

Southside Pride

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FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**MAY
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Cam's Corner



Charter Commission proposal to change local voting years

BY CAM GORDON

This November, Minneapolis voters may have to decide whether to move the city elections to coincide with state and federal elections.

On April 17, a Minneapolis Charter Commission workgroup voted to recommend holding public hearings on a charter amendment to move city elections from odd-numbered years, when there are no state or federal elections, to even-numbered years.

It could be a tough decision.

"I'm conflicted," said John Edwards of Wedge Live, who has been following and writing about Minneapolis politics for nearly a decade. "There's value in giving city elections their own stage, to focus our attention on local issues and candidates. I don't want races for City Council and mayor to become an afterthought - to get lost in the shuffle of state and national races. I worry the extra noise creates another hurdle for upstart campaigns already fighting an uphill battle against better-funded, better-connected candidates. But I

See Cam, page 6



District 62B endorsement struggle

BY ED FELIEN

Sunday, April 14, was a beautiful day to be outside, but registration for the District 62 DFL convention at Washburn High began at 9 a.m., and the convention didn't adjourn until after 7 p.m., so most of the delegates didn't get much of a chance to enjoy the first glorious day of spring. But they

had other pleasures—the satisfaction of participating in a grassroots democratic process that will shape state and federal governments in 2025.

There was a sad cloud hanging over the convention. Londel French had written to delegates the day before to say that he was withdrawing from the contest for endorsement

because he had a stroke a few days earlier and needed time to rest and recover.

As we noted in our March and April editions, District 62B was blessed with four excellent candidates for DFL endorsement: Londel French, Anquam Mahamoud, Ira Jourdain and Bill Emory—an African American, a Somali American, a Native American and a white guy.

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The little flotilla that (almost) could

BY CRAIG WOOD

Two gutsy activists from antiwar groups of-ficing out of 4200 Cedar Ave. in South Minneapolis flew to Istanbul, Turkey, on April 17 to join over 300 others from about 40 countries on an 1,100-mile voyage across the Mediterranean Sea to raise awareness and bring lifesaving aid to Gaza.

Vietnam vet and member of Veterans For Peace (VFP) Barry Riesch from St. Paul was nervous about signing on with the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) but felt he should try to do something for the vast majority of Gazans lacking medical care and being deliberately starved. Apart from the mission's goal of delivering over 5,000 tons of urgently needed food, water and medical supplies (including five ambulances and an abundance of baby formula), Riesch said he wanted to do this for his grandkids in hopes that "they won't have to grow up in a world that would ignore such a tragedy."

Riesch has good reason to be nervous. Since



Coleen Rowley (front left) and Barry Riesch (third from left)

the Free Gaza Movement began in 2006, only a handful of small ships have been allowed to bring humanitarian aid to Gazans. Retired U.S. Army colonel and former diplomat Ann Wright is a member of the 2024 FFC Steering Committee. She was a participant (resister) on five previous flotillas that never reached Gaza. In 2010 Wright watched Israeli troops rappelling from helicopters onto the deck of the Mavi Marmara-

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No Place Like Home

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Celebrate Spring on 34th Avenue

Spring on 34th Avenue

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Clusters of fun and joy dot 34th Avenue

As I also mentioned in “Spring on East 38th Street,” a Racket.com article from April 17 listed their take on “the 13 best intersections in Minneapolis,” and the single street that occurred the most was 50th Street, which was in three of the 13 intersections. One of those was the 34th Avenue and 50th Street crossing, which is only a block away from the beloved Nokomis Library and Oxendale’s Market, and does have some of the most interesting retail shops, restaurants and bars in the neighborhood. But not all of 34th Avenue’s attractions are on that one corner.

Another interesting little stretch is the block of storefronts at 46th Street, where the corner spot has housed a classic neighborhood bar (once called the Sunrise Inn) going back at least as far as the 1950s. The space is now occupied by Bull’s Horn, which has already become a real neighborhood institution



Fruit & Grain’s imaginative pop-tarts

since it opened in 2017. Bull’s Horn is a modern take on the ever-popular “dive bar, but for families,” something South Minneapolis does so well. They are very neighborhood-oriented, hosting many community and pop-up events in Standish-Ericsson.

That block has had several incoming businesses in the past few years that have really picked up the foot traffic and had peo-

ple coming out to enjoy community. Primary among them, because it was designed for just that, is a new place called SunBean Coffee Shop. It is also the most recent, having just opened in late February. SunBean Coffee Shop is the brainchild of Fred DuBose and his co-owner and life partner Annie DuBose. It’s also one of the growing number of BIPOC-owned coffee shops



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The Bitter Buffalo’s Gillian McLaughlin

in the Twin Cities area. They opened during the last week of Black History Month.

The concept behind SunBean, beautifully realized, is to double down on the community-oriented facets of the traditional coffee shop, eschewing ordering apps and impersonal service. The space at 4553 34th



Bar plus bowling at the Town Hall Lanes

Ave. had been vacant for years and required extensive rebuilding (well documented on the shop's Facebook page) and the focus of the decor is on mental health and community. A "Sun-Bar" across from the counter has an array of small, personal SAD therapy lamps to supplement the sunbeams when they're not that strong. Art adorns the walls, greenery is present, there

profiled by Racket.com's Em Casell in April 2022 under the subtitle "Justice for the Pop-Tart!" I tried a strawberry cardamom pop-tart at the shop with my double espresso, (my friend had the bourbon salted caramel cold brew, which looked amazing) and also brought home a hand pie filled with cream cheese and caramelized veggies and topped with everything seasoning. Both



Annie and Fred DuBose at the grand opening of SunBean Coffee Shop

is a lush and sunny indoor mural in the back, and the service is very friendly. A dog-friendly sidewalk seating area is coming into use as the weather warms up. A percentage of profits is donated to mental health charities.

So how is the food and drink? Based on only one visit so far, good, even great! The coffee is a custom medium roast from local roaster True Stone. For food, there is a tempting pastry case full of muffins, Danish pastries, and products from Fruit & Grain, a small, local bakery. They were

were outstanding.

Two other businesses in the space are Freshly Cut, a barber shop, and The Bitter Buffalo, a shop producing hand-pulled screen printing on fabric (T-shirts or whatever you like), or paper (signs, posters, flyers), but specializing in fabrics. The Bitter Buffalo is owned and operated by artist and professional screen-printer Gillian McLaughlin, who founded the business in Northeast Minneapolis in 2012. The business moved to 34th Avenue in 2022, taking the

space vacated by Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) when they transitioned to working from home.

Freshly Cut has been in this space since 2005. Currently staffed by four Master Barbers, Freshly Cut prides itself on its clean, traditionally appointed space and its loyal customer base, with a 4.8 out of 5-star rating. Their services include regular and specialty haircuts as well as mustache and beard care and trimming. You could even opt for the classic barber shop experience of a straight razor shave with a hot towel finish. They have reasonable prices and offer a further \$2 discount for military personnel and seniors.

At 50th Street and 34th Avenue (and beyond)

Yet another eatery, Fusion Pancake House & Bistro, has been holding down the corner spot at 34th Avenue and 50th Street since July 2023. The "fusion" is mostly Latino, with many classic Latino breakfast and dinner items, but there are Asian and Italian influences as well, plus some plain old American things like steak, a Caesar salad and Buffalo wings. They serve breakfast/brunch seven days a week starting at 7 a.m., and dinner from 4 to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

A fairly longtime presence on the block is Town Hall Lanes, an outpost of the popular Town Hall Brewery as well as a full-service restaurant plus a modern 10-lane bowling alley. It's a popular venue for large parties and after-work meetups, as well as a neighborhood favorite. A very longtime presence is the small but versatile grocery store, Oxendale's Market. I love Oxendale's; its perfect size makes shopping quick, the service is friendly, and they have an excellent selection for a smaller market.

Several blocks south of 50th there are a couple of other neighborhood stalwarts. It's always good to have a good car repair shop, and Nokomis has a branch of Nelson's Automotive on 34th Avenue at 54th Street. A small company with four stand-alone locations plus a presence in the Green Garage on Nicollet, their reputation is solid. And finally, at 5406 34th Ave. S., is yet another great place to have breakfast, and another long-lasting neighborhood business: Berry Sweet Kitchen. They serve only breakfast, though they're open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (closed Monday) so you could have "breakfast for lunch."



Strawberry crepes from Fusion Pancake House & Bistro

SunBean Coffee is a Black-owned coffee shop in South Minneapolis, dedicated to spreading sunshine, community, and positivity through exceptional coffee and a welcoming atmosphere.



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Hiawatha Golf Course update

BY KATHRYN KELLY

Record golf revenue

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) reports that the Minneapolis golf courses produced record revenue in 2023 of \$9,228,460 with an operational profit of \$928,922. How much of the revenue does Hiawatha get for maintenance and improvements? Superintendent Bangoura confirmed that, “Hiawatha Golf Course has consistently (for the past 10 years) received 15% less of a budget for maintenance than the other 18-hole golf courses in the MPRB system, partly due to the sharing of maintenance staff with Fort Snelling Golf Course.” This makes no sense; the work doesn’t go down at Hiawatha because Hiawatha staff has additional responsibility for another golf course. Kudos to the Hiawatha greens staff for all of their hard work on a sub-standard budget.

Cost of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, so far

Public data requests to the MPRB show that over \$1 million

has been spent on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan from 2015 through 2023. All of these expenses have been charged to the Golf Department, thus draining over \$1 million from Minneapolis golf course revenues.

MPRB requests more money from the Metropolitan Council

The MPRB issued an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) to contractors for further work on the Hiawatha Golf Course plan.

The RFQ indicates that in 2024 the MPRB plans on spending \$200,000 by borrowing from 2024 MPRB funds given by the Metropolitan Council. They will then pay the money back at some future date with unspecified funds. Is borrowing this money allowed? The MPRB also has raised golf fees again this year. Is this to cover the pay-back funds in 2024?

