Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.



All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible

Cam, from page 1

There, Avivo has constructed 100 secure, private “tiny houses” with common areas, all within the larger building. In addition to the small homes, Avivo provides 24-hour security services, case managers and other services designed to help each person to improve their health and move into permanent housing.

According to its website, Avivo Village works to address the needs of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness who have traditionally struggled to enter the shelter system. They provide wrap-around services using culturally responsive approaches and harm reduction, Housing First, and trauma-informed strategies.

The plans are in the early stages with specifics about a timeline and location yet to be identified. “We do not have any other details to share on progress or timelines,” said Avivo’s Kim Sheagren. “We are really dependent on the amazing partnerships with the city, county, and state for a possible project like this and much is still out there yet to be decided.”

While still a long way from reality, the city funding and potential grant from the state have given new viability to the idea of a Southside facility that has been talked about more in recent months.

Ward 9 Council Member Jason Chavez and Ward 11 Council Member Emily Koski have been leading the effort in City Hall and both have identified it as a budget priority. Chavez has had conversations about it with the state, Hennepin County, the mayor, and other city staff for the past year.

“When Council Member Jason Chavez approached me about the state Department of Human Services’ grant funding, I jumped at the opportunity to partner with him and take the next step in securing funding for the predevelopment and development of the Avivo Village South project,” said Koski. “The original Avivo Village was made possible by an all-hands-on-deck

effort by the state of Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the city of Minneapolis, and we’re going to need another all-hands-on-deck effort to make Avivo Village South possible. That is why we’re calling on the state of Minnesota and Hennepin County to meet our match.”

Support for a Southside Avivo village was evident at a recent Ward 12 candidate forum.

“We need an Avivo village on the Southside,” said Luther Ranheim at the forum, with agreement from both Aurin Chowdhury and Nancy Ford, who are all running for the Ward 12 seat currently held by Andrew Johnson, who is not seeking reelection.

“I have spent the last year and half working with Council Member Chavez in his office to build support for this model and help to leverage a funding path for an Avivo Village 2.0 on the Southside,” said Chowdhury when asked about it later.

“The tiny home model provides an opportunity to get folks back on a stable path,” said Ford. “It provides an opportunity to get the residents signed up for vital services, connect on a deeper level with case workers, and make connections with their tiny-home neighbors.”

“Much of the homelessness in Minneapolis is concentrated on the Southside and along the Hiawatha corridor, running through Ward 12,” said Ranheim. “We should address the homelessness crisis here in South Minneapolis by providing shelter beds through rooms for individuals or families, like Avivo Village in the North Loop.”

“These are the types of investments we need to reduce homelessness in the city of Minneapolis—not inhumane, undignified surprise encampment sweeps that cause further harm,” said Chowdhury.

“A Southside Avivo Village is desperately needed to begin addressing the serious unsheltered homelessness needs that our community has,” agreed Ward 8 City Council candidate Soren Stevenson. “This investment should be followed up

with a break from our current ineffective, cruel, and expensive policy of pushing people who are sleeping on the streets around the city and throwing their belongings away. Instead, we need to enact a comprehensive Housing First policy to prioritize housing people in need.”

While generally considered to be successful, Avivo’s facility in the North Loop has not been without concerns. In 2022, WCCO ran a story where one former resident expressed feeling unsafe at the center where, he said, drug use was common. The village has been the source of frequent 911 calls, many for overdoses.

It has been helpful that the establishment of the shelter had neighborhood association support and that it is set apart from residential areas, close to transit and on a busy corridor.

The North Loop Neighborhood Association crafted a Good Neighbor Agreement with Avivo Village that also has been helpful. Its goals are to help all residents feel safe and secure, maintain open and transparent communications to respond if concerns arise, develop clear procedures for resolving problems, foster positive relationships, and reduce livability concerns and the fear of livability concerns in the neighborhood.

When and if the Southside tiny-home shelter project gets closer to reality, the lessons learned in the North Loop will be a place to turn for guidance.

“I would look at the existing facility that is managed by Avivo for answers,” said Ford. “Good management is the key to a successful community that has a healthy relationship with the surrounding community.”

“We have the power and resources to address this problem; what we are lacking is the political will on the part of city leadership to tackle the problem comprehensively,” said Stevenson.

“There is not a day that goes by that any one of us does not think about the individuals experiencing

unsheltered homelessness throughout the city of Minneapolis,” said Koski. “Our emergency rooms have become an extension of our shelter system. That is not what our emergency rooms were designed to be.

