



We build Pride on the Southside

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**November
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Cam's Corner



Are tree treatments worth the risks?

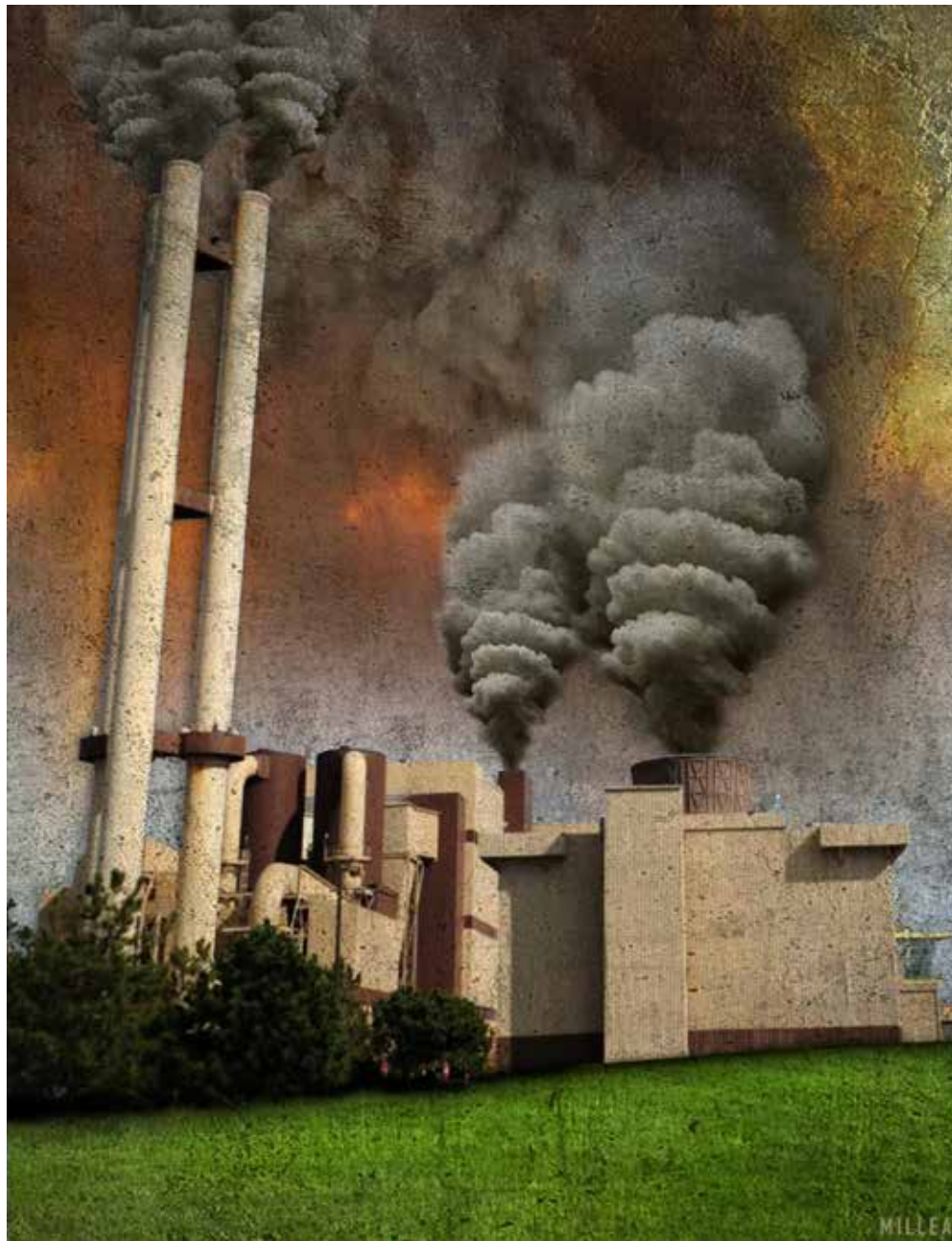
BY CAM GORDON

For over a decade, green insects called emerald ash borers (EAB) have been killing ash trees throughout Minneapolis. This fall the City Council appears ready to shift its policy in favor of using pesticides to combat the tree infestations – and it is mostly for financial reasons.

“This was brought to our attention by many of our constituents who were getting bills from MPRB [Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board] for upward of \$7,000 per tree with some homeowners having multiple trees that would need to be removed,” said Bethany Turnwall, senior policy aide for the Ward 5 office of Council Member Jeremiah Ellison, who has been spearheading the effort in City Hall. “These steep and unexpected bills are causing major burdens to homeowners who cannot afford paying in full, making partial payments or having it assessed to their property, causing instability in people’s housing.”

“This proposed

See Cam, page 16



We need a stronger democracy to shut down the HERC

BY DANIEL COLTEN
SCHMIDT

Right now, Minneapoltans are demanding more participation in governance, particularly in the cases of environmental justice. In May of 2023, the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) was able to secure community participation in the redevelopment of the Roof Depot building. Now our attention must shift

to our neighbors on the Northside, who have been working to close the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center, or HERC, for decades.

The HERC is a trash incinerator that operates in downtown Minneapolis. Smoke from the HERC contains dioxins, VOCs, lead particulates, PM 2.5 (particulate matter under 2.5 microns which can harm the lungs when inhaled), and other toxins, and is the

number one polluting facility in all of Hennepin County. The incinerator is one of the leading causes of respiratory and cardiovascular issues, cancer, and premature death in the residential areas closest to the facility. This includes both North and South Minneapolis as wind patterns switch seasonally.

A resolution that was drafted in October by Hennepin County Commis-

See HERC, page 18

Trying to understand

BY JORDAN KUSHNER

The political establishment nationally and locally has fallen into lockstep in its unquestioning support for anything Israel does. The military attack by Palestinian militants breaching the supposedly secure fence locking them into Gaza on Oct. 7, which included mass killings and hostage takings of noncombatants, has sparked moral outrage that drowns out any concern about Palestinian civilians or rational discussion about the justification for Israel’s murderous retaliatory actions. The selective moral outrage evinces the racist and colonialist double standards in establishment “morality” and is a deliberate cover for Israel’s much greater atrocities. The real moral outrage is the outright support for, or at minimum the failure of the vast majority of politicians to speak in opposition to the ongoing Israeli apartheid and genocide of Palestinians.

Major human rights organizations have recognized through detailed investigation and findings that Israel is perpetrating apartheid, a crime against humanity, against the Palestinian people. Human Rights Watch, “A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution,” April 27, 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>; Amnesty International, “Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians” Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity,” 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/en/>; B’Tselem, “A regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is Apartheid,” Jan. 12, 2021, https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid; Al-Haq, “Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism,” Nov. 29, 2022, <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20931.html>.

The use of the term “genocide” is more controversial but is becoming more widely accepted in light of Israel’s current ongoing destruction and massacres directed at the entire population of Gaza, and continued massacres/pogroms on the West Bank. See, for example, <https://jewishcurrents.org/a-textbook-case-of-genocide>; <https://theintercept.com/2023/10/19/israel-gaza-biden-genocide-war-crimes/>; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/damning-evidence-of-war-crimes-as-israeli-attacks-wipe-out-entire-families-in-gaza/>.

There is no denying the horror of the massacre on Oct. 7, but Zionist propaganda pervading the U.S. media conveniently pretends that history began on that date. Israel has brutally oppressed Palestinians for the past 75 years. Gaza is commonly referred to as an open-air

See Understand, page 16





How to do it gracefully

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Breaking it down

This edition of “Gracefully” will focus on what elders, especially those living solo, need in order to thrive, and ways to satisfy those needs with resources available in south Minneapolis. We’re breaking down the needs into five categories; they’re not the usual categories, but I think they will make sense in the end:

- Healthy food and health care.
- Physical health.
- Mental wellness.
- Mobility.

• Connections, fun, and being active.
Yes, there are overlaps and ambiguities between these categories. That’s a feature, not a flaw, as it reflects the ambiguities in life itself.

Healthy food and health care

It matters where you get your health care. At age 65, most of us become eligible for Medicare, and if that’s you, it’s worth your while to both take a class in the intricacies of Medicare and talk to your friends before you make decisions. Among the things you

need to decide is whether to use an Advantage plan or stay with “original Medicare,” and whether to supplement with extra insurance, as well as decide who your main provider(s) will be. Community education programs, AARP, and other nonprofit groups offer such classes.

You might want to consider complementary health care (in addition to, not replacing, traditional medicine) such as chiropractic, herbal medicine, or acupuncture. The Twin Cities are rich with unique possibilities for such things. Present Moment, providing health consultation, supplements and alternative medicines, and Community Acupuncture, a network that provides low-cost treatments for many self-limiting conditions like back pain or insomnia, are examples. See free



Harmony Valley Farm CSA

healthy food for all. Besides food shelves, public pantries, and the usual charity and church free meals, check out Soup for You! Cafe in the Seward neighborhood, Sisters Camelot at multiple dis-

you may qualify for free meal delivery of culturally appropriate, high nutritional quality food from several sources, including First Nations Kitchen.

Physical health

Your needs in these areas will vary greatly, depending on where you’re starting from. Basically this category is about movement, exercise, stamina, and ... breath! Yes, breath is sort of where it all starts. You can overlap satisfying this need very easily with the last category by choosing activities that you both enjoy and need, physically. Dance, pickleball, walking around lakes, bicycling, hot yoga, chair yoga, swimming, water aerobics. Opportunities to do all of these are here in the Twin Cities, sometimes for little or no cost. You can do them alone, but you can also do them in a group you enjoy being with. Check out meetup.com, Community Education, and your local park for groups to join. Try out Tapestry Folkdance Center or



Retreat by Common Ground Meditation Center

local magazines such as Natural Awakenings and The Edge for more ideas and resources.

Arguably, healthy food is more critical to your health than anything else. If money is not a problem, find your healthy foods at local co-ops or good grocers, or join a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) scheme to get boxes of fresh organic produce. You could supplement that by growing vegetables in your own garden, even if it’s just a patio garden. Another less expensive alternative to a CSA or grocery delivery is Misfits Markets/Imperfect Foods where you can shop online for deeply discounted foods (some of which would otherwise go to waste), and have it delivered to your door.