The RFQ also indicates that the MPRB will fund work in 2025 with a \$1,010,000 funding request to the Met Council. The problem is that the Met Council cannot fund golf course or restaurant projects. Yet golf course and restaurant work is listed – a golf course schematic

(\$150,000) and a traffic analysis (\$20,000) for the golf course and restaurant. And much of the rest of the listed work is for general design which intertwines golf course features with some general park features. When the Met Council looked at the plan for approval in 2023, Tyler Pederson of the MPRB promised them that no golf course work would be done with Met Council money. Now, the MPRB is re-

questing money for this work. This is the quagmire that the Met Council stepped into when they approved funding this project. The Met Council has not responded to questions about the use of Council funding for the Hiawatha Golf Course.

Everyone should be aware that this additional \$1.2 million in expenditures will only produce another concept, even though the RFQ specifically

states that “design development, construction documentation, and construction administration is not included in this work.” So the MPRB will have spent \$1 million over 11 years for the initial concept, and now they will spend an additional \$1.2 million for another concept. Some people might consider this “make work.” But then, it is just golfers’, and now, taxpayers’ money.

Rest In peace, Doug Marvy

BY ED FELIEN



Four of the Milwaukee 14 just before arrests. Doug Marvy is third from the left.

Doug Marvy died last month after a short and intense relationship with cancer as a result of a long-term blood disease.

I first heard about Doug when I learned about the Milwaukee 14 burning draft records and serving prison terms for their opposition to the draft and the war in Vietnam. I met Doug when he was married to a dear old friend, Andrea Schulberg.

He was the architect of two dramatic but little-known capers in which I was a willing participant.

He had this idea for doing a leaflet that we could put on the windshields of cars parked in the lot for the Honeywell anti-personnel bomb manufacturing plant. The leaflet encouraged the workers to commit sabotage and make the bombs ineffective. This was in 1972, before the fall of Saigon. It went pretty smoothly, but a security guard came out and recognized Marv Davidov and started talking to him. Marv, of course, couldn’t resist an audience so he went on and on about war and peace until Doug and I grabbed him by the arms and walked him to the car so we could make our getaway.

When I was on the Minneapolis City Council, half a century ago, Doug thought the most revolutionary thing we could do was start a bank. We thought about that for a while but, since it took half a million bucks to start a bank, we settled on starting the Southside Credit Union. This was before credit unions were as popular as they are today, and our experiment lasted about 10 years.

I lost track of Doug when he left Minneapolis to follow some guru. I loved his hope and his faith that we could make things better than they were. And he was right. His leadership and sacrifice helped end the draft and slow America’s imperialist ambitions.

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Southside Pride
NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

Southside Pride is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the first Tuesday of each month to convenient locations in and around our Southside communities. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.

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

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Proposed demolition of historic Bethany Lutheran Church building

BY SUE KOLSTAD

Seward faces the possible demolition of Bethany Lutheran Church at 2511 E. Franklin Ave. Augsburg University, the building's owner, announced in March an agreement to sell the former Bethany Lutheran Church property to the Somali Museum of Minnesota to develop a permanent museum facility and cultural center on the site. Neighborhood residents are concerned at the prospect of demolishing the historic building that has meant so much to them. Many others are unaware of the plans for demolition.

(See <https://southsidepride.com/2021/09/20/bethany-lutheran-church-closed-sept-12/> for a history of the church.)

On April 27, a gathering was held at Matthews Recreation Center to inform neighbors about the plans. About 60 people attended to hear a detailed history of the church going back a hundred years. This was followed by a presentation by Augsburg University explaining the process that went into acquiring the property and their decision that the best plan is for a purchaser to demolish the building and build anew. The group then broke up into small groups to share their stories about the church and to ask questions. That information will be shared with the people at the Somali Museum but was shared only in a limited way at the gathering.

Bethany Church was donated to Augsburg in May 2020. The space has been used over time by many social service organizations, among them Soup For You! Cafe, a daycare, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), CAIR, Freedom Fighters, Overeaters and Alcoholics Anonymous, a gay and lesbian elders group, an herbalist guild, and a Quaker worship meeting.

Redesign Inc., a Seward community-based developer, has made a feasibility study focused on three possible options:

Renovation: This would require an ADA kitchen and restrooms brought up to code, as well as taking care of deferred maintenance, lighting and finishes on both exterior and interior, at an estimated cost of \$3.8 million plus the acquisition cost of the building. This would bring in an estimated net income of \$131,000 per year.

Adaptive use: This would involve demolition and rebuilding of the education wing, and renovating the sanctuary to serve as flexible space and low-income housing using tax credits and MHFA loans. The estimated cost would be \$18.7 million for construction and investment plus the acquisition cost. Estimated net income for this option would be \$407,000 per year.



Ground-up (demolition and new construction): Mixed use, housing, community-focused commercial or cultural, estimated at \$33.9 million construction plus acquisition costs, bringing in a net income of \$1,016,000 per year.

Details about how the above numbers were calculated were not available, nor was the acquisition cost.

Augsburg negotiated with the

Somali Museum and came up with an agreement to sell, with the museum demolishing the building. There is a preliminary plan for new construction of a four-story building plus a 42-spot parking garage. The Somali Museum was located at Bloomington and Lake until recently, when it moved to the basement at Midtown Global Market as a temporary location until they are able to find enough space

for their programming and artifacts. This sale does not seem to fall under the three categories examined by Redesign.

A concern raised at the gathering is about the prospect of demolishing the historic building. Two community members who are experts in historic preservation were consulted earlier by the group concerned about the proposed demolition.

Bob Mack suggested two things: 1. Convince the new owners that it's quicker and far less expensive to work with an existing building than it is to start over. (Think about the Museum of Russian art in the former Mayflower Church building.); and 2. Appeal to their environmental concerns. The building already has embodied energy that would be lost if the building is demolished.

Bob Roscoe said, "I consider Bethany Lutheran Church to serve Seward neighborhood and the local built environment as a worthy place giving grace and cultural meaning to its immediate location, the neighborhood and Minneapolis. Its prominent location serves our collective sense of culture as we pass by. The structure is in good condition and seems to await its rescue."

"I have served on the Minneapolis Preservation Commission for 21 years, twice as chairperson. I was one of the founders of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (now Rethos). My architectural practice, recently concluded, involved the architectural rescue and appropriate economic reuse of many historic structures. ... Also, I have

written three books on Minnesota and regional preservation, with another in process. We continually observe our urban environment offering structures and landscapes worthy of protection and development for our public appreciation."

One might consider that it is appropriate to develop a new community (represented by the Somali Museum) within a Scandinavian community space (the historic church) to represent that the groups live and work together in the larger neighborhood with mutual respect.

The people of Seward still celebrate the activists who banded together to save the entire community from redevelopment that would have resulted in the demolition of many homes and buildings. The Milwaukee Avenue historic pedestrian mall is the result of that. There is a new group forming to address the demolition of the Bethany Lutheran Church building.

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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

Pro-2040

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Given the desperate need for affordable housing in our city right now, I was disappointed by Perry Thorvig's narrow view on the potential consequences of more widespread upzoning across Minneapolis in the article "Future density! Farewell, neighborhoods?" in the March 2024 issue of Southside Pride.

Minneapolis needs these apartment buildings

While making their point, Perry leaves out a great deal of context when it comes to current housing and development trends in Minneapolis. While Perry is correct to point out that the city has more apartment units today than in 1950, they neglect to expand on the fact that average household size has decreased since 1950, from 3.2 to 2.2. This discrepancy alone is enough to understand why more housing units are needed now. Not only does the city need more multifamily units, we need more of them that are affordable. Median rents in the city have increased by 17% since 2013. This increase has contributed to the almost 50% of renters in Minneapolis who spend greater than 30% of their income on rent. If larger apartment buildings

are seen as out of place when juxtaposed in quaint neighborhoods, and widespread upzoning as detailed in the 2040 plan is viewed as undesirable by the author (whether this opinion is actually because of unstudied environmental impacts or more based on the implications of the plan when it comes to neighborhood character is not too hard to parse given the overall tone of the article), then how exactly would Perry suggest we accommodate the desperate need for housing in the city?

Why are these buildings such an affront to neighborhood character?

Perry is keen to refer to the excessive size of newer apartment developments in comparison to older multifamily developments, and how this large size is a detriment to the incredibly abstract and subjective idea of "neighborhood character." What Perry fails to consider are the reasons why these new developments may be so large in the first place. Historically there has been less developable space zoned for construction of multifamily structures; this scarcity has incentivized developers to maximize the available rentable space in new construction in order to maximize rental income. This incentive wouldn't be nearly as strong if multifamily structures were allowed

in more places, but thanks to zoning reforms implemented by the planning department in the 1970s, the process by which upzoning can occur has been made more arduous for developers. Zoning controls related to upzoning like those adopted in the '70s, and the same kind that the 2040 plan is trying to counteract, are one of the main reasons we are experiencing such an affordability crisis today. Many of the structures built after the 1963 code and before the 1970s reform are considered Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing today, and if it weren't for restrictions placed on their development, it's very possible that Perry wouldn't have to worry about apartments such as those at 42nd and Nicollet seeming so out of place. It is truly peculiar to hear Perry lament the behemoths that are popping up and destroying "neighborhood character" while at the same time singing the praises of the very zoning reforms that contributed to the form in which such structures exist today.

The Minneapolis 2040 plan is attempting to do exactly what allowed these quaint, mixed-use, multi- and single-family home neighborhoods to exist in the first place - make upzoning easier and less burdensome for developers. There is no reason to believe that, should upzoning be made easier, single-family neighborhoods will be obliterated

and all our streets will be occupied by structures such as those at 42nd and Nicollet. After all, this didn't happen in the 1960s when there were few or no restrictions. In fact, it would appear it contributed to some of the very neighborhoods we have today that are so high in "character."

What is even meant by neighborhood character?

In my bid to intelligently articulate a response to Perry's arguments, having a more concrete definition of what exactly is meant by "neighborhood character" would have proved helpful. Is Perry referring to the mix of buildings that already exist in the neighborhood? If so, where does one draw the line temporarily for what kinds of aesthetics are allowed to contribute positively to character? If it is "old time" apartment buildings the author wants, then it is puzzling that they fail to mention how the zoning controls of the 1970s helped make these structures more difficult to build and facilitated the crowding of larger developments into the areas that don't require rezoning. Or is it possible that there are more dubious meanings underlying the author's use of the term?