Council, from page 1

Northside Machine. He’s the cousin of Barbara Johnson, a council member since 1997 and council president from 2006 to 2017, who was the daughter of Alice Rainville, who served on the City Council for 22 years.

I confess to a small measure of responsibility for creating this fearsome Northside Machine that has dominated politics in the 3rd and 4th Wards in North Minneapolis for the last half century. I served on the City Council 50 years ago with John Derus, Alice Rainville’s nephew. John gave me more wisdom in one pithy sentence than I got from years of studying political theory. He told me, “There’s only one rule in politics – you have to know how to count.” After one year, John resigned his seat because he’d been elected to the Hennepin County Board. The council had to appoint someone to fill John’s seat for the months before the next election. We appointed the winner of the 4th Ward DFL convention: John’s aunt, Alice Rainville.

I think Michael Rainville got a bum rap for going over to talk to some imams at a Northeast mosque about some Somali kids exhibiting bad behavior. What he did was classic Northeast Catholic Church behavior—you got a problem with some juvenile delinquent, you go over and talk to the priest and ask him to talk to the kid.

Ward 4—Marvina Haynes. She pushes all the right buttons. According to MinnPost in August, the incumbent, LaTrisha Vetaw, is being seriously considered as a challenger to Ilhan Omar next year by AIPAC (America-Israel Political Action Committee). Don Samuels, who came close two years ago, is running again, and he publicly wonders why he’s not getting any of that AIPAC money.

Ward 5—Jeremiah Ellison. He’s been consistently progressive. Two years ago, Ellison won in a tight three-way race between him (1752 votes), Kristel Porter (1355) and Victor Martinez (1352). This year it’s between Ellison and Martinez. Will Porter’s votes go to Martinez? Stay tuned.

Ward 6—Kayseh Magan. He’s good on rent control and police accountability. Jamal Osman, the incumbent, is entangled along with 60 others in the Feeding Our Future scandal that seems to have stolen \$250 million from the feds. Tiger Worku, the other strong candidate, is from the Oromo community. He was asked to resign as head of the Seward Neighborhood Group because of a collapse in organizational structure under his leadership.

Ward 7—Katie Cashman. She works for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. She seems best able to move the city to progressive change.

Ward 8—Soren Stevenson. Andrea Jenkins is the consummate City Hall insider. She was a policy aide to City Council members for 12 years, has been a council member for six years,

Avivo Village is an innovative approach to addressing the crisis. This funding is us saying we’re going to do everything we can both in the short term and long term to address the crisis.”

and was elected council president in 2022. She didn’t oppose the 2040 Plan that will replace affordable homes in the inner city with huge apartment buildings. She didn’t support the Urban Farm Project, and she hasn’t actively worked to make the MPD accountable. Soren Stevenson lost an eye after being shot by the MPD at a protest demonstration after the murder of George Floyd.

Ward 9—Jason Chavez. He’s not flamboyant, but he gets things done. [See Cam Gordon’s piece on Avivo in this issue.]

Ward 10—Aisha Chughtai. The original 10th Ward DFL endorsing convention was disrupted by Nasri Warsame’s supporters. Warsame was banished by the DFL for his role in the melee. Chughtai is a solid progressive.

Ward 11—Emily Koski. This was a hard one. Koski generally votes with the conservatives on the council, but she seems eager to work with progressives. [Again, see Cam Gordon’s piece on Avivo.]

Ward 12—Aurin Chowdhury. Clearly, the most progressive choice. She has been a policy aide to Jason Chavez, so she’s fluent and functional.

Ward 12 Campaign contributors:

Luther Ranheim pulled in \$59,000 from bankers, developers, property managers, lawyers and lobbyists for big construction and management projects, Flint Hills Refinery (Koch Industries-owned), CenterPoint, and the Downtown Council.

Nancy Ford raised almost nothing for this campaign, with only 12 donations over \$100, two of which she gave to the campaign.

Aurin Chowdhury raised a little under \$58,000 from labor organizers (SEIU, AFSCME), current City Council members, current state House and Senate members, teachers and professors, energy conservation and alternative energy concerns (Bright Power, Atta Planning), paid DFL staff, immigration advocates and lawyers, many progressive advocacy groups (MoveOn, Minnesota Voice, Jewish Community Action, Civic Eagle, Tending the Soil), writers and book store owners (Moon Palace), musicians and music teachers. Of 128 individual donations over \$100, only one came from a political action committee: Women Winning PAC.