If money is a constraint, there are several organizations working to fill the gap and provide

tribution sites or Breaking Bread at Cafe Racer (also in Seward) on the last Monday of the month. If you are an Indigenous elder,



Nordic Social Dance at Tapestry Folkdance Center



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Mental wellness

Reading, or listening to audiobooks if your eyesight is bad, stimulating conversation, and mental challenges like puzzles, sudoku or board games, are all



Activities at Sabathani Community Center

important for maintaining cognitive health as you grow older. A variety is best, because cognitive power comes not from the size of the brain, but from the number of new neural pathways you create in it. Always be learning. Don't get into a rut.

But just as physical training requires rest periods to work best, so mental "busyness" is best if balanced by contemplative quietude, such as mindful meditation. It is possible to simply learn how to meditate and start a singular practice. Not everyone can succeed at that, so here are some aides:

- Apps like Headspace, Calm or Buddhist.
- Meditation groups like Common Ground.
- Church or other nonprofit-based group meditation – see mnzencenter.org and recwell.umn.edu/wellbeing/meditation, for example.
- Start your own, after basic instruction. You can even do it on Zoom.

Sleep is important for both mental and bodily wellness. It gets both more crucial and more elusive with age. Do discuss this with your medical care person if you have problems sleeping.

Mobility

One of the common challenges with aging is driving. Are you still a safe driver? If you decide you're not, how do you fill the gap? Here are some ideas:

- Groups such as Nokomis

Healthy Seniors and Longfellow Healthy Seniors may offer rides and/or errand running volunteers for seniors in your area.

- Try Metro Transit. If you qualify, try Metro Mobility.
- If you can still drive a little, but not so much as to justify maintaining a car, check out hire-car services, including Evie

ward seniors and those with disabilities. Edwards RideCare was covered in a recent piece here: tcbmag.com/ridesharing-for-seniors.

Connections, fun, and being active

This is a hard one for me sometimes. I am physically lazy, extremely introverted, probably neurodivergent, and I grew up in a large, noisy family that caused me to prize my solitude. But it's true that none of the strategies above will work very well if you spend most of your time alone. Even reading, music and films, even loving pets, cannot really substitute for hanging out with fellow humans doing enjoyable things together. For me, being a socialist gives me opportunities to be with like-minded people (most of them younger than my kids, which is also probably good). But it can be anything, from battle reenactment to theater visits, from card games to volunteering.

For instance, like many others, I decided not to get any more pets when my last one passed away, for fear of me dying before they did. So volunteering with animals can fill that gap, such as these ideas:

- There is a local rideshare company specifically geared to



Volunteering with shelter dogs

ways-to-volunteer (focusing on dogs). Book clubs are good, but not always as satisfying as you might hope. Meetup.com has this

list of other clubs to enrich your life: meetup.com/blog/7-book-club-alternatives-to-try-with-friends.

Volunteer In Your Community

Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers age 55 or over in your area to provide companionship to older adults or mentor school age children. Volunteers serve 10 or more hours per week for a tax free stipend and mileage reimbursement. Please contact us at 888.205.3770 or AmericopsSeniors@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community!!



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Small business street parking is one man's concern

BY STEPHANIE FOX

You may not know Phil Vandervaat personally, but you know his work. He has been a Twin Cities professional sign painter since 1983, creating artistic and imaginative signage for hundreds of small businesses in Minneapolis since moving here from Chicago. Some of his works include Palmer's Bar, Kramarczuk's, May Day Cafe, the Lava Lounge and the Brave New Workshop.

His connection to so many small storefront businesses is why he sees the city's new policy to eliminate street parking to the advantage of bike traffic as a threat to the survival of many of those businesses.

Vandervaat lives in a single-family home on Minnehaha Avenue, a street lined with homes, apartment houses and a many small businesses. When the city first proposed putting bike lanes along the street, it threatened to take down a number of boulevard shade trees. Neighbors protested and bike lanes were installed but the trees and street parking remained, he said. That was the beginning of his crusade.

For nearly 40 years in Minne-

apolis, Vandervaat said, to operate a street-front business you had to prove that there was adequate parking in the area. Some businesses had small parking lots, but many relied on nearby street parking. With those parking spots gone, many of these businesses are hurting.

On Lake Street, the parking ban caused workers at Two Betty's Green Cleaning Service's refill station, where cleaners pick up supplies, to park more than a block away and haul the equipment to their cars. The business's founder, Anna Tsantir, had 80 cleaners a day come to that location, and they had nowhere to park. The city had eliminated a half-dozen critical parking spots in front of the business.

"At 46th and Cedar, they eliminated 40 spots. A woman with an antique business there can't even allow people to park there to unload," Vandervaat said.

"My whole life has been brick-and-mortar storefronts. It's what I work on. I hear from people, many wanting to open a small business," he said. And, he says, for small shops it's getting more difficult. In addition to eliminating parking, many older buildings are being torn down, replaced by mixed-use apart-



Phil Vandervaat

ment buildings with apartments above and large commercial spaces on the street front.

"I study these older buildings. They don't make them like this anymore. They are quirky spots that offer opportunities for really small establishments. The new ones they're building are all

empty. Go look at them. They are all empty. They eliminated spots for small businesses. Even if they would rent them to smaller businesses, they'd be too expensive. It's a write-off for them," said Vandervaat.

The history of Minneapolis neighborhoods began 140 years

ago when the city was expanding. The original street layout was designed for horses and carriages. "But in the 1920s, as motor vehicles began to replace horses, the 10-foot-wide horse alleys became places for

See Vandervaat, page 6



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Why did HCMC undercut patient well-being?

BY DIANE J. PETERSON AND JOHN KOLSTAD

Although one normally perceives hospitals, and the doctors who work in them, to be dedicated to the overall health of patients being served, HCMC (Hennepin County Medical Center) revealed that it compromised that ideal in May by lobbying against a bill intended to restore a basic right to Medical Assistance patients. Health Policy Advocates, our activist group, met with the HCMC spokeswoman in July to understand why HCMC would oppose a health care justice bill (SF404). In 2022, we got the bill, the Medical Assistance Freedom to Choose, introduced in the state Legislature and were confident that with bipartisan support—15 legislators signed onto it—it would be enacted in May of 2023. It would restore

the basic right to Medical Assistance patients to choose whatever doctors and treatments they wished. Currently, state government routinely coerces these patients into managed care networks, depriving them of their freedom to choose to stay out of corporate control if they believe that is best for their health care needs. Our bill would allow all Medical Assistance patients to freely choose to avoid managed care, picking their own doctors, or to try the offerings of managed care organizations. Why did HCMC persuade a state senator to unilaterally prevent the bill's enactment at the eleventh hour? The spokeswoman gave us information that reveals HCMC is more dedicated to its own financial operations than the well-being of its patients.

To understand this scenario, one needs perspective on Min-

nesota's history with Medical Assistance. When the U.S. created Medicaid in 1965 to provide health care for low-income patients who couldn't afford to buy it on their own, the federal government guaranteed their right to be treated by the doctors of their personal preference. In Minnesota, we use the term Medical Assistance instead of Medicaid. In 1988 our state government asked the feds for permission to put managed care organizations in charge of which doctors can be seen by Minnesotans on Medical Assistance. The feds granted that permission, and the state pledged to audit the managed care organizations to determine whether they lowered health care costs for those patients. However, the state failed to conduct any audit on that program according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and in fact never has. With no cost-effectiveness verification, the state has enrolled more people in managed care Medical Assistance. Wouldn't the managed care organizations, if they produced savings compared to the old system, demand audits as validation of their superior operations? They have instead consistently blocked independent scrutiny.

HCMC operates alongside the county's own managed care organization, Hennepin Health-

care. The HCMC spokeswoman explained that HCMC told the powerful senator, who possessed final control on which health care bills would be eligible for the enactment-determining vote, that HCMC would lose too much money if the Legislature passed this bill. Essentially, HCMC wanted to keep Medical Assistance patients corralled in managed care organizations because the managed care status of those patients allowed HCMC to obtain more federal dollars under the federal 340B drug discount program. HCMC feared that if given the freedom to leave managed care, large numbers of Medical Assistance patients would do so, depriving HCMC from using those patients to claim the large drug money rebates available in the federal discount program. The senator eliminated our justice bill.

Rep. Kim Hicks of Rochester, author of our 2023 justice bill, characterized managed care as a product the state government buys to provide health care for low-income patients who cannot afford it on their own. The question we at Health Policy Advocates ask is, if the managed care product is so superior—as managed care organizations have repeatedly claimed over the decades—why does state government compel the majority of Medical Assistance patients into

it? Wouldn't they automatically, enthusiastically choose it? Why would managed care organizations have any fear that those patients might abandon their product if it satisfied patient needs?

In July, the federal government published a report (Office of Inspector General # OEI-09-19-00350) that shows managed care frequently denies treatments to Medical Assistance patients that are actually medically necessary. And the patients who got the most denials of care were patients of color. In light of that report's findings of fact, passing the Medical Assistance Freedom to Choose bill has become ethically urgent. In the upcoming legislative session, which legislators will side with HCMC's decision to deprive Medical Assistance patients of their freedom because it is necessary for the well-being of the bottom line of health care corporations?

It is comforting to think our democracy still provides for citizens to call upon their two legislators, ask questions, and declare policy preferences for passage of SF404/HF816, the Medical Assistance Freedom to Choose bill.

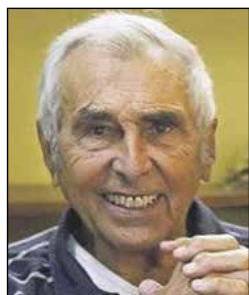
The authors are longtime members of Health Policy Advocates.

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(Photos/Iván Gomezcésar)

March in Mexico against Israeli aggression

BY JOHNNY HAZARD

On Saturday, Oct. 28, I walked in the march against Israeli aggression in Mexico City. It was the second march to be held here since the events of Oct. 7 and the Israeli reprisals.