Given the social, economic and health benefits that come with high-density versus low-density development, it is hard to enter-

tain the phrase "neighborhood character" as anything other than a dog whistle for protecting property values and resisting change that might lead to demographic shifts in the neighborhood. The fact that the author views the high prevalence of multifamily structures as something irreconcilable with the idea of a neighborhood is telling with regards to what is truly meant by the strategic crutch of "neighborhood character" leaned on by Perry to argue for restrictions on upzoning. Should the 2040 plan come to fruition and the process of upzoning be made easier, the only neighborhoods we will be bidding farewell to are those that have benefitted from historically restrictive zoning practices that have facilitated high concentrations of single-family homes and low-density neighborhoods that have contributed to the extreme gaps we see in homeownership between racial groups, and the widening crisis of affordability. Neighborhoods with large numbers of multifamily units are still neighborhoods - neighborhoods that will increase our tax base and sense of community and social capital, decrease reliance on cars, increase the feasibility of mass transit, and so much more; neighborhoods that we should all strive to create for the sake of our city's future.

Cam, from page 1

have a hard time justifying why it's not unquestionably preferable to have more people voting in city elections."

Barry Clegg, the chair of the Charter Commission, is not conflicted. He started pushing for the change in 2017. "My views have not changed," said Clegg after the meeting in April. "The evidence shows that we would clearly have more people voting in municipal elections with even-year elections, even with voter fatigue, and for me, that is very compelling. The more voices, the more democratic, the better, in my opinion."

Even after accounting for people who don't vote for offices further down the ballot, city elections staff estimated that more votes would likely be cast for mayor and City Council. In a 2018 analysis reviewed by the group, Dylan B. Adams concluded, "assuming that Minneapolis has the average drop in

voting for local races of about eight percentage points, turnout would still be higher in midterm and presidential years than it was in 2017, which was 42.5%."

Regarding costs, elections staff anticipate saving \$2.5 million every four years if the odd-year city elections were eliminated.

Other cities have already aligned local elections with state and federal races. Woodbury, in 2018, and St. Cloud, in 2008, are two examples of Minnesota cities that moved to even-year elections. Nationally, in 2022, 13 local jurisdictions including Boulder, Colorado, made the move.

Yet fears remain.

During the 2022 campaign for it in Boulder, City Council Member Mark Wallach said, "our elections for City Council are a nonpartisan, in-depth conversation between the community and the candidates. That conversation will be lost if council elections are buried underneath

contests for president, senator, house, state representatives and judges."

Charlie Rybak, the son of a former mayor and founder of a local news group, Minneapolis Voices, called it a "horrible idea. The city races will get no attention, when in reality they need more attention. Imagine trying to run a citywide campaign during the last two presidential elections."

This April, the outgoing mayor of St. Cloud, David Kleis, announced that he will be pushing to move city elections back to odd years. "I was the last mayor elected in an odd year. My first term was three years because of the charter change. I know why they did it - to save money - but what happens is the city election is so overshadowed by national and statewide elections," Kleis said. "But the people you elect locally have the biggest impact on your day-to-day life."

Southside resident Jesse Mortenson said, "I generally put a lot of faith in the belief that we get better public policy when a broader, more representative sample of the population participates. I think there is a reason that propertied NIMBY voices tend to dominate local governance in the United States; older and wealthier people constitute a large and disproportionate share of voters in municipal elections. And if you hold elections in odd-numbered years, you are going to get only the people who are motivated to go to the polls just for those elections."

Mortenson, who has been in-

involved in local campaigns and works for a company, Plural, that helps people track public policy data, thinks not just about how many people vote, but also who they are. According to data Mortenson found, in municipal elections "voters aged 65 plus have nine times the clout of voters aged 18-34. That's bad for public policy. Our urban cities especially are getting younger and more diverse, and these folks' voices are not being properly heard by elected officials."

"Most elected officials," Mortenson said, "follow the rational incentive to talk to the people who are likely to vote. And in municipal elections, that's older and wealthier people."

"Moving these same municipal elections into even years will not automatically produce a giant uptick in participation," admits Mortenson. "But at least in that even year, election organizers have a chance to reach those people. President or governor or senator simply motivates more people to come to the polls. It will be up to campaigns to engage those folks with local issues."

Mortenson is "optimistic about even-year elections as a chance to reach people with a vision that connects the big national issues that often make us feel powerless, to local action that can more easily be moved to empower us."

Still, I worry.

Will local volunteers, donors and the focus of voters be spread too thin? Will competitive state

races overshadow local issues? What are the risks of losing the civic opportunity we have benefitted from for decades now? Every four years, people who care about the health of our city have the chance to focus in an intentional way on what we want for our city.

Perhaps we should concentrate instead on finding ways to increase participation in all elections. If all we are worried about is turnout, perhaps we should just have one election every four years and elect everyone along with the president.

Think of 2021. We had only local races and issues to discuss, debate, and decide on following one of the most challenging times in our city's history. And that is what we did. We had the opportunity when we needed it, and we took it. Candidates were many and campaigning was intense. Voter interest was high. Turnout was 54%. Recall all the forums, local and independent media coverage, conversations and attention we gave to help improve our city.

If all that was competing with contested state or national races, would we have had the civic infrastructure, including organizations like the League of Women Voters, local and neighborhood press and media, neighborhood organizations and other grassroots organizations, to handle it?

I am not so sure.



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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

Against 2040

BY CAROL BECKER

I wanted to respond to Alexander Johnson's response to Perry Thorvig's piece, "Future density! Farewell, neighborhoods?" In it, Johnson defends the 2040 plan's replacement of ownership housing with rental, out-of-scale buildings throughout the city, and its destruction of neighborhood character.

We first must start with facts. It takes 2.1 babies per woman to keep a population stable. The United States currently has 1.64 babies per woman, a number that has been dropping for decades. Immigration is the only reason we are not removing housing. Minneapolis is projected to grow only 11% over the next 20 years and we will be lucky to achieve even that.

Johnson argues that we need to remove protections from existing housing to create density. He talks about "social, economic, and health benefits that come with high density," including an increased tax base, a decreased reliance on a car, an increase in mass transit, an increase in social capital and "so much more." All of this is fantasy. There simply aren't going to be enough people to create the density that he imagines. Not now. Not ever.

In fact, the 2040 plan is anti-density. The 2030 plan focused development in Uptown, downtown and around the U, creating dense, walkable environments. With the 2040 plan, developers go wherever they can hustle a plot of land. We can now see out-of-place and out-of-scale apartment buildings in seas of single-family homes, the opposite of density. And it is unnecessary, as there is more

than enough space in existing commercial corridors to accommodate a paltry 11% growth.

Johnson argues that demolishing existing housing and replacing it with apartments will produce affordable housing. This misdiagnoses the affordability crisis. Zoning isn't the problem in Minneapolis. The cost to build things is. The cost to build has almost doubled since 2009, when adjusted for inflation. Because of the cost of materials and labor, the marketplace simply cannot produce housing that is affordable for an increasing number of people. The only truly affordable housing being created is subsidized. Environmental laws that oppose mining and lumber production drive up the cost of housing. But it is more fun to blame old homeowners and zoning than young environmentalists and environmental laws.

Johnson also misunderstands what "affordable housing" is. Ownership housing is affordable housing because it builds wealth. Rental property is not affordable because at the end of the month, renters have nothing. In fact, renting is one of the best ways of keeping people poor. Yet 95% of the housing built in Minneapolis since 2009 has been rental. The percentage of people owning a home has been declining, with billions of dollars flowing into corporate coffers instead of residents' pockets. Johnson advocates for demolishing ownership housing and replacing it with poverty-making rental. Instead, we should preserve ownership opportunities so people can build wealth and not be poor. Currently there are neighborhoods where 30% of single-family homes are corporately-owned rental. Upzoning incentivizes corpo-

rations to purchase even more single-family homes. In a city with the largest population of people of color in the state, it is hard to see this as anything other than just plain racist.

Given that growth is grinding to a halt, we need to ask: What is Minneapolis's strategic advantage? Why would people choose us? They can get cheaper housing, with less maintenance, better schools, lower taxes, easier travel and less crime in the suburbs.

I just came back from Boston. I went to the North End neighborhood. It is full of brick walk-ups on cobblestone streets, many from the 1700s. Paul Revere's home is there. So was a mafia lair. You can feel the cobwebs of history around every turn. Now, I could have toured the Boston suburbs. Walked strip malls, cookie-cutter snout house neighborhoods, and beige new multifamily. But I have no interest. Nothing there stirs my soul.

Perry Thorvig calls the thing that drew me to the North End "neighborhood character." Places that have preserved that which makes them different and unique. Places that are proud of what they are, and want to keep those things that make them special. Neighborhood character is the thing that drew me to my 100-year-old bungalow neighborhood in Minneapolis and neighborhood character is one of our best strategic advantages.

Johnson wants to destroy neighborhood character. He wants to remove zoning protections so our homes can be bulldozed and replaced by large, soulless modern apartment buildings. In fact, Johnson calls preserving neighborhood character "a dog whistle for protecting property values and resisting change that might lead to demographic

shifts in the neighborhood," as if we should be fighting to make ourselves poorer and building poverty-making rental property for people of color. And destroy our competitive advantage with the rest of the region. This makes no sense. It is possible to focus the little growth that will occur into existing walkable neighborhoods and along major commercial corridors while still preserving the best of our city.

I have to hand it to corporate America. They have done an exceedingly good job at co-opting progressives into carrying their water. They have sold them on the idea that the best way of dealing with the affordable housing issue is to reduce regulations on poor struggling housing capitalists. But we as a society have seen this play before. Deregulation never benefits the average person. Regular people don't win when ownership housing is demolished and replaced with rental. Regular people don't win when the thing that builds the value of their home, neighborhood character, is destroyed.