Ward 13—Zach Metzger. He has the chance of a Winter Carnival ice sculpture at the gates of hell, but you should check out his videos on housing, public safety, and climate on his website, www.zachforthepeople.com. Very sweet. Very hopeful. Very right on! The website seems a bit sparse, and in some of his campaign photos supporters are holding his campaign literature upside down. Not a good look. But “Lavish Mack” should get credit for expanding people’s notion of what is possible downtown at City Hall.

Make a plan to vote, whether early in-person, by mail, or at your local precinct on Nov. 7. It’s our democracy and we get to decide – but only if we inform ourselves and show up.

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WE BUILD PRIDE ON THE SOUTHSIDE!

Crazy priorities at the Park Board

BY KATHRYN KELLY

On a recent beautiful Sunday afternoon I took a drive around the Nokomis-Hiawatha neighborhood. Nokomis Park has numerous softball fields along Cedar Avenue, but they were empty and unused. The plentiful tennis courts in the neighborhood were also unused except for one of five courts on 43rd Street. Of course, part of the reason is that most tennis courts in the neighborhood are in a state of total disrepair and are unsafe to use. The only two sets of courts nice enough to use have been the 43rd Street courts and the courts next to the Nokomis Community building. But the courts by the Nokomis Community building

have now been demolished and have been replaced with pickleball courts.

I then went by Hiawatha Golf Course. The parking lot was packed with cars, overflowing into the street, and the golf course was filled with people. This highly used facility is now slated for destruction. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has put out the schedule for demolition. They state that it will take three to four more years of planning. They hope to break ground in 2027. I guess the almost \$1 million that has already been spent and eight years of planning have not been enough. Of course, Assistant Superintendent of Planning Michael Schroeder has said that the

published Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, the pet project of Commissioner Steffanie Musich, is just a concept.

Musich and Schroeder now need to figure out how they can build the proposed nine-hole golf course in a flood plain without pumping out water to keep it dry. Or, alternatively, how they can put tons of fill into a critical flood plain in an urban area to raise the nine-hole golf course above the level of the lake to keep it from flooding. They also need to get the city of Minneapolis to put pumps in the low-lying neighborhoods to keep an estimated 500 homes dry. It sounds like they have their work cut out for them. If you look at the master plan, the additional "planning" cost is estimated to be \$8.7 to \$13.1 million (in 2020 dollars). Figuring inflation (2023 dollars), the high-end



Eagle spotted on the west side of Lake Hiawatha on a tree that will be lost when the golf course becomes a swamp. (Photo/Kathryn Kelly)

planning cost could be as much as \$17 million. At the end of this planning phase, will they find out that the cost of the whole project has more than doubled, like their water park project in North Minneapolis? If so, the whole project could blow up

from \$63 million to over \$120 million. It appears that Musich has created a lot of job security for Schroeder and his staff. Unfortunately, this massive spending of millions of dollars does nothing to fix the unusable tennis courts.

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

EVENTS

Hijinks Stilts 25-Year Community Celebration
Saturday, Oct. 7, 1 to 3 p.m.
Powderhorn Park near 14th Ave. and 32nd Street, Mpls.
Friends and fans of Hijinks Stilts (formerly known as Chicks on Sticks) are invited to their 25th anniversary celebration. Join us for a fun afternoon of stilting, food, Brazilian-style music by Women's Drum Center, art cars, dancing and photo ops

apienty. Stilts are invited to bring their sticks and/or glad rags. All are welcome! More info: hijinks-stilts.com.

Campaign Fundraiser for Aisha Chughtai
Saturday, Oct. 14, 7 to 9 p.m.
3137 44th Ave. S., Mpls.
Please join us for a campaign fundraiser for Aisha Chughtai on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. Meredith Aby, host of the event, says, "We need to keep Aisha in City Hall. We need her voice in debates about housing justice, immigrant rights

and community control of the police. Please join us in financially supporting her campaign." For more info on Aisha's campaign go to www.aishaforward10.com. Co-hosted by Wyatt Miller, Ward 10 resident, and Olivia Crull, Sarah Martin, Eric Salminen, Brad Sigal, Jess Sundin, Jae Yates and Steff Yorek. You do not need to live in Ward 10 or even in Minneapolis to contribute to Aisha's campaign. You just need to believe in her vision for Minneapolis!