Between 2,000 and 4,000 people marched from the Ángel de la Independencia (near the U.S. Embassy and the Zona Rosa) to the Zócalo (the main square), site of the presidential palace. Another 2,000-plus watched supportively from the sidelines all along the route.

The giant banner at the head of the march read “No es guerra. Es un genocidio” (It’s not a war. It’s genocide). This slogan was also chanted throughout the

march. Some participants felt that this was a bit strange, that war and genocide are not mutually exclusive. There was a surprising international presence, including a small group with a sign that said, in English, “Ireland stands with Palestine.”

The local movement has matured significantly since a few similar events that I attended in 2009, in which a few people shouted anti-Jewish utterances, everything except “The Jews killed Santa Claus.” (The latest census report from 2021, indicates that there are 64,000 Jews in Mexico, out of a total population of 226 million.) Participants in the Oct. 28 march were mostly individual and unaffiliated, including a few Mexican Jews

critical of Israel and a few Muslims of unknown nationality and a few people who appeared to be U.S. tourists who spontaneously joined in or expressed support from the sidelines.

But there was also a significant presence of leftist (especially Trotskyist) groups, human rights advocates, students, and one contingent from the Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación (CNTE)—a large dissident caucus of the main teachers’ union. Some of the slogans from the left groups: “Por un Palestina secular, libre y socialista, Por una revolución obrera árabe-hebrea” (For an Arab-Hebraic workers’ revolution), and “Romper los acuerdos económicos y militares con Is-

rael” (Break economic and military agreements with Israel). I don’t know that there are any military accords between Mexico and Israel, and I suspect that there are not. The closest thing to it may be the massive use of Israeli-made Pegasus spyware by the previous president and, we now know, by the current president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who promised not to do so. This is equipment that intervenes in telephones, smart televisions, etc. much more efficiently than other products and is used in Mexico to monitor and repress dissent.

López Obrador’s government is in “sensitive negotiations” with its Israeli counterpart, seeking the extradition of Tomás

Zerón, a high-level functionary in the previous regime who is not Jewish but fled to Israel because the two countries lack an extradition treaty. He is wanted for his participation in the events of 2014 in the state of Guerrero that included the disappearance or murder of more than 43 education students.

Two percussion groups, one called the Anti-Militar(y) Social Club, provided musical accompaniment for the march.

The next march will be held on Sunday, Nov. 5, set to coincide with the U.S. national march in Washington and the end of the week of Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico.

Vandervaat, from page 4

restaurants like Al’s Diner,” Vandervaat said. “Now, with older buildings and parking disappearing, places with rents at a thousand a month will also disappear, replaced by rents five times that amount.”

Vandervaat blames Mayor Frey and out-of-town investors. “It’s a scam,” he said. “They don’t care about our city’s lifestyle. It’s a money thing. And Frey is a developer in chief.” (The mayor’s office did not reply to questions about this issue.)

“There will be no other places like these after these are gone.

They are selling our souls and fortunes to the investor class. All of Minneapolis will look like Stadium Village, which is no longer a village, just corporate housing,” said Vandervaat.

He has concerns about other issues he sees as connected to the parking elimination situation.

Walkability? “It is already a walkable town. Minneapolis was first laid out in the 1880s and all these buildings were built in the span of a decade. This is a product of the natural evolution of our town.”

And the push to create density? “A single-family home is

the only way for most people to build wealth,” he said. “We don’t need more apartment houses. They’re sucking away equity.”

But Vandervaat offers some solutions to these problems. “Don’t put the bike trails on main roads. We don’t need to take out street parking for bikes. We have the greatest summer biking around and bikers are already using side streets. I’ve been out in front of my house gardening on Minnehaha for two hours,” he said. “I have been watching the bike lanes. I haven’t seen a single bike go by.”

Vandervaat speaks with frustration. “I am an avid bik-

er. I bike almost every day. But I go out there and no one is riding their bikes on commercial streets. I don’t ride on major roads, and I don’t know anyone who does. The city had a bike rental program and they had to close it,” he said.

“Also, with parking, I thought we were moving to hybrids and electrics. Don’t they need parking spaces, too? Taking out needed parking for a bike lane that no one is going to use ... it’s maddening.”



Phil Vandervaat’s sign art can be seen throughout Minneapolis.





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Ukraine Chronicles

BY DAVE GUTKNECHT

Here's NATO and some of the U.S. imperial agenda: expansion to Russia's borders and now in Africa, wars in Serbia, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan's nearly one million dead almost forgotten already.

Sixty years ago, the lesson of the Cuban missile crisis was not

ed war on Russia, with Ukraine the sacrificial proxy.

The Ukrainian counter-offensive, heralded for months beforehand, has accomplished little beyond the slaughter of many thousands and enormous destruction. U.S. and European officials hint that the West is running low on everything but promises. In columns dating

Crooke and Craig Murray; European reporters Alexander Mercouris and Alex Christoforou; and local "Veterans for Peace News." I hope none of these dissidents have their media platforms, following guidance from Washington, marginalized and even banned.

Our anti-Russia campaign is broken, and stunning political dysfunction here will add to demands for an end to the Ukraine war. Our own country is where we have the most responsibility and opportunity to press for change, and it is still the number one source of war and violence in the world—as we, with Martin Luther King, concluded in 1967.

Arguments in favor of a cease-fire

BY ED FELIEN

On Oct. 17, the Wall Street Journal reported: "With Ukraine's counteroffensive making slow progress, Russia launched a large-scale assault on the eastern city of Avdiivka last week. Kyiv said it resulted in heavy losses for Russia, showing how difficult it is for either side to move the frontline."

The front lines haven't moved much for the last six months. It looks like a stalemate. Each side has tried offensives, and each side has sustained tremendous casualties. Both sides are recruiting mercenaries from the Global South. It is beginning to seem like senseless slaughter.

We have supported Ukraine's right to defend itself from Russian aggression, but at this point

it seems that even with U.S. and European military support Ukraine will not be able to drive out the invaders.

Let's review the history:

Russians and Ukrainians date their origin to Oleg, the Viking, seizing Kyiv in 882. They called themselves the Kievan Rus, and their lands stretched through Belarus and most of Russia. In 1240 the Mongol invasion ended that dynasty, and the lands east of the Dnipro River now belonged to the Great Khan. Russia paid yearly tribute until 1480 when they became independent under the czars.

Russia claims Ukraine was always part of Russia. Ukrainians believe the Viking/European claim is older.

Ethnic demographics suggest strong Russian language and cultural references east of Dnipro and strong European influence to the west. Donetsk is 87.8% Russian and only 11.1% Ukrainian. The province of Luhansk is about 50/50.

The current problems began with the Maidan Uprising in November of 2013. They were protesting President Yanukovich's refusal to sign the agreement for Ukraine to join the European Union. There had been an informal agreement in Ukrainian politics that the west got to control the Parliament and a Russian could be president, or a Russian could control Parliament and a western Ukrainian could be president. Yanukovich was prime minister many times between 2002 to 2007 before he became president in 2010. It is important to note that Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign chief from May to August of 2016, spent a decade as a consultant to Yanukovich—fees probably paid by

the Russian government.

Yanukovich had agreed to sign on to the European Union agreement, but after consultations with Moscow he changed his mind. Demonstrations drove him out of the country. In February and March of 2014 Russia invaded and occupied Crimea and Donetsk. The world's reaction was a lot of sound and fury and some sanctions but signifying so little that Putin felt comfortable waging a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. So confident were they of victory that the tank convoy going from Belarus to Kyiv had little in the way of provisions, but they did have fancy dress uniforms for a victory parade.

Most advances by the Russians were easily beaten back, but they have held on stubbornly to territories on the western shore of the Azov Sea from Donetsk and Luhansk down to Mariupol.

What should be done?

We must continue to support Ukraine in its struggle against Russian aggression, but maybe we should start talking to the Ukrainians about a cease-fire.



that we faced down the USSR, but rather that there was mutual recognition of security needs, hence the withdrawal of U.S. missiles from Turkey. That was not discussed, however, and today we suffer the same denial that other nations' interests are equal to ours.

Wars often require a big lie, and for Ukraine the big lie is that the Russian invasion was "unprovoked"—overlooking years of planning and provocation by the U.S. After the 2014 coup, the U.S. stepped in to prevent a 2015 settlement to end the war and keep Ukraine intact—and the U.S. stopped a settlement again in March 2022.

The 2015 Minsk agreements—which Germany's Merkel and France's Hollande recently admitted they did not try to enforce, but instead used to prepare Ukraine for war—were followed by eight years of bombardment of Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, causing 14,000 deaths and culminating in a military buildup precipitating this larger war. Unfortunately, that 2015 compromise, which would have protected rather than persecuted Russian speakers and culture in Ukraine, is no longer available.

Earlier this month, speaking at the European Parliament, NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg acknowledged that it was the U.S. relentless drive to expand NATO that was the cause of this war. U.S. planners want-

back to January (<https://southsidepride.com/2023/01/28/a-response-to-spride-ukraine-columns/>), I have recommended commentary outside the mainstream: Jeffrey Sachs and John Mearsheimer; ConsortiumNews.com; veterans Ray McGovern, Scott Ritter and Douglas Macgregor; ex-diplomats Alastair



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Winter and holiday events to keep your spirits bright

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

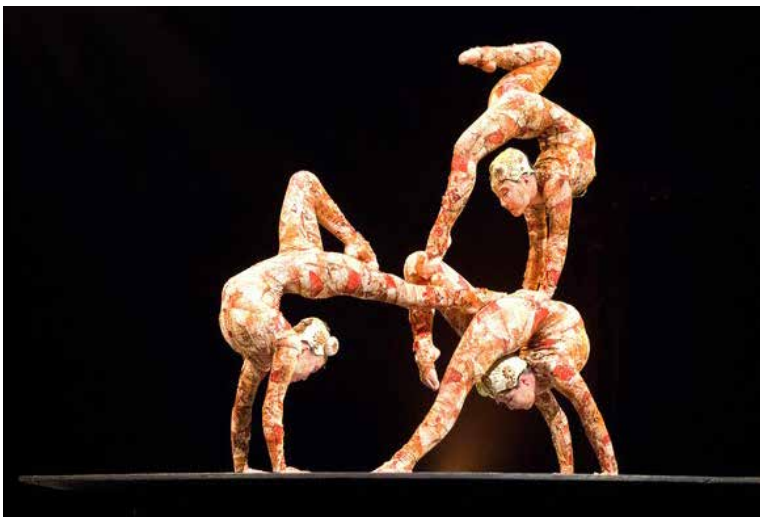
Winter and holiday things, both new and traditional

Here is your winter 2023-

24 guide to holiday and winter-related events and things to do. Just like last year, this is a streamlined list, with the same limits. To wit: for on-line ticket sales, we provide

the name (search term) for the website only. In most cases, both the phone number (and sometimes email also) and the location and hours of the box office are given on the ticketing website or web page.