We need a national movement to start looking at why things like lumber are more expensive than they ever have been and whether environmental rules are driving the cost up. We need to spend our precious little growth focused on walkable neighborhoods, not randomly throughout the city. We need to cherish the things that make us unique and different and preserve our neighborhood character. We need to preserve ownership housing and build more. Perhaps what we need is a new organization to fight for wealth-building housing. Maybe we can call it "Old Homeowners for More Old Homeowners."

Loki

BY ANN REDDING

Wednesday.
A cold day, a windy day
people intent on getting to
whatever warm place they're headed
to,
not looking up.

Waiting for the #18
A man is searching for
cigarette butts
in the wood chips
beneath a sickly tree.

He's wearing only a sweater and jeans
in the cold blast of March.
I make eye contact and tell him
that Marie Sandvik
Will give him a coat.

Digging in his pocket
He tells me,
"I have something for you to
give to Marie Sandvik."

I think, spare change?

His hands are nicotine-stained
and most likely, not clean,
but after a brief pause
I take the blue and silver glass 'stones'
he hands to me.
"Three for Marie Sandvik,
four for you," he explains.
I ask his name
"Loki" he tells me

Thor's mischievous
Little brother.

He asks to sit next to me
after we board the bus.
We converse about Norse
mythology
and the mundane.

Now, I'm sitting next to
an empty seat
wondering where
Loki
calls home.



Actor Reed Sigmund has spent more than a year with "A Year with Frog and Toad." In fact, he has performed in this award-winning musical (a three-time Tony Award nominee) as Toad over 200 times and will return to the stage for yet another exciting run this spring at the Children's Theatre Company. Sigmund says, "I love this role and it couldn't be timelier." (Photo/Dan Norman)

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Random notes about the Mexican election

BY JOHNNY HAZARD

While it may appear to be desirable that former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum win the presidential election to avoid the threat to international solidarity that a return of the right (this time under Xóchitl Gálvez, who was a member of Vicente Fox's cabinet) forebodes, Sheinbaum offers little for women, for the left, for the environment, or for the poor and working-class people who are the overwhelming majority in Mexico.

Sheinbaum has, since initiating her presidential campaign, made constant reference to herself as a symbol for women leaders. But, as the feminist website lacaderadeeva.com (Eve's hip) reports, her relationship with women's protests has been cynical at best. There are demonstrations, each one bigger than the previous year's, every March 8, International Women's Day, in Mexican cities. In Mexico and other parts of Latin America, the marches have recently focused on violence against women, including police violence. And in the fall of 2019, after an under-aged woman in the Mexico City district of Azcapotzalco was raped by several police officers, the tone of women's march-

es became progressively less pacifist, with an especially militant march featuring vandalism, controlled burnings, the partial burning of a police station in the Zona Rosa, and the chant "La policía no nos cuida; nosotras nos cuidamos" ("the police don't take care of us; women take care of each other"). Sheinbaum on this occasion sent female police officers to be cannon fodder and to protect the sacred police station from the feminist hordes. When a few of the women cops got pushed, the then-mayor debuted what would become her disingenuous refrain in these situations: "I can't believe women are attacking other women!"

On the eve of the 2022 International Women's Day march, Sheinbaum and her mentor, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, along with their functionaries, whipped out sensationalist warnings that they must have learned from the police who trained other police in "Seattle tactics" in the late '90s in the U.S.: The president called for the protest to be peaceful and said he had reports that women were bringing Molotov cocktails to the march. Martí Batres, then the top cabinet official in Shein-



Claudia Sheinbaum

baum's government, now substitute mayor, displayed "rockets" confiscated by the police which turned out to be benign fireworks that merely shoot colors. Sheinbaum then announced that "the police will not repress; they will merely encapsule" (kettle or contain) groups within the march that seem intent on violence. As La Cadera de Eva put it: "Though Sheinbaum has tried to play the gender card as a political strategy, people have not forgotten that during all her term, she had a complicated relationship with the feminist movement. In every march, organized women were repressed with pepper gas, encapsulated, and stigmatized."

As environment secretary to then-mayor López Obrador, she promoted and carried out the construction of an upper level of the biggest highway in the city with no environmental mitigation efforts: no mass transit lanes, no carpool lanes, no bike lanes.

In Sheinbaum's five years as mayor, air pollution increased and, though 70% of this is caused by cars while only 20% of the people own cars, she and her group have refused to implement effective restrictions on driving.

As her police chief, Sheinbaum chose Omar García Harfuch, a former federal police head in Guerrero, the state where the 43 students from the teacher's college in Tixtla (Ayotzinapa) disappeared. Sheinbaum's appointee Harfuch has tried to avoid responsibility by saying that just days before the students' disappearance, he had been transferred to another state. However, he was still the person designated to receive reports and new evidence indicates that he was present at a meeting shortly after the atrocity at which state, local and federal officials planned a cover-up. Sheinbaum promoted his improvised candidacy for mayor. When that failed she supported him for senator, and also says she plans to name him to a federal law enforcement post and have him serve a day in the senate (in order to have immunity from prosecution?) and then take a leave of absence.

When Hugo López-Gatell, the federal coordinator of anti-Covid efforts, asked that Mexico City return to more restrictions tending toward a new closure of businesses in the city in December 2020, when cases were rising steeply, and this only after procrastinating for several crucial weeks to avoid hurting Christmas season sales, Shein-

baum took a more Trumpish position, claiming that the city was being "punished" because better reporting made it look like the city had more cases. She also arranged, very early on, for bar owners to pretend to be restaurateurs. Just like in New York, except that more bars in Mexico City are mob-owned and fewer have something called a kitchen.

So much for the "left" candidate. Three center and right parties have been in coalition since shortly after López Obrador's victory. Their candidate, Xóchitl Gálvez, started out strong when her humorous way of responding to attacks from López Obrador propelled her in the polls. This allowed her to project herself as nonpartisan, different from the corrupt or conservative politicians who dominate in the parties that comprise her coalition. She has since made more obvious her links to two of Mexico's worst former presidents, Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón. Like them, she is a proponent of iron-fist anti-crime policies which led to tens of thousands of deaths during Calderón's presidency.

While Gálvez "rested," waiting for the official campaign season to start, she took a tour of Europe—Spain and Italy, anyway—to visit with Calderón, the pope, the king of Spain, and leaders of the neo-fascist, pro-Franco right-wing of Spain.

Given this pessimistic panorama for electoral politics, it was inevitable that something like the U.S. campaigns in favor of writing in "ceasefire" or "uncommitted" would take hold in Mexico. On Sunday, April 14, parents of the 43 missing education students and organizations in the Asamblea Nacional Popular who share the opinion that López Obrador and his team (including, of course, Sheinbaum and Harfuch) have done nothing in the way of bringing justice and have insulted the families of the students and the human rights groups that work with them, made an announcement: They are calling for a boycott of the election. Their statement reads in part:

"Our struggle continues; we will expand the protests incorporating other sectors, including teachers, campesinos, and indigenous people ... We cannot allow the system of political parties to carry out its electoral feast with vacuous discourses when the parents of the 43 suffer the pain of not knowing where their sons are ... It is inconceivable that among the 100 campaign points of the candidate of the Morena Party (Claudia Sheinbaum) there is not a single mention of the case of Ayotzinapa. We are not members of nor obedient to any political party."

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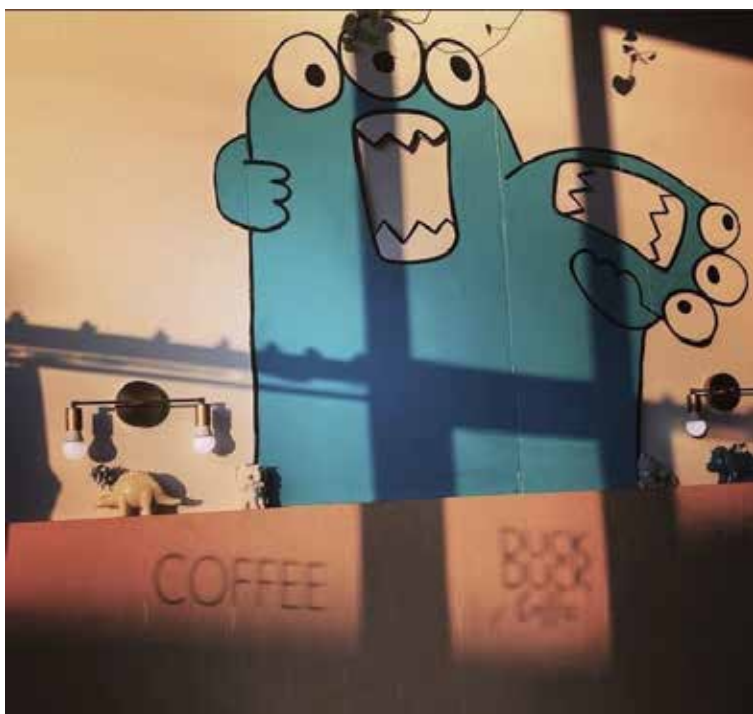
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Celebrate Spring on 38th Street

Spring on 38th Street



Duck Duck Coffee

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

A mixed overview

Racket.com did a list of the 13 “best intersections” in Minneapolis on April 17, and 38th Street was the cross street in two of them (Cedar and 38th, Grand and 38th), exceeded only by 50th Street, which featured in three of them. So obviously it’s not just Southside Pride that thinks 38th Street is worth visiting and paying attention to. There hasn’t been a lot of change on East 38th Street in the year since our last article on it. One sad closure was the vintage shop we profiled, Audrey Rose. On the other hand, some restaurants and other concerns that were new a few years ago are doing very well. We’ll cover all that

plus look at some places that we have not mentioned much in the past.

Restaurants and cafes – venerable to new to coming soon

The diversity of the restaurants, bars, cafes and other eateries along the length of East 38th Street is pretty amazing. It ranges from simple American food to many ethnic varieties, from dive bar burger joints to “clean eating,” and from new and exciting to beloved and decades old.