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors Annual Medicare Update
Tuesday, October 17, 10:30 - 11:30 am
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.
Learn about the most recent changes

in Medicare benefits and coverage. A presenter from Trellis (formerly the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging) will help you to understand the enrollment process and options that impact personal costs. Senior Social and Health Talks occur on the third Tuesday of each month and feature guest speakers on health/wellness issues, birthday celebrations and time to socialize. Refreshments are provided! A Nurse is In/Blood Pressure Clinic is also offered. No registration required. www.lshealthyseniors.org

The Vine Arts Center Member Show Closing and Soup for You! Fundraiser
Saturday, Oct. 21, 6 to 9 p.m.
The Vine Arts Center
2637 27th Ave. S., Mpls.
The Vine Arts Center Member Show closing celebration will host a fundraiser for Soup for You! Café in the Seward neighborhood. The event will include a silent auction, complimentary portraits by artist Anita White, and music from The Grateful Fed. For more information on Soup for You! see <https://soupforyou.info/about-us/>. For more info on Vine Arts, go to www.vineartscenter.org.

Ranked Choice Voting, Jeanne Massey
Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Washburn Library
5244 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls.
Join the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum to learn all about ranked choice voting, a top reform to strengthen our democracy. Jeanne Massey, executive director of FairVote Minnesota and a national expert on ranked choice voting will discuss the increasing divisions and extremism in our politics, the corrosive effect it is having on our democracy and how ranked choice voting can help meet this moment. Jeanne will explain ranked choice voting, including its history and how it works, the movement to advance RCV in Minnesota and across the country, and how you can get involved. You will also have an opportunity to try out RCV with an online ranked ballot! Join and learn how you

can get involved in the democracy reform movement. For more information, go to <http://mnindependentscholars.org/node/427>.

Join Nokomis Healthy Seniors' FREE Caregiver Support Group
4th Thursdays, 11 a.m.
Nokomis Healthy Seniors
Bethel Church
4120 17th Ave. S., Mpls.
Often, caregivers don't know where to turn for support and advice. A support group can be a lifesaver, allowing caregivers to talk to others who are experiencing the same joys and challenges, and who can not only empathize, but offer valuable insights and suggestions. Held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. at our office located inside Bethel Church, 4120-17th Ave. S., Minneapolis. For more information, call the Nokomis Healthy Seniors office at 612-729-5499.

Neighborhood Roots Farmers Markets
Kingfield Farmers Market
Sundays, through Oct. 29
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4055 Nicollet Ave.
Fulton Farmers Market
Saturdays, through Oct. 28
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
4901 Chowen Ave. S.

Owamni Falling Water Festival
Saturday, Oct. 7, 1 to 5 p.m.
Father Hennepin Bluff Park
420 SE Main St., Mpls.
Owámní: Falling Water Festival is a celebration of Indigenous Minnesota cultures. Owámní is what the Dakota called the area at St. Anthony Falls. It means whirling or falling water in the Dakota language, making it an appropriate name for this festival along the Mississippi River. This free, family-friendly event is co-presented by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board to celebrate Indigenous Minnesota culture with music, art, food and more!

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Southside Pride
NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION
Southside Pride is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the first Tuesday 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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Cross Over the Bridge to Dinkytown

Celebrate Fall in Dinkytown

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Identity housing scandal

This fall, as students flock to Dinkytown to inhabit the new high rises, low rises and co-ops that have been built in the last few years, a scandal is unfolding. (I'm the only one calling it that, so I had to drop the term "scandal" to find sources on-line.)

"Identity" is the name of a

upfront rent payments, the leasing office informed them that it would not actually be ready at that time. No refunds were given but they were offered daily compensation and alternate accommodation until the move-in, for which no date was given.

A lawsuit was filed, alleging a bait-and-switch scheme against the owner-managers, an out-of-state conglomerate of absentee investors. The latest news item was from WCCO on Sept. 13.

officials testified as to the incredible disruption to the lives of incoming freshmen, left with only compensation for temporary housing and a lease with an unknown move-in date and no way to cancel it. The management company was invited to testify at the senate committee hearings but declined.