Ticket prices are not given, so be sure and ask about senior, student and children's discounts, as well as pay-what-you-can programs. Specific times are given only for single events, with a date span given for theater runs and series. If the presenting organization does not have



Cirque du Soleil: Twas The Night Before... at Northrop Auditorium



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



'Christmas at the Local' at Theater Latte Da
(Photo/Dan Norman)

its own venue, the venue will be given after the organization. If there is no "for tickets" link, it might be free, but don't assume. Check online or call before you go.

Live theater – musicals, improv, comedy

Plus one thing that sounds like a panto? (See Cinderella, below.) Panto, short for pantomime, is a family holiday tradition in the U.K. and Ireland. These are multi-faceted performances of fairy tales, with stock characters, silly songs, talking animals, physical comedy, cross-gender performances, and audience participation.

- A Very Bearded Holiday – HUGE Improv Theater – Fridays from 11/11 to 12/29. Tickets online at hugetheater.com/shows.

- A Christmas Carol – Guthrie Theater – 11/11 through 12/30. Tickets online or phone at guthrietheater.org or in person at their box office.

- Away In A Basement – Church Basement Ladies/Ames Center, Burnsville – one show, 11/16 at 1 p.m. Tickets online at ames-center.com/events.

- Cinderella – A Musical Fairy Tale For All Ages – Sidekick Theatre, Bloomington – 11/20 through 12/29. Tickets online at sidekicktheatre.com/cinderella-2023.

- Christmas at the Local

- 'Twas the Night Before – Cirque du Soleil/Hennepin Theatre Trust/Northrop Carlson Stage (University of Minnesota) – 11/24 through 12/03. A circus, music and dance performance based on the iconic poem by Clement Clarke Moore. Tickets via northrop.umn.edu/events or hennepintheatretrust.org/events.

- Black Nativity – Penumbra Theatre – 11/28 through 12/24. Classic Twin Cities experience, not to be missed. Tickets and info at penumbratheatre.org.

- Peter Pan (Broadway musical version) – Ordway Center, St. Paul – 12/05 through 12/31. Tickets online or Ordway box office.


- Dinner for One – Jungle Theater – 12/08 through 12/21. New work by Jungle's artistic director, based on slapstick sketch comedy and European New Year's Eve traditions. General ticket sales begin 11/22 (or season pass if you have it already).

Dance – all Nutcrackers

These are not quite ALL the Nutcrackers in town, but rather a curated list. If you want more, we suggest the following link – tinyurl.com/

See Holidays, page 10

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HAPPY

Holidays, from page 9

DKRatSSP-Nuts.

• Mini Nutcracker – Twin Cities Ballet at Lakeville Area Arts Center – 11/27 through 11/29. At just one hour and with little-kid-friendly music, this makes a great introduction to ballet. Tickets at lakev-

illemn.gov/544/Mini-Nutcracker.

• Nutcracker Magical Christmas Ballet – Talmi Entertainment at the Orpheum Theatre – 11/30 through 12/02. Tickets online at henepintheatretrust.org/events.

• A Minnesota Nutcrack-

er – Twin Cities Ballet/Ames Center, Burnsville – 12/07 through 12/10 (four shows). Tickets through twincitiesballet.org.

• Nutcracker in Wonderland – Ballet Co.Laboratory/Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts – 12/08 through 12/10 (four shows). A dance mashup between Nutcracker and Alice in Wonderland. Tickets through balletcolaboratory.org.

• Metropolitan Ballet Presents Nutcracker – Metropolitan Ballet/Fitzgerald Theater, St. Paul – 12/09 and 12/10. Tickets via first-avenue.com.

• Loyce Houlton's Nutcracker Fantasy – Minnesota Dance Theatre/State Theatre, Minneapolis – 12/16 through 12/23. Tickets at mndance.org.

Concerts

As usual, an eclectic mix of music, from Baroque to brokenhearted.

• Decolonize Thanksgiving: A Benefit for First Nations Kitchen – Hook and Ladder Theater and Lounge with a



Jul at the American Swedish Institute

lineup of Native American musicians – 11/24 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets at thehookmpls.com or eventbrite.com.

• Julgladje Family Concert – American Swedish Institute (ASI) – 11/25, two shows. Tickets at asimn.org.

• Holiday Music at the Mall of America with a selection of local artists and choirs – in the rotunda – 12/4 through 12/23

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HOLIDAYS

except all Tuesdays and 12/8 and 12/9. Free.

- Concordia College Christmas Concert - Concordia College/Minnesota Orchestra (Orchestra Hall) - 12/07, 2 shows at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tickets at my.minnesota-orchestra.org.

- Southside Foodshare Benefit featuring Wet Denim, Fletcher Couley, and Saffron Dealer - Palmer's Bar, Minneapolis - 12/8, 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets at eventbrite.com.

- Handel's "Messiah" - Minnesota Orchestra (Orchestra Hall) - 12/08 and 12/09. Tickets at my.minnesota-orchestra.org.

- Anthony Shore's "Christmas with Elvis" - Ames Center, Burnsville - 12/13 at 7:30 p.m. Acclaimed Elvis tribute singing the Elvis Holiday Songbook. Tickets at ames-center.com.

- Handel's "Messiah" at the Basilica - St. Paul Chamber Orchestra/The Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis - 12/14 and 12/15. Tickets via content.thespco.org.

- Handel's "Messiah" at the Ordway - St. Paul Chamber Orchestra/Ordway Concert Hall, St. Paul - 12/16 and 12/17. Tickets via content.thespco.org.

- Mannheim Steamroller Christmas - Orpheum Theatre - 12/15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets and info at hennepintheatretrust.org/events.

- "Trashy Little Xmas" by Trailer Trash - Hook and Ladder Theater and Lounge - 12/15 and 12/16. For tickets and info, go to the events calendar at thehookmpls.com.

- "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve" - Trans-Siberian Orchestra /Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul - 12/30 (two shows). Tickets at xcelenergycenter.com.

Fairs and markets

- New City and Walker Church Holiday Art Fair - New City Center (former Walker Church). 11/18 and 11/19. Over 20 artists/vendors, live music,

soup, bake sale.

- Long Prairie Arts and Crafts Fair - Grey Eagle School - 11/25. Annual arts fair, more

info at business.longprairie.org.

- St. Paul Old-Fashioned

Holiday Bazaar - Landmark Center - 11/30 through 12/02. ma - Midtown Global Market - 12/01. See Face-

- No-Coast Craftora-

See *Holidays*, page 12



Loyce Houlton's Nutcracker Fantasy at the State Theatre

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Holidays, from page 11

book at facebook.com/events/232465926469032.

- Julmarknad – American Swedish Institute – 12/02 and 12/03. Swedish-style holiday market; see asimn.org.

org calendar for December.

- Women's Art Festival – St. Mary's University Center – 12/09. See fairsandfestivals.net for more information.

- Minnesota Merry Market – Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul – 12/16

through 12/17. NEW show debuts this year. More info at mnstatefair.org.

Classes, sing-alongs, DIY and other miscellany

A very mixed bag indeed.

- Night Trains – Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum – Saturdays from 11/4 through 02/24/2024 (plus some bonus days). See www.tcmrm.org for details and admission.

- Indigenous cooking classes – Seward Community Coop – 11/6, 11/9, 11/13, 11/14, 11/16 and 11/29. See seward.coop/events for times, cost and details.

- Eight seasons of the Sami



No Coast Craft-o-Rama at Midtown Global Market

calendar (class) – ASI – 11/12, 2 to 4 p.m. See asimn.org calendar for December (same for other ASI events in this section).

- Joululaulut, Finnish winter holiday (class) – ASI – 11/15, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

- Jul 101, Swedish winter holiday (class) – ASI – 11/16, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

- Lucia Allsang and caroling (Swedish sing-along) – ASI – 6 to 7 p.m.

- Joululaulut (Finnish sing-along) – ASI – 7 to 8 p.m.

- Julmarknad Preview Party – ASI – 6 to 8 p.m. Preview shopping, live music, treats to buy from Fika, plus ASI's Holiday Exhibition, "Once Upon A Mansion."

- Igloo dining experiences – Restaurant 925 at The Landing, Wayzata – November and December. Three-hour, five-course tasting menu with wine pairing for two to six guests, prepaid reservations. In a heated "igloo!" See thetotellandling.com/dine.

- Cut your own holiday tree – various tree farms across the state – most of December. Access a map with dozens of choose-and-cut fresh conifers at mncta.com/choose--cut-new.

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Restaurant and food news, plus a mini-review of Café Racer

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Openings, closings, and other local news

• Venture Bikes and Coffee, open on the Midtown Greenway at 10th Avenue where the Midtown Freewheel was before the

• King Coil Spirits, a distillery with a cocktail room and pizza, opened by Lake Monster Brewing, at 550 Vandalia St. in St. Paul.
• I don't actually have any closings to report. That's a nice change, eh?

about what it takes to get Michelin ratings on your restaurants and why the Twin Cities aren't really trying for that right now. It's basically a matter of money (isn't everything?) and timing.

Another quirky food article from Racket.com, this one a couple of years old, caught my eye. Titled "Minnesota's Lonely Links," it explores the question of what the comings and goings of national restaurant chains can teach us about the way we eat. It's really a great read from freelance writer JDHovland, with a big, slightly rambling (in a good way) intro about a chain called Maid-Rite, a place called The Barn in Brainerd (which closed in 2021) and something called "loose meat sandwiches" which I dimly recall being something Roseanne was into back when she was married to Tom Arnold.