A half-block north of 38th Street at Nicollet is Kyatchi; it’s been gracing the restaurant-rich corner for a decade now, serving elegant Japanese comfort food and excellent sushi. Kyatchi is open Monday through Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m., Friday 4 to 11 p.m., Saturday noon to 11 p.m., and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. They have a great happy hour with an extensive menu of small

plates, and it’s also an excellent place to explore Japanese sake, shochu and whiskey.

Mama Sheila’s is THE place to go for soul food classics in South Minneapolis. Opened in the current location in 2018 by Frederick and Sheila Brathwaite, with Sheila as the executive chef, it has become a popular place to both eat delicious food buffet-style and celebrate African American culture in Minneapolis.

Duck Duck Coffee is a fun coffee shop near the corner of Cedar and 38th Street. They have all the usual coffee drinks, snacks and muffins, and as far as I know it’s the only place you can get a To-furky sandwich with vegan cheese. (Except for making it at home, but where’s the fun in that?) They also occasionally host stand-up comedy and other events.

D’s Banh Mi has been open for months now, but so far for

See 38th Street, page 10

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Celebrate Spring on 38th Street

38th Street, from page 9

delivery only, with no in-person ordering or service. Visit D's Banh Mi at their actual place of business - Instagram. At their bio, you can access a full menu online. When you're ready, either DM on Insta or send an email with your order. They make deliveries Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.

to 6 p.m., to addresses in ZIP codes 55405, -6, -7, -8, -9, 55417 and 55419. In-person ordering and curbside dining are still to come.

The Cardinal Restaurant and Bar has been selling burgers, beers and more at 2920 E. 38th St., just west of the light rail, for over 40 years! They have all the things you expect in a Minnesota bar/restau-

rant: Friday fish fries, trivia, meat raffles, karaoke, bingo, sports, pool table, Hamm's, THC drinks, tacos ... did I miss anything?

Two retail institutions and a hustling bustling newcomer

Everett's Foods has been on the corner of 38th and Cedar for 68 years now, owned and operated by the same family. Their butcher department and meat and fish smoking are legendary. For a small independent grocer, they have a great, up-to-date selection of products.

DreamHaven Books & Comics, at 2301 E. 38th St., has become another neighborhood icon. A paradise for science fiction geeks, DreamHaven's shelves bulge with new and used books, comics and collectibles. Subscribe to their email newsletter to be kept in



A vegan noodle bowl at Kyatchi

the know on new books and events.

Atuvava has been open about a year and is going strong with its offerings of entirely gluten-free baked goods. This was

obviously a market niche that needed to be filled. Their hours are Thursday through Saturday, 2 to 6 p.m., and they're located at 2800 E. 38th St.

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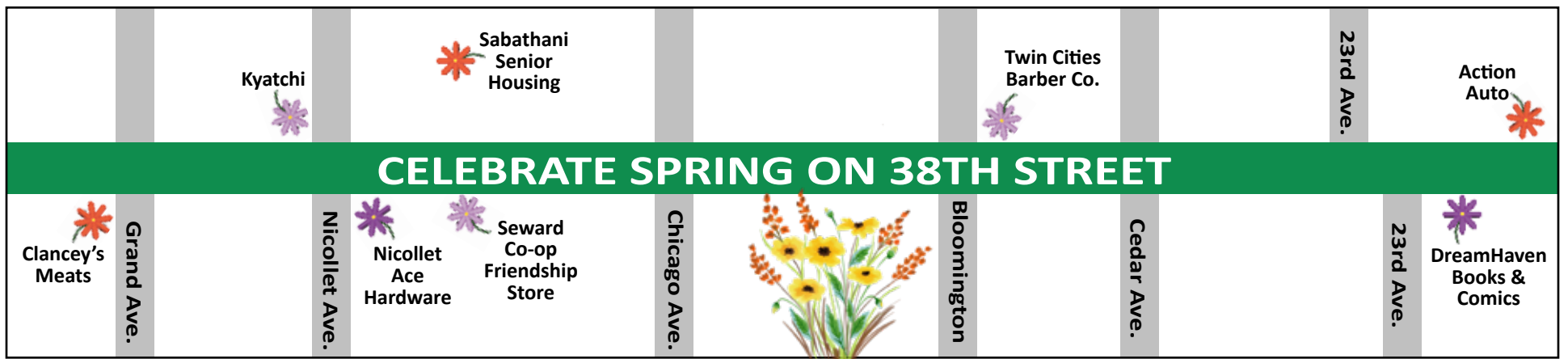
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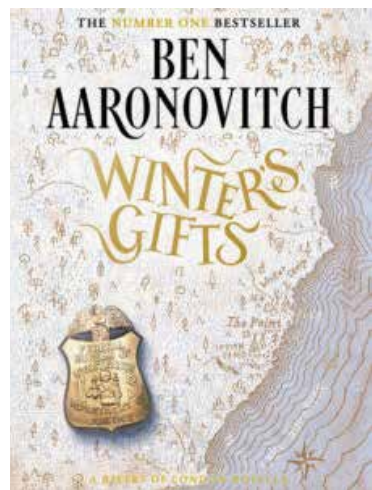
Portrait of Prince in Mama Sheila's, steps from Prince's junior high school



Atuvava's treats for 4/20

Services and caring organizations

The Aliveness Project is an organization that brings hope, health and social aliveness to people living with AIDS. It has always been on East 38th Street, but actually started in 1985 with gatherings in mem-



Available at DreamHaven, a D.K. Ramage-recommended book in stock

bers' homes. Then they had a small office at 38th and Chicago until 2010, when they moved to their current, much larger complex at 3808 Nicollet Ave. For 30 years, Aliveness has held Dining Out for Life every year as its major fundraiser, aiming to involve the whole community and raise awareness. This year's event was on April 25 and was fun and amazingly successful. Check out the website so you don't miss it next year.

Southpoint Community Acupuncture is the oldest community acupuncture clinic in

Minneapolis. It's the only one I have ever used, and I think they're great. Community Acupuncture is much more affordable than other acupuncture services, but they don't sacrifice quality of care, licensing, or any health-related variables. Southpoint also has an amazingly informative website, so check it out at www.southpointcommunityacupuncture.com and read all the details.

Action Auto Services is yet another South Minneapolis survivor, having been fami-

ly owned since 1975! Besides their great reputation for service, and their loaner car policy which has not changed over the years (it's free), they also give back to the community in many ways, including donating their labor to help disadvantaged families.

George Floyd Square

George Floyd Square (GFS) is in a curious form of limbo - but only sort of. On one hand, it seems like every few months, it is announced that the Minneapolis City Council will soon come out with a plan to "reopen" it. It's never really been closed, entirely, but to my mind what's really wrong is that the buses don't go through there.

This may not seem a big deal, but as an older person just starting to develop some mobility issues, and as a person who has in the past been entirely dependent on public transit and could very well become so again, I know that just having four extra blocks to walk to catch a bus or get home from the bus stop may as well be 10 miles. If you're trying to carry a baby and groceries. If you're doing laundry at a laundromat. If it's icy and snowy outside. If it's 90-plus degrees. Or if you're old and frail and short of breath and your feet hurt. So the D Line has come to Chicago Avenue,

but if 38th and Chicago is your destination, your stop is blocks away, as is the #5 bus stop.

But there are things - good things - happening there. For example, Calvary Lutheran Church, one block south at 3901 Chicago Ave., has completed Belfry Apartments, a deeply affordable housing complex located on its property. CTUL (short for Centro de

Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha), a long-standing workers' center, and Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, an arts organization, are both thriving and doing important and interesting work. The other businesses, mostly POC-owned, are still surviving if not thriving. I just wish I had better news by now to give you.



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Celebrate Spring on

Spring on Minnehaha Avenue

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Service organizations - Fun City Dogs, The Bond Between, ReUse, and ReStore

Fun City Dogs (2200 E. 25th St.) has to be the best doggy

daycare in the city, and also the most fun. Just watching the doggies play on their webcams is some of the best entertainment around! They're open seven days a week, with a loving and well-trained staff. And if you want to pamper your pooch, their

grooming services include luxury baths, blowouts and full spa treatments.

The Bond Between (The BB) is the new name of a wonderful resource for pets and their owners, incorporating the People and Pets Together food shelf and Secondhand Hounds pet rescue. Located at 2501 Minnehaha Ave., the pet food shelf of The BB fed 2,300 animals in 2023. It's open to Minneapolis pet owners for monthly use. Check the website at www.thebondbetween.org for opening hours and ways to donate.

The ReUse Warehouse Store at 2620 Minnehaha Ave. is a sales outlet of Better Futures Minnesota (BFM), a nonprofit serving previously incarcerated men by providing job training in deconstruction and building maintenance. When renovating or deconstructing buildings,



Fun City Dogs

lumber, flooring, furniture and appliances are often retrieved in saleable condition. You can buy these items at ReUse and save money while supporting a worthy cause.

Down the street at 2700 Minnehaha Ave. is the Minneapolis ReStore outlet, part of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

This home improvement outlet is open for public shopping for quality donated building supplies, furniture and more, with proceeds going to support their programs. You can also donate items or volunteer. Check their website at restore.tchabitat.org for upcoming sales, donation guidelines, and volunteering opportunities.

Places to eat, drink and hang out

Katar River Restaurant and Bakery is a popular Ethiopian restaurant located at 2751 Minnehaha Ave. The chef/owner, Sara Wordofa, learned to cook as a girl in Ethiopia, and began cooking for crowds in a refugee camp in Kenya at age 19. They serve a full menu of Ethiopian dishes and baked goods (dine-in, delivery, and catering), and on weekends from noon to 6 p.m. you can also partake in an Ethiopian coffee ceremony. They're open every day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Mi Mexico Querido's Mini Tacos Dorados for \$7.50 was one of Racketmn.com's Em Cassel's Best Budget Bites in April. In addition to appetizers, they serve full-size tacos, caldos (soups), tortas and more. Located in the previous Dumpling space at 4004 Minnehaha Ave., they're open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

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Minnehaha Avenue

play on words. Their menu consists primarily of craft grilled cheese sandwiches, which are square. And they're staffed by formerly incarcerated people in a work skills program, who are "all square." Read more about their multifaceted program on their website and visit them at 4047 Minnehaha Ave. for some elevated grilled cheese with gourmet accompaniments.