A July 6 article by Kelly Rogers in the Minnesota Daily exposes the fact that high-priced "luxury" accommodations all over Dinkytown and Southeast are actually luxury in name only. After several horror stories, Rogers urges students to "break up" with corporate landlords. One alternative that exists in Dinkytown, with better press, is a variety of student housing cooperatives. Maybe they need more of those.

Dinkytown is changing

Even before the pandemic upended everything, Dinkytown was being transformed by developers and corporate chains in a process that transcends mere gentrification. Now some, including the university's Board of Regents, seem to think the solution is more surveillance and law enforcement. Rogers wrote another piece in August, "A battle for the soul of Stinkytown," arguing for holding the line against corporate incomers and preserving or bringing back "third spaces" – places to hang out without needing a ton of



The U of M's Twin Cities campus Farmers Market

weird mall," Rogers opined.

Services for students – health and beauty

Dinkytown has two affordable hair salons – Hop's Salon, a longtime independent stylist, at 1316 4th St. SE, and Great Clips, a popular affordable chain, at 1312 5th St. SE. For a nail salon, you have to go to Washington Avenue just north of the West Bank, or eastward to Prospect Park. Surprisingly, I don't see any gyms, which are often associated with the new luxury lifestyle. But maybe that's not surprising; many of the apartments have workout facilities, and the U, from my hazy memory, has a pretty good health club

You can get a spray tan or a tattoo in Dinkytown. (I wonder if the Venn diagram of such customers even overlaps at



Dr. Laura Asplund, O.D., of Dinkytown Optical

all?) You can get your pharmaceuticals at either Walgreens or Target, and there is also the Boynton Health Service for U students. Dinkytown Optical, known for both style and affordability, has been a presence there for over 50 years. After getting your eye exam done by optometrist Dr. Laura Asplund, you can choose from a wide selection of frames for your new glasses or sunglasses (contacts available too!), and have your lenses made right there in the on-site lab. It's a convenient one-stop shop for all the eye-care needs of U of M students, staff, and the surrounding community. And Dinkytown Optical accepts most insurance plans, including U of M Student Insurance for eye exams.


Healthy grocery options are available but not prevalent in Dinkytown. In the summer, the U runs a student-led farmers'



Construction worker at the unfinished Identity student apartments

new student-oriented apartment building on the site of the old Dinkytown McDonalds. Students were promised a move-in date of Aug. 27, but on Aug. 2, just after collecting scores of

Two Minnesota Senate committees, higher education and housing and homelessness, held a hearing on the matter in early September where numerous students, parents and university



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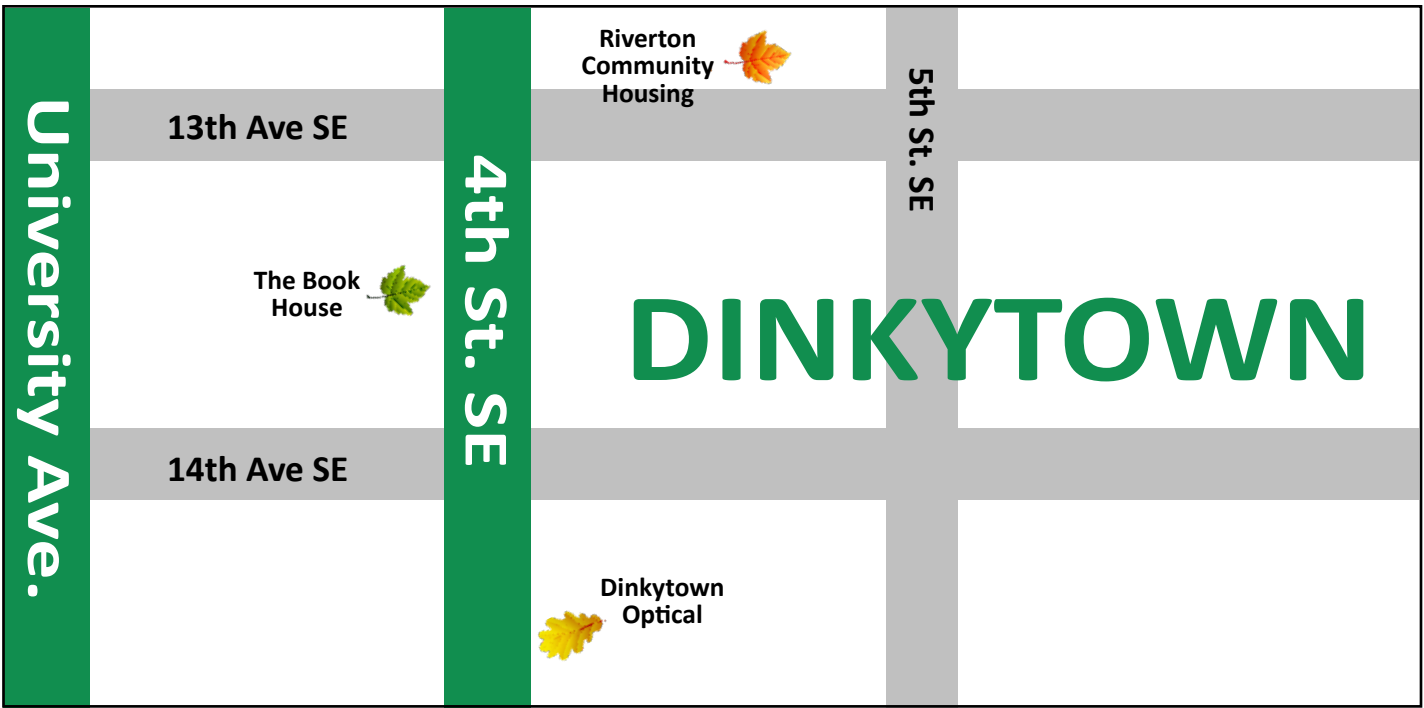
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Hop Bui, owner of Hop's Salon