What links pu-erh tea, bulletproof coffee, buffalo milk butter, and Tibet? Just my amazing brain, that's all.

I recently bought some pu-erh



Colombian buffalo ghee and Numi pu-erh tea

2020 upheaval, is a new coffee shop and bike shop combo. This is from the team behind Venture North; essentially it's moved to south Minneapolis and dropped the "North." They were forced to leave north Minneapolis due to – what else? – gentrification, but have hopes to expand back there because north Minneapolis needs bike shops. And bike shops need coffee shops, or at least they go together well. The owner is Kennis Littleton, his business partner is Anthony Taylor, and the GM is Chris Huff-Hanson, formerly of Freewheel.

• Zhora Darling is open in the



Zhora Darling interior



The Maid-Rite Sundae from The Barn in Brainerd

former Red Stag Supperclub space. Mpls.St.Paul magazine's Steve Marsh wrote a sneak preview of it on Sept. 29. The skinny is it has no takeout, no delivery, and is open until 2 a.m.! Yes, really. It says so on Google.

Why the Twin Cities doesn't have stars, but we do have some last-standing chain restaurants that are kind of interesting

Axios Twin Cities ran a piece

tea online, the kind that comes in a brick. I read somewhere about the nutritional qualities of something called "dark" (not black) tea and how it was a component of yak butter tea which is drunk in Tibet. Pu-erh is a type of this dark tea, which refers to its processing method of aging and fermentation rather than just its color. Pu-erh just happens to be the most commonly available type in the U.S.

Yak butter is actually kind of scarce and costly, even in Tibet, but I was wondering how to closely replicate it with what is available to non-millionaires like me, and I thought – bison butter! I wonder if anyone's ever made that? It turns out that, at least in 2017, Trader Joe's sold fresh bison butter in a tub. However, I cannot find it now. But I did find bison ghee, except they call it buffalo ghee, and it's made in Colombia and I bought some of that too. Next issue I will report back on my American-style bison butter tea.

In the process of researching



Venture Bikes and Coffee on the Midtown Greenway

all this, I ran across the term "bulletproof coffee," which I had seen in online ads but never knew what it was. It has an historical close link to Tibetan Yak Butter Tea! This article in Eater from 2016 explains it all and is totally worth a read: (eater.com/2016/8/25/12624068/butter-coffee-tea-tibet-yak).

Mini-review of Café Racer Kitchen

I have been visiting Café Racer's free lunch, "Breaking Bread," on the last Monday of the month for several months now. I decided to go there and have a full-on cafe lunch from the menu and further explore their cuisine.

I went there at about 2:30 p.m. on a weekday. I tend to eat my meals later than normal, in line with also going to bed later and getting up later, a tendency I have fought against my whole life, until I retired and just let it run rampant.

Even when ordering from the menu, Café Racer does not have a huge selection. I kind of like that. I am one of those that can feel oppressed by a large array of choices. I want just enough choices! Anyway, I chose the



Anthony Taylor, co-owner of Venture Bikes and Coffee



Kennis Littleton, co-owner of Venture Bikes and Coffee

roasted vegetables as my main dish, and for the two sides, I chose the arepas and a black bean and brown rice dish.

The roasted vegetables included sweet potato, some other root vegetables, sweet red bell pepper, and several hugely long green beans. It was a perfectly-sized portion for lunch, and was topped with pickled red onions and two sauces, a crema and a mildly hot aioli type of thing, reminiscent of chipotle. The arepas are house-made, slightly sweet and really yummy. They were topped with a dry, white grated cheese of some kind. I had iced tea with it. Café Racer is a very chill place. It's affordable, friendly and healthy.



Roasted vegetables with two sides from Café Racer

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

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EVENTS

Tutors needed for Hennepin County Library's 'Let's Read' and 'Homework Help' programs

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Sound Unseen Film + Music Festival Nov. 8-12

The 24th Annual SOUND UNSEEN Film + Music Festival returns to Minneapolis Nov. 8-12 with another dynamic collection of music films and music events in venues all around the city, including the Parkway Theater, Trylon Cinema, The Main Cinema, Bryant Lake Bowl, The Green Room and VFW Uptown. The full schedule and tickets are available at SoundUnseen.com.

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors Diabetes Support Group Wednesday, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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Do you have diabetes? Interested in health information and

a friendly community? Join us for a meeting of the Longfellow Diabetes Support group. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, and facilitated by Beth Peltzer, MSW. New members always welcome!

'A Song Over Miskwaa Rapids'
Linda LeGarde Grover, author
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
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1629 Hennepin Ave. #275, Mpls.
Duluth author Linda LeGarde Grover will celebrate the publication of her newest novel, "A Song Over Miskwaa Rapids" (University of Minnesota Press) with Birchbark Books at their new downtown Minneapolis event space, Birchbark Bizhew. Beginning with her award-winning debut story collection "The Dance Boots" and continuing with her novels "The Road Back to Sweetgrass" and "In the Night of Memory," both published by University of Minnesota Press, Grover has created and explored the imaginary Mozhay Point Ojibwe Reservation in northern Minnesota. In her new novel, the fourth in the series, a 50-year-old mystery converges with a present-day struggle over family, land and history. Throughout the narrative, a chorus of spirit women gather in lawn chairs with coffee and cookies to reminisce, reflect and speculate, spinning the threads of family, myth, history and humor—much as Grover spins another tale of Mozhay Point, weaving together an intimate and complex novel of a place and its people. For more information about the event, visit Birchbark's website at: birchbarkbooks.com/pages/events.

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Erika Bolstad presents 'Windfall'
In conversation with Emily Strasser
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Magers and Quinn
3038 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
"Windfall" is one intrepid journalist's search for her long-lost great-grandmother on the American prairie. While this family mystery was what inspired her mission, climate journalist Erika Bolstad couldn't turn a blind eye to the irrevocable environmental damage Manifest Destiny wreaked across the American West. Bolstad was drawn to the mystery of her ancestor and as a journalist well versed in the effects of fossil fuel and climate change, she felt a dissonance between what she knew of her great-grandmother and the environmental damage inflicted by the oil industry. Setting out for

the North Dakota plains, Bolstad discovers a land of boom-and-bust cycles and a woman trying to eke out a living in an unforgiving landscape. She brings to life the ever-present American question: What does it mean to be rich? A compelling and increasingly relevant thread connects thoughtful criticism of the long-lasting implications of mineral rights and the oil crisis coupled with a gripping mission to find a lost ancestor. Free, in-store event (registration required). For more information and to register, visit www.magersandquinn.com/event/Erika-Bolstad-presents-Windfall/259.

Audition for 'Freedom Riders'
Ages 13+
Friday, Nov. 17, 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.
Youth Performance Company seeks a diverse cast (ages 13+) and encourages actors of all ethnicities, cultures, gender identities, socioeconomic status, and abilities to audition. Prepare: 1-2 minute monologue or story and 1-2 minutes of a song to be sung acapella. Dress to move. Bring a headshot/photo and resume if you have them. Non-stipend positions. We encourage you to contact us at info@youthperformanceco.org with any accommodations you may need for your upcoming audition. We are happy to provide materials in advance, large print scripts, or other requests as needed. Rehearsals begin in December; show opens Feb. 2, 2024. A complete rehearsal and performance schedule will be handed out by or before the first rehearsal. For full audition guidelines and to sign up to audition, visit youthperformanceco.org/auditions/.

Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival
Through Saturday, Nov. 18
Streaming through Nov. 30
In-person and online

Welcome to the 2023 Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival, presented by the Minnesota JCC. Now in its 29th year, TCJFF includes 12 thought-provoking films designed to make us laugh and cry, bring the community together and create dialogue. Plus, enjoy several on-demand shorts and shows online throughout the month of November.

Now and always, we at the Minnesota JCC hold safety at our gatherings as the highest priority. We continue to be in ongoing communication with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), local law enforcement, as well as emergency response agencies at both the local and federal level. Security will be present at each screening. We believe in the power of art to create community and the importance of celebrating our rich Jewish life and culture. Thank you for your continued support, in-person and online. We are honored to be able to celebrate the best in Jewish cinema with you. For a full schedule of events and to purchase tickets, go to tcjff.eventive.org/welcome.

'The Electrification of the Mississippi River Gorge: How the University of Minnesota Lost its Bid for a Renewable Resource in the High Dam'
Erik Moore, University of Minnesota Archivist
Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Washburn Library
5244 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls.
Founded in 1928, the University of Minnesota Archives is the official repository of the institution and a rich source of local, national and international history that intersects with the people and programs of the university. In this presentation, Erik Moore will highlight a piece of institutional history that connects federal projects, renewable energy, corporate interests, municipal needs and university claims and discuss the source material and ways to unearth archival materials stored in the caverns beneath the Elmer L. Andersen Library. For more information, go to mnindependentscholars.org/node/429.

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors
Hearing Loss and Hearing Technology
Tuesday, Nov. 21, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.
Gain a better understanding of hearing loss and how it affects daily life. Learn the facts about hearing aids, assistive technology, and ways in which we can work to preserve the hearing that we have. Presented by hearing and health consultant, Monique Hammond. Senior Social and Health Talks occur on the third Tuesday of each month and feature guest

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People & Pets Together

We know pets are family. We help families stay together.

The People & Pets Together pet food shelf is open to residents of the city of Minneapolis. We provide dog & cat food and pet care items to individuals and their families in crisis.

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

People & Pets Together
Chuck & Don's Pet Wellness Center
2501 Minnehaha Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
(612) 722-9998
<https://www.peopleandpetstogether.org/>

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

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

Hook Holiday Market Fine Art & Craft Fair
Saturday, Nov. 25, noon to 5 p.m.
Hook and Ladder Theater
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.
Step into the Hook & Ladder-turned-art haven for a Zen Arcade and Medusa’s Holiday Market with a twist. The Hook’s historic charm provides a unique backdrop for paintings, sculptures and crafts that lean towards the dark side. It’s not your typical holiday market—here, the holiday spirit intertwines with a touch of the supernatural, making it an unconventional but intriguing experience for those seeking a holiday market with multiple vendors, multiple rooms, and a SPOOKY edge. Zen Arcade Canna-Lounge will be open with tastings, specials and gift baskets for all your high-minded friends and family! This FREE event is sponsored by the Hook and Ladder, Mission Room and Zen Arcade. All ages (21+ in Zen Arcade). For more details and a list of vendors, go to thehookmpls.com/event/hook-holidaymarket/.