Minnehaha Scoop is a seasonal ice cream stand and a beloved pillar of the community. They serve ice cream from Chocolate Shoppe, Rosati Italian ices, and fresh popcorn. Choose from an amazing array of ice cream flavors, including favorites like



Delicious vegetarian food from Katar River

old-fashioned vanilla and butter pecan, to imaginative combinations with fun names like Kitty Kitty Bang Bang and Exhausted Parent. Outdoor picnic tables give a great view of the neighborhood.

The newest location of mini-chain Cafe Ceres is in the Wakpada Apartments just south of 46th Street. Cafe Ceres is co-owned and operated by Shawn McKenzie, a nationally-known pastry chef who is also Rustica Bakery's executive chef. I recently dropped by the bright, plant-filled space and had a delicious pistachio croissant.

Retail shops on Minnehaha

There are loads of retail establishments along Minnehaha, but we only have space for a couple of them. The first is the uniquely cool Fractal Cactus. Scott Adam opened his shop at 3750 Minnehaha Ave. in 2019. Before fully re-opening after the 2020 pan-



Katar River's coffee ceremony

demically shutdown, they had appointment-only shopping for a time, to avoid crowding. You can still make an appointment for Tuesdays, when they are otherwise closed, to get the full benefit of Scott's amazing knowledge of succulents. Their regular hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A new shop on Minnehaha Avenue is CannaBabe MN, just north of 40th Street. Part of the local explosion of weed dispensaries, CannaBabe is different.

Some of the others I've visited have a "bro culture" vibe. But CannaBabe feels women-centered, and in fact does not even bill itself as a dispensary, but as a "boutique, event space, and lounge."

MPD Third Precinct buildings - the old and the new

We can't talk about Minnehaha Avenue without mentioning the Third Precinct police station, both the former site and the new one. You can find information on the old site by visiting the webpage for the city's "Minnehaha 3000 Team" (tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-3rdPre) which has a video on the current plan as well as a PDF to download. Email questions and comments to Minnehaha3000@minneapolismn.gov.

A similar information page exists for the new site at 2633 Minnehaha Ave., now called the Community Safety Center (tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-CSC). To summarize, they plan to close the purchase before June 1, and



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Longfellow Neighborhood Garage Sale



Saturday, June 8 & Sunday, June 9

Shop sales across the Greater Longfellow neighborhood! Find maps of all sales at local businesses & online.



Learn more or register

Longfellow Community Council | longfellow.org | 612-722-4529

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Four years later, little progress on the future of George Floyd Square

BY STEPHANIE FOX

Four years ago, after a Minneapolis police officer murdered a Black man named George Floyd at the intersection of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue, the location became a memorial to Floyd's life and to the struggle of Black citizens in Minneapolis.

At first, local people blocked off the area to traffic, erecting art pieces: a sculpture of a closed fist of defiance, paintings on the wood panels that covered business windows to protect them, and a place for visitors to leave flowers and comments.

But after four years, plans on what to do with what is now known as George Floyd Square has taken too long for some people.

At a community gathering of more than 200 people at Sabathani Community Center on March 28, many attending expressed frustration at the lack of progress by the community and the city.

The event, promoted as a dinner/dialogue, began with an elaborate buffet meal with Brother T. Michael, a local gospel singer, there to engage the crowd. People found spaces at round tables and were encouraged to express their feelings about the Square. People who had attended previous visioning workshops introduced each other by name and address and their connection to the intersection.

At the front of the room were large placards (and what might have been a PowerPoint presentation) ready to go. But while smaller versions of the posters explaining "38th & Chicago Visioning" were at each of the tables, these were not addressed.

"What we will have to create is a global destination for social justice," said organizer Atum Azzahir. "We have to create an historical experience for the 90 years of lived experience on that corner. Part of the next step is to decide how and when we are going to move forward. What is the net result for the next few

years? Why do people come from different parts of the world to see this and what do they see?" She encouraged members of the audience to talk about their feelings on what was happening at the Square.

But the emotion that many in the audience voiced was anger, often loudly expressed, about the lack of progress at the Square and about the economics of the Black and other communities in the area. "How can we talk about healing when you are so angry we want to cuss or curse? We're sick and tired of conversation asking, 'What do you need?' What we need is respect for people and community," said one audience member.

Organizer Anthony Taylor of the Cultural Awareness Center said, "What we see in George Floyd Square has created the single most important response about what we can do, which guides the conversation. This community process is not designed to come up with a vision. What we do is guide the conversation."

Ideas from past gatherings included addressing community safety, social justice and economics as well as design principles acknowledging the sacred quality of the area. Other concerns included permitting business and residents within the Square to have access to delivery, maintenance and emergency response.

Concepts ranged from creating a pedestrian-only mall to a fully re-opened intersection with full vehicle access.

A former gas station and convenience store at the northwest corner has been purchased by the city. Now called "People's Way" and covered with protest art and graffiti, organizers said they are still trying to make decisions about what to do with their newly acquired property.

Meet Minneapolis, the city's tourism department, currently lists George Floyd Square as a visitor attraction. People were asked to discuss with others at their table the experience they

had with friends and family visiting from elsewhere in the country and from foreign countries. Some said that the visitors considered the Square a must-see site.

For some businesses in the area, tourists are their biggest customer draw, but many visitors do not patronize the shops and restaurants there, and many locals are avoiding the area. The formerly bustling corner is seeing failed businesses that were once thriving. Some, like restaurants Just Turkey and Smoke in the Pit, are struggling. Cup Foods, once infamous and blamed by some for creating the situation causing Floyd's death, is now under new management and has a new name, Unity Foods.

Charmin Michelle, a first-time attendee who lives at 32nd and Chicago, found the event baffling. "I wasn't able to follow what was going on. I did not feel there was an agenda. I went in thinking that people would have ideas and be able to present them and the next meeting would follow through on that." She attended with her husband and mother-in-law who had been at other visioning events and who told her that this was the first time there was no structure.

"Part of me admires the neighborhood for fighting for this as sacred ground. I'd like it to be a place where people would remember and it would be respectful," she said. "But one thing I was going to present at the meeting is that they need to get the buses running down the street. There are a lot of people in the neighborhood without cars who depend on the buses."

For Sandy Berry, who lives a few blocks from the Square, her first time attending a visioning event was an eye-opener. Among her concerns was giving easy access to the closed-off area. "It's time to do something, so when people come to the Square, they



kins. We need to hear from anyone considering developing the area."

"But we need to know what they are planning. Where is the transparency?" Berry asked.

Michael Smith of the city's Commission on Civil Rights said that the underlying problem is economics. "Why do we struggle so much? We can bicker and fight, but we have to get our economy under control. We're getting in contact with people trying to revitalize 38th and Chicago. But I'm concerned that we're still talking about this

four years later."

"We are thrilled with the great turnout at the dinner dialogue that occurred on March 28," said Alexander Kado, senior project manager with the Office of Public Service for the city of Minneapolis. "At the event we shared lessons learned from past engagement and also heard from attendees about what matters most to them as we continue to develop a vision for George Floyd Square."

The project is planning a series of five more visioning workshops. The next is scheduled for April 30 from 5:30 until 8 p.m. at The Square at Chicago Ave. Shops, 3736 Chicago Ave. A final report is scheduled to be released in December.

"What they need to have instead are representative groups," she continued. "They've had countless surveys, and they have enough information. You need to have people who are involved in the Square. You need neighbors, business interests, our council member Andrea Jen-

have a place to park. The church parking lot (on the southwest corner) is empty. People can't park there. And why not use the People's Way to make a museum or a memorial? The city needs to do something here," she said.

"It's insane to think you can have that many people involved in making decisions," Berry said. "There were 200 people there and people have different opinions."

"What they need to have instead are representative groups," she continued. "They've had countless surveys, and they have enough information. You need to have people who are involved in the Square. You need neighbors, business interests, our council member Andrea Jen-



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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

EVENTS

Art Class with Anita White Nature Collage Wednesday, May 8, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.
In spring we enjoy the natural beauty blossoming all around us, and we will use this inspiration for our artwork. Use beautiful papers to create collages based on the flowers in season in early May. It is an easy and accessible class for those who wish to explore their creative life. There is a \$4 cost for supplies. Call 612-729-5799, email juliaoockuly@LShalthyseniors.org, or register online at www.lshalthyseniors.org/registrationform.html.

Michelle S. Phelps presents 'The Minneapolis Reckoning,' in conversation with Cinnamon Pelly Thursday, May 9, 7 p.m.

Magers & Quinn Booksellers
3038 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
The eruption of Black Lives Matter protests against police violence in 2014 spurred a wave of police reform. One of the places to embrace this reform was Minneapolis, a city long known for its liberal politics. Yet in May 2020, four of its officers murdered George Floyd. Fiery protests followed, making the city a national emblem for the failures of police reform. In response, members of the Minneapolis City Council pledged to "end" the Minneapolis Police Department. In "The Minneapolis Reckoning," author Michelle Phelps describes how Minneapolis arrived at the brink of police abolition. Her account of the city's struggles over what constitutes real accountability, justice and safety offers a vivid picture of the possibilities and limits of challenging police power today. FREE in-store

event, registration required at www.magersandquinn.com/event/Michelle-S.-Phelps-presents-The-Minneapolis-Reckoning/315.

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Art Fair Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden
725 Vineland Pl., Mpls.
Join us for a celebration of art, mothers and community! For the first time ever, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden will be home to an art fair on Mother's Day weekend in 2024. The event will feature approximately 150 artist booths, along with a botanical market, music, crafts, food and more. The event is owned and operated by Homespun Events, the team behind the Minnehaha Falls Art Fair.

More info at www.sculpture-gardenartfair.com

Central Gym Skate Park – share your ideas in new online survey Through Wednesday, May 15

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is working with the community to plan and construct a skate park at Central Gym Park. Community engagement includes a new online survey available through Wednesday, May 15. Click this link to learn more about the project and share your feedback: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/93J5YM7>.