money. "Dinkytown should be a late-night soft place to land after running from house to house through Marcy-Holmes, not a food court excavated from a

for students and staff. There is a Dinkytown location of Erik's Bikes and Boards, for equipment relating to certain DIY fitness modes.



Food from KBOP Korean Bistro

market on campus, selling produce from a one-acre student farm in St. Paul. All year round, the U's health service runs a free food shelf also on campus. If you want to buy healthy groceries, probably the closest options are either the Seward Co-op Franklin store or the Fresh Thyme on University Avenue in the Prospect Park neighborhood.

Services for students – vices and virtues

Vices are catered to in Dinkytown; that part of the tradition is changed but not gone. Tobacco stores, a large liquor outlet, a cannabis dispensary, and Insomnia Cookies all exist

in Dinkytown. Insomnia Cookies may be a food vice with its over-the-top (and not cheap) concoctions but it's completely legal. So are the THC edibles, bottles of booze, and tobacco in various forms – IF you are 21 or older. (Southside Pride urges you to consume responsibly.)

For virtues, there are philosophy, volunteer work, and churches or other established religions. A stalwart in Dinkytown is University Baptist Church. Although not as regular or frequent as in former times, the church does still host occasional Roots Cellar Music events. Six were held last year, and three are on the calendar so far for 2023-24. See ubcmn.org/

roots-cellar-music for details.

Food options in Dinkytown and beyond

So many small independent restaurants, pubs, and even fast-food places (like McDonald's) have disappeared. I just read the sad news that Lands End Pasty Company, which a year ago I mentioned as having potential to become a long-time stayer in Dinkytown, just closed permanently this past summer.

Asian styles of food really dominate Dinkytown, with



Nutritious U Food Pantry

one long-time favorite, Shuang Cheng, and numerous newer ventures reflecting the changing tastes of both Asian Americans and other ethnic groups.



Banh Appetit's 'Dirty Bird' sandwich

Excluding the "weird mall food court" places, you can choose from KBOP Korean Bistro, Banh Appetit, CrunCheese Korean Hotdog, ChuRyce, The Cove, Tasty Pot, LePot Chinese Hotpot, and Pho Mai Dinkytown. Going into the neighboring areas of Stadium Village and Prospect Park approximately triples your options.

Another ethnic food style found in Dinkytown is the Middle Eastern/West Asian/African style represented by such eateries as Wally's Falafel, Afro Deli, and Maxwell's Cafe. In addition

there are loads of other good places to eat and drink. Check out Al's Breakfast for an iconic Dinkytown experience that's been around since the 1960s at least. Also give Tony's Diner, Potbelly, Mesa Pizza, Burrito Loco, the Blarney Pub, Frank from Philly & Andrea Pizza, or the Kollege Klub a try. If you have a craving for sweets, but not as sweet as Insomnia cookies, check out Mango Mango Dessert for healthier fruit, rice and tea-based smoothies, cakes and hot desserts.



Inside Mango Mango Dessert

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