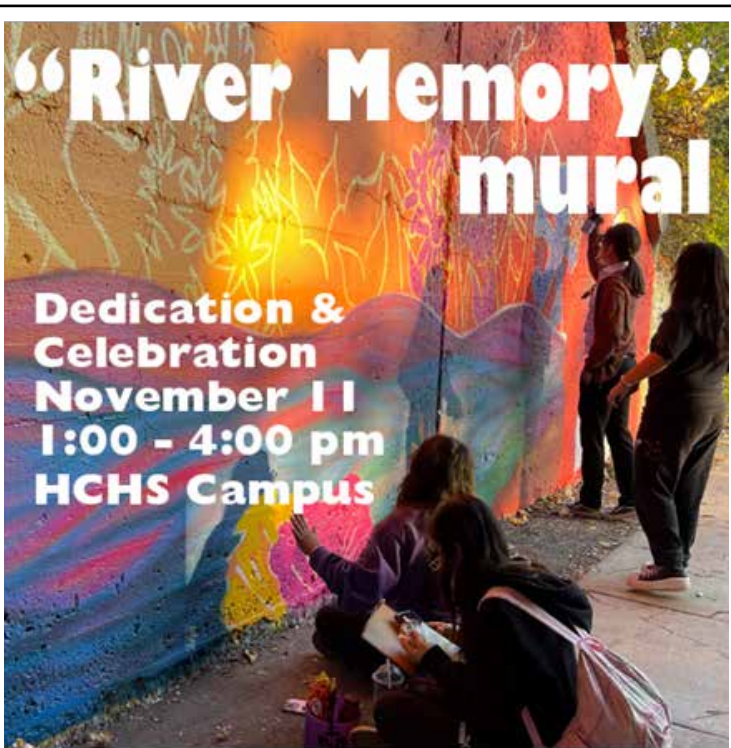
Como Park Conservatory Fall Flower Show Part II

Through Sunday, Nov. 26
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
1225 Estabrook Dr., St. Paul
While many Minnesota gardens are winding down for the winter season, the Sunken Garden at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory will be in full bloom! The second half of the Fall Show will be a celebration of the Dia de los Muertos. Orange and yellow mums will be accented by bright magenta celosia as well as orange marigolds and multicolored osteospermum. comozooconservatory.org


New Four-Year Tuition Coverage for Tribal Scholars Program Applications due Dec. 1, 2023
The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program provides full tuition, fees, books, a housing stipend, and paid workforce training to any interested and eligible student pursuing degrees in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines at a tribal college or university. New this year, the tuition coverage can follow the student from a two-year associate program at a tribal college or university (TCU) to a four-year bachelor’s degree program (at a TCU or another land-grant institution). When the student has completed the scholarship requirements, including a paid internship, USDA may convert the student to a permanent USDA employee without further competition. Eligible

applicants include graduating high school seniors, full-time students currently enrolled at a 1994 land-grant tribal college or university, or recent TCU associate degree graduates. For FY 2024, 27 scholarship slots are available at: Agriculture Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Farm Production and Conservation, Forest Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The application deadline is Dec. 1, 2023. Visit the USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program or email 1994@usda.gov for further information.

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.



Join 36th ART, SPRAYFiNGER® and Hiawatha Collegiate High School (HCHS) for a celebration of the new Greenway bridge mural, “River Memory.”
Saturday, November 11, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Hiawatha Collegiate High School
3500 E. 28th St., Mpls.
Activities will include the mural dedication and community celebration with music, snacks and beverages. Interactive activities for youngsters to include drawing in the makers’ space on campus and a Spray & Take workshop outside (weather permitting) while HCHS students will offer multilingual tours of the mural. Bring family and friends! All are welcome.
Activities will take place on the back side of the school. For event details follow: <https://www.facebook.com/36thART/>



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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Understand, from page 1

prison holding 2.2 million people. It is literally walled in. A more precise definition would be concentration camp since it imprisons people based on their ethnicity rather than for committing any crime. Israel periodically conducted bombings/massacres in Gaza over the past two decades, at one point described by an Israeli official as “mowing the lawn.” Since Oct. 7, Israel has killed many more civilians in Gaza than those killed by Hamas. So far there have been more than 5000 Palestinian casualties versus 1400 Israeli casualties on Oct. 7, with Israel still planning a ground invasion. Note that most of the population of Gaza are refugees – their parents or grandparents had once lived in Israel and the Israelis drove them from their homes. The Palestinian prisoners of Gaza have not been permitted

any legitimate means of resisting Israeli oppression. Decades of nonviolent efforts or lower-level violent actions have not gotten anywhere. During 2018-19, Palestinians held weekly nonviolent protests at the perimeter fence trying to challenge the blockade. The Israeli response was to shoot the protestors with live ammunition, killing more than 200 and injuring tens of thousands. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/two-years-on-people-injured-and-traumatized-during-the-great-march-of-return-are-still-struggling/#:~:text=Israeli%20forces%20responded%20by%20shooting,8%2C800%20children%20have%20been%20injured.> There have been ongoing international efforts to pressure Israel to stop violating Palestinian rights through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS). The response

by Israel and its network of supporters to this nonviolent tactic has been to assert its vast political influence to get laws passed in most U.S. states and in other countries to make the campaign illegal. As JFK said, “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.” Recognition of these realities does not justify condoning Hamas’ actions but does compel understanding the cause – decades of brutal and systematic Israeli oppression. A justifiable analogy is Nat Turner’s slave rebellion. I don’t think anyone would celebrate the killing of dozens of women and children. I am sure that if the contemporary media existed at the time, Turner and his followers would have been labeled terrorists, monsters, animals, etc. But considered from a historical perspective, no one condemns Nat Turner. Everyone recognizes the underlying problem was the in-

stitution of slavery. History will inevitably recognize that the underlying cause of the violence by Hamas and the much greater violence by the Israeli military was Israeli apartheid and genocide. Finally, people need to recognize the insidiousness of Zionists’ invocation of Hamas to justify every one of Israel’s atrocities and to refuse to make any concessions to the Palestinians. Israel was instrumental in supporting Hamas at its outset in order to create political divisions in the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and to have a convenient excuse not to make any concessions. <https://theintercept.com/2018/02/19/hamas-israel-palestine-conflict/> This has remained Israeli policy. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/for-years-netanyahu-propped-up-hamas-now-its-blown-up-in-our-faces/> If Hamas is a monster, it is a mon-

ster of Israel’s creation. Israel’s need to create political justification for oppressing and ultimately eliminating Palestinians was more important than the safety of its citizens. Let’s demand that our elected officials support an immediate cease-fire; stop military, financial and political support for Israel; and recognize Palestinian rights. *In light of the recent violence that has left hundreds dead and thousands injured and homeless in Gaza, the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF) is providing vital medical care through volunteer missions and treatment and essential supplies to those who have been tragically impacted by the devastating bombings. Please donate now to have an immediate impact on the lives of children in need.* <https://pcrf1.app.neoncrm.com/forms/gaza-relief>

Cam, from page 1

resolution is being crafted for the benefit of a few private property landowners,” said Ralph Sievert, MPRB Director of Forestry. “There is a misbelief that property owners can save their heavily infested ash trees by treating them. These few property owners believe with treatment they can avoid removals costs and therefore not have the costs assessed to their property.” When faced with the problem over a decade ago, the park board chose not to use insecticides. Instead, they developed a removal and replacement plan that was completed in 2022 and removed roughly 40,000 ash trees on public property over an eight-year period and replaced them with a diverse mix of other trees. While the insecticides are legal by state law and private property owners have used them, the city and park board have not, and the city was on record urging “residents to protect the city’s water, flora, fauna and human health during the emerald ash borer infestation by refraining from applying insecticides to trees on private property.”

I was a Minneapolis City Council member in 2009 when emerald ash borer was discovered in the Twin Cities. In the months that followed, insecticide companies began promoting products. They lobbied the city to purchase and use their insecticides. They attended neighborhood meetings to market their products. Others pushed back with concerns about the use of the chemicals which included neonicotinoids that also kill pollinating insects like bees. In response, Council Member Elizabeth Glidden and I authored, and saw passed, an emerald ash tree resolution (2010-268) urging residents not to use the insecticide. Russ Henry, owner of Minnehaha Falls Landscaping and

a former cochair of the Minneapolis Parks Pesticide Advisory Committee, was part of the effort to reduce the use of insecticides in 2010. “What the companies providing the treatments don’t want to tell us is that the systemic insecticides they are injecting into ash trees could kill not just the EAB, but more than 280 native insect species that eat from ash trees,” wrote Henry last September in Northern Gardener magazine. “This new resolution would undo Resolution 2010R-268 which discourages the use of insecticides on ash trees,” said Sievert. “Instead, the use of insecticides would be recommended and encouraged. This could have a negative impact on pollinating insects that visit treated ash trees.” Recently, \$8 million in federal funding was approved to help homeowners remove trees but the program has yet to start. Often, said Turnwall, there are “financial hardships on homeowners which currently are hitting low-income, BIPOC homeowners the most.” It is unclear if any of those funds might be used to cover the costs of insecticide treatments as well as tree removal. The 2010 resolution, Turnwall said, “was being used by the park board as the reason they did not educate homeowners on treatment options and were going directly to condemning and removing trees while fronting the bill to homeowners.” When a tree is identified as infected, MPRB marks the trees and notifies property owners that they have 60 days to remove the tree. They can remove it themselves, hire a contractor or have the MPRB contract for the tree removal. If the property owner doesn’t remove it by the deadline or chooses to have it removed by the MPRB, they can pay for it in full at that time, make partial payments, or have the unpaid balance levied as a special assessment against their