Later in May and June, the project's design team will share conceptual plans for the skatepark based on the ideas gathered from the survey as well as the open house held on May 1.

'Downwind' Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.

4200 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis
Hiroshima; Nagasaki; Mercury, Nevada? The latter was the site for the testing of 928 nuclear weapons on American soil from 1951 to 1992. The fallout is still lethally impacting Americans today. Martin Sheen narrates this harrowing exposé of the United States disregard for everyone living ... downwind. Directors: Mark Shapiro, Douglas Brian Miller. Narrator: Martin Sheen. Gravitas Ventures, U.S., 2023, 1hr 34m. Presented by WAMM Second Monday Movies.

Doors Open Minneapolis and Free Ink Day at Highpoint Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Highpoint Center for Printmaking
912 W. Lake St., Mpls.
Join us for a Saturday full of printmaking – there will be live demonstrations, refreshments, and kid-friendly activities! Visi-

Flotilla, from page 1

ra from a nearby boat. Nine resisters were killed and 50 more wounded after some of them allegedly tried to fight back in international waters against the Israeli invaders who were using pressurized water hoses on them. In a video, Wright gave other accounts of Israeli troops harassing and beating resisters before confiscating their belongings and taking them against their will to Israeli jails until they could be deported.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu contends that Israel has been unfairly targeted by resisters trying to break his country's illegal naval blockade and bring humanitarian aid into Gaza. During a 2015 speech in Tel Aviv he told the Jewish Agency Assembly, "They send flotillas to Gaza, they don't send flotillas to Syria. It's amazing, this travesty of justice, this violation of the truth, the rape of truth."

Former FBI agent and whistleblower Coleen Rowley of suburban Minneapolis, who is a member of VFP and Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), couldn't disagree with Netanyahu more. She hopes that he and his cronies will be called to answer for their criminal behavior sooner than later. Rowley has been speaking at academic and other professional venues with an emphasis on ethical decision-making for 20 years. Before flying to Istanbul, she spoke on the phone with me about the "berserk Israelis" who have "shredded the law" – not only breaking the rules of the high seas for murder and kidnapping, but also committing ongoing violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes on land. In a recent television interview, Rowley said, "I told people I can't help seeing the faces of my own grandchildren (I have five grandchildren now) in the faces of these poor Gazan chil-

dren who are being orphaned, starved and murdered."

Riesch and Rowley attended intensive nonviolence training shortly after arriving in Istanbul. "The most frightening part of the training was a simulation replete with deafening booms of gunfire and exploding percussion grenades and masked soldiers screaming at us, hitting us with simulated rifles, dragging us across the floor, and arresting us," author/activist Medea Benjamin wrote in a Counterpunch article. During an April 19 Zoom meeting in Istanbul, resisters discussed their fears about the trip. One recalled a mock situation where three doctors from New Zealand laid on the floor during a seminar and instructed resisters on what to do if their heads are stepped on in the dark. Lawyers provided legal advice about separating "false authority" from "legitimate authority," along with tips for walking away from precarious situations. Despite their fears, resisters believe what they are doing not only has to be done, but it is also morally and legally justifiable, citing a recent ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that it is "plausible" Israel has committed acts of genocide. The court further maintains that it is now incumbent upon citizens and governments of the world to do what they can to stop the genocide.

The location of the launch was kept secret due to Israel's history of sabotaging boats in port and the departure dates were pushed back repeatedly because of outside pressures – mostly from the Israeli and U.S. governments. Last week the Israelis made an announcement about intercepting the flotilla that prompted Huwaida Arraf, U.S. human rights attorney and FFC Steering Committee member to say, "Governments must refuse to collaborate in maintaining Israel's illegal siege on Gaza by obstructing the flotilla in any way. We call on the governments of the 40 countries represented on



The flotilla cargo ship in Istanbul (Photo/Medea Benjamin)

the Freedom Flotilla to uphold their obligations under international law and demand that Israel guarantee the flotilla safe passage to Gaza." Soon after, U.N. experts reaffirmed Arraf's demand: "As the Freedom Flotilla approaches Palestinian territorial waters off Gaza, Israel must adhere to international law, including recent orders from the International Court of Justice to insure unimpeded access for humanitarian aid."

But on April 26, the doubts crept home. During a morning call, Riesch talked about his dwindling hopes that the flotilla would make it to Gaza, saying, "Now there's a problem with ship flags ... this is the fourth delay." According to Reuters, Guinea-Bissau decided to remove its flag from flotilla boats. Istanbul activists answered with this: "The Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (GBISR), in a blatantly political move, informed the Freedom Flotilla Coalition that it had withdrawn the Guinea-Bissau flag from two of the Freedom Flotilla's ships, one of which is our cargo ship."

Riesch also mentioned that frustrated resisters were already drifting away, and during the previous night's FFC meeting, he found out numerous other boats loaded with activists were preparing to join the flotilla in a show of solidarity, even though Israelis planned to stop them with a blockade. So it was decided the flotilla would meet up with the blockade and wait a

few days before turning around. The earliest departure time, Reisch said, would be Sunday, April 28 – if they could clear customs. Later that evening he sent a text saying the trip was canceled.

During a follow-up Q&A TikTok post, Wright told Benjamin that Israel always uses delay tactics before flotilla launches and the State Department invariably issues travel warnings and cautions Americans about challenging the Israeli government – especially now since the U.S. has been so openly complicit with the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Gaza. While support for the flotilla remains high among Turkish nationals, Wright strongly believes the U.S. is using economic pressures, including military aid, to derail the project in Turkey.

If nothing else, those who traveled to Istanbul succeeded in bringing much-needed attention to the plight of captive and undernourished Palestinians waiting in refugee camps for the next bombing campaign. About 45% of the people living in Gaza are children under the age of 15. So far, well over 100,000 Palestinians have been killed or wounded – most of them, women and children. The latest consensus is that it will take over a decade to rebuild the parts of Gaza already destroyed, but for now, resisters are packing their bags – some of them hope to return this summer.

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● COMMUNITY CALENDAR ●

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tors will have the chance to tour Highpoint's facilities and get a behind-the-scenes look at our artist co-op, print study room, and Highpoint Editions Studio. You can watch live printing demonstrations within the gallery, create your own prints during Free Ink Day festivities, and learn more about printmaking and our programmatic offerings! Our doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Doors Open Minneapolis. ACCESS/PRINT and LOOK/SEE Student Exhibition from noon to 4 p.m. in the gallery. Free Ink Day (family printing), noon to 4 p.m. in the artist cooperative. Live demos, snacks and refreshments, environmental programming and more! For more information, go to www.highpointprintmaking.org/calendar/accessprint24.

Ellen Clegg presents 'What Works in Community News,' in conversation with Jaida Grey Eagle
Monday, May 20, 7 p.m.
Magers & Quinn Booksellers
3038 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
Local news is essential to democracy. Meaningful participation in civic life is impossible without it. However, local news is in crisis. According to one widely cited study, some 2,500 newspapers have closed over the last generation. And it is often marginalized communities of color who have been left without the day-to-day journalism they need to govern themselves in a democracy. Veteran journalists Ellen Clegg and Dan Kennedy cut through the pessimism surrounding this issue, showing readers that new, innovative journalism models are popping up across the country to fill news deserts and empower communities. "What Works in Community News"

examines more than a dozen of these projects. Through a blend of on-the-ground reporting and interviews, Clegg and Kennedy show how these operations found seed money and support, and how they hired staff, forged their missions, and navigated challenges from the pandemic to police intimidation to stand as the last bastion of collective truth—and keep local news in local hands. FREE in-store event, registration required at www.magersandquinn.com/event/Ellen-Clegg-presents-What-Works-in-Community-News/320.

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors
Oral Health, Dental Care & Aging
Tuesday, May 21,
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.
As we age, our oral health becomes increasingly important. Oral diseases affect not only oral

health, but also overall health. Join President of the Minnesota Dental Association Dr. Rosalie Perpich as she presents ways to keep your teeth and gums healthy so you can continue to stay healthy, share your smile, and enjoy the foods you love. Senior Social and Health Talks occur on the third Tuesday of each month and feature guest speakers on health/wellness issues, birthday celebrations and time to socialize! Refreshments are provided! A Nurse is In/Blood Pressure Clinic is also offered. Suggested donation is \$1. No registration required. www.lshealthyseniors.org

MPRB May Events
Canine Carnival
Wednesday, May 22,
6 to 8:30 p.m.
Painter Park
620 W. 34th St., Mpls.
Every dog has its day and on Wednesday, May 22, Painter Park

is going to the dogs! We will have a catch and frisbee area, doggie pools and "paw print" crafts. For the humans there will be a food truck selling your favorite treats and meals, face painting, henna, a caricaturist, an MPRB naturalist and more! Great four- and two-legged fun! All dogs must be leashed and well behaved. FREE event for all ages.

Community Garden Planting Party
Wednesday, May 22, 6 to 8 p.m.
East Phillips Park
2307 17th Ave. S., Mpls.
FREE, ages 5 to 16 years
Come to East Phillips to help us plant our garden! We are planting tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans, herbs, flowers and more. We are going to plant, play games and have slushies! FREE event for kids and youth, ages 5 to 16 years.

62B, from page 1

In spite of the cultural differences, there was only one really nasty moment. Four days before the convention, delegates got an anonymous email from someone claiming to be the Minnesota Environmental Justice (EJ) Caucus with an attachment to an anonymous email purporting to be from AFSCME Local 2822.

The EJ email accused Londel French of being anti-environment, saying, "Londel French, as an elected member of the Park Board, ignored the leadership and demands of the Dakota community around the Hiawatha Golf Course. Despite the evidence and concerns of a broad EJ coalition, he voted for continuing an unsustainable and environmentally destructive 18-hole golf course, rather than supporting the nine-hole, ecological, compromise plan."