property over a period of five, 10 or 20 years. “We the community and current homeowners inherited the problem of the emerald ash borer, including grieving and managing the tragic loss of substantial tree canopy, accompanied by the financial and health burdens to individuals and the public,” said Chesney Engquist, former co-chair of the Minneapolis Parks Pesticide Advisory Committee. “Injecting or otherwise treating standing ash trees with insecticides is a disservice that wrongfully passes these burdens on to the next generation – and potentially increases costs to the same homeowner when the tree finally succumbs and must be removed even after some years of insecticide use.” “An extra thing to be aware of is that private companies will treat a tree even though it has little likelihood of being successful,” said Sievert. “The insecticides used to treat EAB in ash trees is systemic, meaning it is transferred into every part of the plant after treatment. There are native insects that eat from every part of the plant, and all of these are likely going to be killed,” said Henry. “The City’s position with this resolution is not to promote the use of insecticide treatment for ash trees but to clarify that residents have the option of using insecticides for treatment of emerald ash borer,” said Kelly Muellman of the Minneapolis Health Department. “Based on experts in the field of forestry in Minnesota, it is not likely that many ash trees in Minneapolis would be candidates for insecticide treatment due to the length of time the ash borer has been present.” “We also care deeply about pollinators and would prefer that an ash tree be removed and replaced with another shade tree. At the same time, we want homeowners to have their options spelled out for them to make informed decisions,” said Muellman. The resolution

recommends the use of non-neonicotinoid, trunk-injected pesticides. People are not just concerned about the pollinators. Accord-

breathing in ash pollen and foliage laden with insecticide.” “The precautionary principle (abstaining from suspect toxic chemical use) must be applied



Emerald ash borer and an ash tree showing the damage.

ing to Henry, when a poisoned insect is eaten, the poison is transferred up to the larger animal who it may also harm or kill. Muellman said that “the reason that the city is passing this resolution is to give MPRB the permission to make homeowners aware of their options to treat if their tree might be a viable candidate,” but it is unclear what, if anything, the park board might do with that permission. Even if they do not change any practices, some worry about the message a change like this in city policy might send to property owners and how insecticide companies might use it. “Every spring when we walk outside, we breathe in ash tree pollen. Every fall as leaves are crunched, we breathe in ash leaf dust. Both the pollen and leaves contain the insecticide after treatment,” said Henry. “There is no science showing the safety or danger of people

to EAB management so that we do not risk untold damage to the ecosystem and our community’s health,” said Engquist. “I would implore the MPRB and City Council to find a way to support low-income homeowners who cannot afford the removal of infested and susceptible trees, so that community members are not under threat of unmanageable tax liens – and so that we address EAB without inflicting unnecessary harm on our children and grandchildren by adding to the load of poisonous environmental toxins they must already endure.” On Oct. 25, the council’s Public Health and Safety Committee voted to support the revised proposal with Council Members Elliot Payne, Robin Wonsley, Michael Rainville, LaTrisha Vetaw and Jeremiah Ellison voting in favor of it and Linea Palmisano abstaining. It is likely to be approved by the full council in November.

EVENTS

Christkindlmarkt
Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
3430 E. 51st St., Mpls.
The annual Christkindlmarkt (Holiday Bazaar) will be held at Faith Lutheran on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop at a variety of craft tables, with coffee and rolls beginning at 9 a.m. and sloppy joes for lunch beginning at 11 a.m. Food, fun, and fellowship!

Taizé Worship
Friday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th St., Mpls.
Take time out to center yourself with a service of prayer, music, and peace. Taizé worship uses singing and chanted prayers repeated over and over – along with short scripture readings and psalms, and meditative silences – to calm the soul and bring one closer to God. www.minnehaha.org/taize.html

Saint Mark’s Music Series
Mid-Season Music Concert
Saturday, Nov. 18, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.
Organ concerto – Francis Poulenc; Soloist: Scott Turkington
Saint Nicolas – Benjamin Britten; Tenor Soloist: Nicholas Chalmers
Cathedral Choir, Choral Society, and Orchestra directed by Raymond Johnston
Tickets \$20, no charge for 12 years and under.
Tickets available at: https://www.aplos.com/aws/events/music_concert

Interfaith Service of Gratitude & Thanksgiving
Monday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue
616 Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul
Let’s come together in unity and gratitude! Join a broad coalition of religious leaders, houses of worship, and practitioners of multiple faith communities for an interfaith service of gratitude and thanksgiving. Light refreshments to follow the service. This event is being co-sponsored by Temple of Aaron Synagogue, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul, and the Minnesota Multifaith Network.
To learn more and to register, see <https://www.mnmultifaith.org/interfaith-service-of-gratitude-thanksgiving>. Registration is NOT required but encouraged to assist with planning. Please note that police officers will be present at Temple of Aaron as part of security protocols.

Christmas by the Creek
Sunday, Dec. 3, 3 to 6 p.m.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church will host the 4th annual Christmas by the Creek on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 3 to 6 p.m. All are welcome for an afternoon of live music (inside and outside by the bonfire), hot drinks, appetizers, kids’ crafts, family Christmas photos and more! A brief service of carols will begin at 5 p.m.

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: Nov. 5, 5-6 p.m.
Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
511 Groveland Ave., Mpls.
In-person meal around tables
2nd Sunday: Nov. 12, 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: Nov. 19, 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: Nov. 26, 5-6 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette 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 re-opened 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/>

Soup for You! Café
2511 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.
612-978-7974
Monday - Friday, noon to 1 p.m. – Lunch
Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. – Gro-

ceries
Soup for You! operates out of the basement of century-old and deeply-rooted Bethany Lutheran Church. Things have changed and continue to be in flux. Soup For You! has not skipped a beat ... COVID-19 lockdown, we were there. People were fed. Unrest and our very neighborhood looted and set to flame. Our volunteers came to this place, the people were fed, clothed, nourished and hopefully comforted in this most extreme time of trauma and need. We will continue with the good support of The Village to feed, nourish and comfort all that come to our doors. <https://soupforyou.info/>

Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service
2600 E. 38th St., Mpls.
Food Hub
Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods. Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Please bring ID and wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines are in place.

Groveland Emergency Food Shelf
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.
612-871-0277
Monday – Friday
9:30 a.m. to noon
On Groveland Avenue between Nicollet and LaSalle (Temporary entrance on Nicollet Avenue)
Hosted in the basement of Plymouth Congregational Church
Delivery is available for individuals who are housebound due to disability.
<https://www.grovelandfoodshelf.org/>

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

ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
www.stjoan.com, 4537 Third Ave.
Saturday, 5 pm in the Church
Sunday, 7:45 am in the Church, 9 & 11 am in the gym
9 & 11 am Family Mass in the Church
Video available on our website and Facebook page
We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel
Riverside & 22nd Aves.
612-333-2561
www.trinitylutherancongregation.org
Sunday Worship 11 am
Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.



All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible

The Southside Religious Community Welcomes You

Bahá’í
BAHÁ’I CENTER OF MINNEAPOLIS
3644 Chicago Ave. S., 612-823-3494
Minneapolis.Bahai@gmail.com
Devotions at the Bahá’í Center and via Zoom, Sundays 10 am, and Tuesdays via Zoom 6:30 pm
[See www.minneapolisbahai.org](http://www.minneapolisbahai.org)
So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.
-Baha’u’llah

Christian
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Worshipping at 2742 15th Ave. S.
612-827-2504 or www.clchurch.org
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/>
Christkindlmarkt – Nov. 11, 9 am - 2 pm
Blind Ministry – Nov. 18, noon – 2 pm
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
Christmas by the Creek
December 3, 3 pm to 6 pm

LIVING SPIRIT
Multicultural/United Methodist Justice — Generosity — Faith
4501 Bloomington Ave.
612-721-5025
Meal & Worship Sunday 10:30 am
Anytime: livingspiritumc.org/watch

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Center for Changing Lives
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 Nov. 5 and Nov. 19)
Sunday 12:30 p.m. Fellowship

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Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.

Marty and Martha Roth

A fond remembrance by
Ed Felien

My earliest memory of double dating with Marty and Martha was taking our kids (in strollers) to the Minnesota State Fair. Jennifer lost her pacifier and Marty wondered what archeologists a thousand years from now would make of it. That was almost 60 years ago.

We reconnected in 1970 when I was publishing *Hundred Flowers*, an underground, anti-war, pro-feminist, pro-gay weekly newspaper. Martha wrote a couple of pieces for us.

Then, in 1991 when we started *Southside Pride*, Marty and

Martha wrote a monthly column about plays they'd seen, movies they liked and television programs that were noteworthy. We would go to dinner and the theater with them and sometimes for a couple of weeks to Key West.

One time they wrote a review critical of a production at Theatre de la Jeune Lune. Dominique Serrand, the director (probably the most talented and important actor and director in Minneapolis at the time) called to object. I arranged a meeting in a coffee house, and the four of us sat. They talked. I took notes. Afterward, Marty said, "What a waste." They objected to Ser-

rand's insensitivity in having a Black man in chains without providing context. Serrand, being French, didn't quite get why they were upset.

We published *Pulse* of the Twin Cities, a weekly alternative newspaper, from 1997 to 2007. For about six months we also did a weekly *Pulse* television program. We were fortunate to have Marty and Martha's son, David, produce a few shows. I was in the control room when he jokingly threatened to cut Marty's mic.

The last thing Marty wrote for us was a short note on the conflict in Israel/Palestine. He objected to the description of "the Israeli government as a group of gentle souls praying for 47 years for peace in the face of desperate terrorism, loving the Palestinian children more than the Palestinians do. In the light of the facts of the Israeli occupation this would be laughable if it weren't so wicked."

We are grateful for all the wonderful ideas, hopes and glimpses into a better world that Marty and Martha gave us. We were so proud to share their writing with our readers.

From Jennifer Roth:

Last night a clear-eyed and determined Martha Roth ended



Martha Roth

her life in Vancouver in an assisted suicide. My mother was in enough pain to be accepted into the Canadian MAID program. Perhaps she'd finally had

enough of this life, but I'd like to think she went out looking for more. You've blazed your last trail, Martha, we are going to miss you.



Marty Roth

HERC, from page 1

sioners Irene Fernando, Angela Conley, and Jeffrey Lunde states that the county staff must come up with a plan to shut down the HERC between 2028 and 2040. The staff directive is due on Feb. 1, 2024. During the board's Administration, Operations and Budget Committee on Oct. 10, Commissioners Fernando and Conley (two of the three commissioners who have constituents in Minneapolis proper) both called the 2040 option "unacceptable." Three of the six commissioners were more conservative.

The question that the county has not yet asked is, what do the residents want? The Minnesota Environmental Justice Table (MN EJ Table) has been organizing the community around the HERC shutdown and working overtime to amplify the community's voice. But if the county does not allow the public to participate in a substantive way, then the government is instigating anger, dissatisfaction and protest. Democratic participation and informed consent are also key principles of environmental justice, which the county claims to care about.

Minnesota is undoubtedly one of the most liberal states in the country, and Minneapolis is its progressive crown jewel. But if democracy is going to survive the next decade, we need to strengthen the processes that protect the fundamental aims of democracy. This means gov-

erning bodies must respect the opinions and expertise of their constituents. Community members, neighborhood groups and advocacy organizations must have active and respected roles in every decision that will affect their communities.

On Oct. 10, approximately 75 individuals rallied at the Hennepin County Board of Commissioner's dais where they were given 30 minutes (two minutes per speaker) to air their grievances about the proposed resolution. Speakers included lawyers, doctors, teachers and a multicultural coalition of community members. The reigning sentiment was that the HERC has already inflicted significant harm on Minneapolis residents, and anything but the soonest possible closure date would be devastating for the community's health and well-being.

While 30 minutes for public comment is already a strict limitation on public participation, the public forum doesn't appear on Hennepin County's website alongside the board's regular meetings. No one at home knows a public comment even happened. When your neighbors complain that the government doesn't care about them, and that politics are where the rich go to get richer, don't be confused. Boards, councils, and executive seats are designed to separate the people from the power. Our governments need to do a much better job of listening to constituents.

Statement by Irene Fernando, Chair of the Hennepin County Board, on board action to create a HERC closure plan (updated on Oct. 24):

On October 24, the Hennepin County Board unanimously passed the Board Action Request (BAR) that directs the HERC's closure as early as 2028, which is only possible with energetic action from State and municipal partners, particularly from the City of Minneapolis.

As a North Minneapolis resident, I have advocated for closure of the HERC since long before I was in elected office. I am deeply committed to environmental justice and promise work towards a closure on the soonest timeline. I believe there is a path to stop burning trash as soon as 2028, but aggressive action is needed from government partners to achieve this timeline:

County: It is my view that a different renewable energy solution will be needed to replace the energy currently being produced at the HERC. Every day, about half of downtown and 25,000 Minneapolis households are energized by the HERC—so as we look to the future, I am excited to consider what renewable energy options the County may have the authority to implement. It is also clear that the County must be in partnership with the State regarding the HERC facility itself, as well as much-needed clarification on the County's role in the waste system.

State: Several legislators have

reached out since the BAR was introduced, including a formal letter with 22 signers from the House and Senate. I thank the Legislature for their leadership, and I can say with confidence that we have legislative partners who are ready to advocate for



the changes needed at the State, which would be required in order for closure to be compliant with statute.

Cities: By statute, decision-making regarding waste generally resides with municipalities, and the HERC is a service provided to cities within Hennepin. While all cities who use the HERC will need support and partnership to develop viable solutions for waste management, our ability to stop burning trash at the soonest timeline relies heavily on urgent, responsive leadership from the City of Minneapolis. Approximately 75% of the 365,000 tons of trash processed by the HERC

each year comes from within the Minneapolis geography. To close the HERC and ensure there's an operational plan for waste disposal, it will be imperative for the City of Minneapolis to implement solutions to reduce waste production, increase diversion,

and find an alternative solution to where city trash will go.

Finally, I want to thank the hundreds of residents who have advocated on behalf of cleaner air and future generations. In the coming year, I will work diligently to pursue policy changes at the state and municipal level to expedite the closure of the HERC facility—and I look forward to remaining in joint advocacy with you as we seek partnership with State and municipal leaders.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bill Emory from my office at bill.emory@hennepin.us or 612-206-1174.

Are Hiawatha Golf Course pumping numbers meaningful?

BY KATHRYN KELLY

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) states that keeping the 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course dry requires too much pumping of groundwater. But are their stated pumping volumes for dewatering of Hiawatha Golf Course accurate? Documents and data that we received from the MPRB and the DNR bring the stated pumping volumes into question.

We found that pumping volumes from 2015 to 2019 were generally estimates (not actual measured volumes). For 2015, the pumping volume was created from a few days of observed data. From 2016 to May of 2020, most pumping volumes were calculated by multiplying the pumping rate of the pumps in gallons per minute (gpm) by the number of hours the pumps were running. Different documents give different pumping rates for these pumps (530, 900, 944, 1,000, 1,200 and 1,368 gpm). It is unclear which numbers were used. To make it more confusing, an inspection of pumps on the property in 2020 revealed that the pumps were impaired, thus pumping an unknown amount of water. In some cases it would have been less than the rated volume, and in one case water was likely repumped due to backflow from a broken check valve. These issues make the numbers from 2015 to May of 2020 questionable.

In 2019, the Minnesota DNR required the MPRB to get a dewatering permit for pumping groundwater into Lake Hiawatha. This required installation of permanent flow measuring devices on the main pumps, along with creating formal procedures for recording and reporting pumping information to the DNR. It is important to note that the dewatering

permit only regulates pumping of groundwater. An MPRB document says that the pumps “pump both groundwater and storm water, so the storm water contribution must be subtracted from the total water pumped.”

Where does this pumped wa-

ter water that is dumped into a golf course pond on the sixth hole. From June 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020, this estimate was subtracted from the total gallons pumped. After that date, this runoff has not been subtracted. This resulted in an estimated

purposes. The Water Appropriation Permit Program exists to balance competing management objectives that include both development and protection of Minnesota’s water resources.” Even though some people may consider this to be groundwater, it is a zero-sum game with no water gained or lost in the lake or the golf course, and Barr stated that “the existing pumping is likely to have minimal ecological impact.” Barr found that the lake level has risen since the 1930s, putting it above the level of the pond, and estimated that this seeping lake water constitutes about 30% of the pumped water. Therefore, pumping of this seepage in a circle is not affecting groundwater and should be subtracted. It is estimated to be 109 million gallons in 2021 and 58 million gallons in 2022.

Subtracting all storm water, surface water and lake water from the total gallons pumped would drastically reduce the pumped volume of groundwater. For 2021 the volume would go from 370 to 218 million gallons of groundwater pumped, and for 2022 the volume would go from 193 to 97 million gallons of groundwater pumped.

2021: $370 - 43 - 109 = 218$ million gallons of groundwater pumped

2022: $193 - 38 - 58 = 97$ million gallons of groundwater pumped

Another curiosity involves a huge increase in estimated pumping volumes starting in 2017. The two main pumps at Pond E were stated to comprise about 99% of the pumping. Reported pumping on the two main pumps went from 300 million gallons in 2016 to 467 million gallons in 2017 (a 55% increase), yet MPRB documents state that the rainfall went down from 40.40 inches in 2016 to 32.40 inches in 2017 (a 19% decrease). This defies common sense. An MPRB document states that “the data suggests there were some modifications made to the operations of the

Pond E pumps in 2017 that more equally runs the two pumps (and potentially increased the total pumping) that continues to present.” MPRB data shows that the left pump increased tremendously from 11 million gallons in 2016 to 252 million gallons in 2017, while the right pump decreased from 289 million gallons to 214 million gallons. We ask why running the two pumps more equally would cause the total pumping volume to increase by over 50 percent when rainfall decreased? Since seep-back from Lake Hiawatha is not tied to rainfall, could this pumping regime be drawing in even more water from Lake Hiawatha that is just pumped back out, thus erroneously elevating the pumping numbers even more?

This assessment indicates that these pumping numbers appear to be very questionable in determining how much groundwater is pumped from the golf course. The MPRB needs to explain why they have submitted pumping numbers to the DNR that don’t follow the procedure. Also, what is the DNR’s role in making sure organizations report accurate and meaningful data?

The MPRB and the DNR need to determine a method that will create meaningful groundwater pumping numbers, and the MPRB needs to admit that their stated pumping numbers have been questionable at best. Plus, the MPRB needs to quit demonizing the golf course over conditions that government agencies have placed on the golf course, such as using the golf course as a storm sewer, or conditions they have refused to correct such as not maintaining the lake at its original level since the lake and property were developed in the 1930s. This lack of proper infrastructure and maintenance is what is really unsustainable for the whole Lake Hiawatha neighborhood.

Note: The golf course pumping has been found to not affect the deeper Prairie du Chien aquifer.



Hawk with a squirrel for breakfast on the 18th hole at Hiawatha (Photo/Kathryn Kelly)

ter come from? We know of four sources:

- 1) Groundwater.
- 2) Surface storm water runoff.
- 3) Minneapolis storm water dumped into the golf course pond system.
- 4) Seepage from Lake Hiawatha.

What has actually been reported to the DNR as pumped groundwater? Water from the above-listed numbers 1 and 4, and sometimes 2 and 3.

The reporting procedure, developed by MPRB’s engineering consultant Barr Engineering, was implemented in June of 2020. It attempts to eliminate numbers 2 and 3 by using acreage that drains into the golf course pond and rainfall at the airport (MSP). Acreage includes the golf course properties, surface runoff and city storm sew-

er-reporting of pumped water by 43 million gallons in 2021 and 38 million gallons in 2022.

We also question why number 4 (see page from Lake Hiawatha) is not subtracted. This water is just pumped in a circle between the golf course pond and Lake Hiawatha due to two factors: Lake Hiawatha is just yards away from the pond and the lake is at a permanently higher water level than the pond. These factors promote seepage back into the pond. The DNR website states, “Minnesota Statute 103G.265 requires the Department of Natural Resources to manage water resources to ensure an adequate supply to meet long-range seasonal requirements for domestic, agricultural, fish and wildlife, recreational, power, navigation, and quality control

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