As far as I know, and I've been watching this pretty closely for the past 20 years, there was never any meeting or pronouncement from the Dakota community. One person who identified as Native American said she supported the Hiawatha plan of the Park Board. I would welcome an understanding of how she believed this was respect and love for Mother Nature: to dam up Minnehaha Creek and raise the water level of Lake Hiawatha and the water table for the surrounding community by five feet; to cause sinkholes and flooded basements; to lower property values for homeowners. It must be that evil genius Michael Schroeder's dream of recreating a swamp—"My mission is to de-Wirth-ify the Minneapolis parks"—had enchanted yet another unsuspecting soul.

On Oct. 14, 2023, I complained to Al Bangoura, superintendent of parks, and Michael Schroeder, assistant superintendent, that by allowing dams to block five to six feet of water from leaving Lake Hiawatha and flowing

naturally into Minnehaha Creek, "the MPRB seems guilty of altering the cross section of public waters, and, therefore, guilty of violating Minnesota Statute 103G.141."

Al Bangoura (probably Michael Schroeder) wrote back: "According to Barr Engineering Company, this rock structure is one of 16 to 20 natural and introduced features in the creek, any one of which or all in combination have the ability to control the elevation of Lake Hiawatha. Removal of one, such as the CenterPoint Energy crossing, will not impact the elevation of the lake significantly. The most significant of the structures is a very large MCES sanitary sewer."

I wrote back: "You say there are '16 to 20 natural and introduced features in the creek' that 'control the elevation of Lake Hiawatha.' I think that is a misrepresentation of the facts. The rock weir at 30th Avenue, the unused gas line pipe at 28th Avenue, the remnants of the dam/weir at 27th Avenue and the copious amounts of sand the city has dumped on the streets in the winter that flow through the storm sewer system to Minnehaha Creek are the principal obstructions blocking the exit of water from Lake Hiawatha. Park Board staff continue to count the MCES and city sanitary sewer pipes as part of the obstruction, but the MCES Interceptor pipe is eight feet below ground level and the city sanitary pipes are six feet below the ground. According to sources in Minneapolis Public Works, they have to be at least six feet below the surface to avoid freezing and bursting."

I never received a response from Bangoura and the Park Board.

Londel French had championed the Hiawatha Golf Course as a monument to Black athletic achievement. For years Hiawatha was home to The Bronze,

the first national golf tournament open to African Americans.

The EJ Caucus letter also criticized Bill Emory, saying, "Bill Emory, as an aide to Irene Fernando, has been a consistent obstacle to shutting down the HERC." The county board has, for the first time in its history, agreed that the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)—the downtown garbage burner—is an environmental problem and should be shut down. They say they can't do it before 2028 to 2040 because municipalities, especially the city of Minneapolis, don't do a good enough job recycling. There's a lot of garbage that has to go somewhere.

Nazir Khan of the Zero Burn Coalition, who is likely the author of this anonymous letter from a mass organization (of one?), this EJ Caucus, wants the incinerator to close in 2025 and opposed the resolution Fernando authored and passed. This is a perfect illustration of Voltaire's observation: "The best can sometimes become the enemy of the good." Not settling for anything less than perfection can often doom the possibility of achieving something good.

Khan's proposal to close the burner in 2025 relies on sending the garbage to landfills that don't exist yet, and both the state and federal Environmental Protection Agencies currently prioritize incineration over landfilling. The county plan, while aching slow for many of us, is at least workable.

There was also an anonymous attachment to the EJ email that said it was from AFSCME Local 2822:

"Greetings SD 62B Delegates, "AFSCME Local 2822 is a labor union representing 1,200 support staff workers at Hennepin County and we are writing to discourage you from supporting Bill Emory in his run for House seat 62B."

What was their complaint? "We won our demand for

more leave - commissioners eventually passed a measure to authorize 160 hours of additional paid leave for caregivers - but following this meeting Bill made an executive decision, without notifying union leadership, that he would not schedule future meetings with us."

Whaaaat?
You won your demand, but you wanted more meetings?

That's it?

If staff workers at Hennepin County have an issue, like paid leave for caregivers during a pandemic, then the county board and staff will likely take a meeting and deal with the issue, but they do have other responsibilities, so they shouldn't just have meetings for the sake of meetings.

It's hard to know how these anonymous accusations affected what people thought of Londel French and Bill Emory that Sunday.

The vote for DFL endorsement on the first ballot was:

Anquam Mahamoud: 56%+

Bill Emory: 34.%+

Ira Jourdain: 7.%+

No endorsement: 2%

Ira Jourdain asked to speak. Because they got less than 10%, Jourdain and No Endorsement would be dropped from the second ballot. During the question-and-answer period, all candidates were asked whether they would suspend their campaign if someone else were endorsed. Jourdain said he would not. From where I was sitting at the back of the auditorium, it sounded like Jourdain told the convention he wanted his delegates to vote for Bill Emory.

There was 60% needed for endorsement.

With their 41 to 43%, Emory and Jourdain could block endorsement.

Bill Emory asked to speak to the convention. Here is what he said:

"I'm asking you to support Anquam.

"Thank you all for your tireless participation today, for making your voices heard.

"I decided to run for office because I have a vision for a stronger, safer and more just South Minneapolis. I've had hundreds of conversations with my neighbors—with most of you—about my vision. My team has worked incredibly hard to make that vision a reality.

"But over the past several weeks, and especially today, it has become clear to me that there is one candidate in this race that I can and do trust to get these things done for our community—and that's Anquam Mahamoud.

"Anquam has proven to be a passionate and thoughtful leader who's well equipped to take on the many acute challenges that are facing our community. That's why I'm casting my next vote to endorse Anquam to be our next state representative, and I'm asking all my supporters to do the same.

"It's been a great honor to run for this seat, and I can't wait to continue this work alongside you all, with Anquam leading from St. Paul."

Emory offered a master class in grace and good will.

Anquam Mahamoud was then endorsed unanimously by acclamation. A few days later she wrote a thank-you email to delegates, saying, "I am honored and excited to announce that I have been endorsed by Bill Emory, former candidate for 62B and Powderhorn Park resident. I want to thank him for his deep commitment to our communities, and for deciding to run for office. His knowledge and advocacy have enriched the conversation, and I look forward to continued collaboration. His support means so much to me, and shows just the kind of campaign we are building. Everyone has a seat at the table."

EVENTS

Align Minneapolis Lunch & Learn Wednesday, May 8, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Ave., Mpls.
Join us for our May Lunch & Learn! We will dive into how people navigate the complex web of resources to try to find help on their housing journey. Parking: southeast corner of 31st & Chicago. Metro Transit: D line, 5, 21. [Alignmpls.org/event](https://app.aplos.com/awp/events/season_finale)

Saint Mark's Music Series Season Finale: Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir, Choral Society and Orchestra Saturday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.
Please join us for the final concert in our season. Soprano Katie Boardman joins with the Cathedral Choral Society, Cathedral Choir, and orchestra in performance of Francis Poulenc's Gloria. The program also features Le

Tombeau de Couperin by Maurice Ravel, and the Coronation Te Deum by William Walton. The concert will be conducted by Raymond Johnston. Tickets are \$20 (ages 12 and under are free) and are available here: https://app.aplos.com/awp/events/season_finale.

Genocides on Trial: Israel, Russia, China, Myanmar & Serbia Tuesday, May 14, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Online
Allegations of genocide are being brought against a number of countries at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. This webinar, with speaker Dr. Ellen J. Kennedy, Executive Director, World Without Genocide, examines the apparent impunity of China, and charges against Israel, Russia, and Myanmar in a precedent set years ago in a case against Serbia. For more information and to register, visit <https://worldwithoutgenocide.org/programs/upcoming-events/>

may-14-genocides-on-trial-israel-russia-china-myanmar-and-serbia.

Taizé Service Friday, May 17, 7 p.m.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th St., Mpls.
With all that is going on around us, it is important to slow down and make sure we are feeding our souls and listening for God periodically. Take an opportunity for renewal through prayer, song and silence at our monthly Taizé services. Join us on May 17 at 7 p.m. or any second Friday of the month (October through May). In addition, we will be livestreaming our services as well, so you can catch Taizé from your home (or cabin or wherever you are) in real time, or anytime you want. www.minnehaha.org

Welcome refugees by donating household supplies!
From the Minnesota Council of Churches: The last few months have been very busy! Since January, MCC has welcomed 392 new arrivals to Minnesota, providing them with housing, clothing, and all other necessities they need to have a good start here. Throughout April, we've had 100 arrivals, and are expecting many more in May – we're looking for your support in creating welcome kits to greet them. One easy way to support us is by donating hygiene and household products. We have set up gift registries with Amazon and Target with items included in every welcome kit. If you already have supplies that you are looking to donate, feel free to bring them by our offices, located at 122 Franklin Ave. W., Ste. 100, Mpls. Donation guidelines and links to our wishlists are available at <https://mnchurches.org/ways-help/give-items>.

Central Lutheran's Free Store needs donations!
Restoration Center at Central Lutheran Church
333 S. 12th St., Mpls.

The Free Store is a critical community resource that allows guests to shop for what they need at no cost. Items especially needed: blankets, towels, sheets, kitchenware and clothing. Donations accepted from 4th Ave. loading dock, Sunday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Press the call button and someone will come to help you. All donated items should be clean and in good condition. Questions? Call (612) 870-4416.

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Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. – Groceries
Soup for You! Café is moving in June! Our last day at Bethany will be Tuesday, May 14. On Monday, June 3, we will open in our new location at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. in South Minneapolis. More information on our Facebook page or at <https://soupforyou.info/>.

Calvary Emergency Food Shelf 3901 Chicago Ave., Mpls. 612-827-2504, ext. 3
The Calvary Food Shelf has returned to 3901 Chicago Ave. now that the building renovations are completed. The Food Shelf will continue its mission of providing access to fresh, nutritious food for the community. 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/>

Calvary Lutheran's 100th Anniversary Sunday, May 19, at 10 a.m.

Calvary is celebrating on Sunday, May 19! Come join us to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church and its return to the neighborhood at 3901 Chicago Avenue. Calvary was established on March 5, 1923, as a mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Calvary has enjoyed a rich history in the neighborhood, connecting with the community through youth programs, corn feeds, the Urban Arts Academy, music, a food shelf which has operated for more than 40 years, theatrical productions, and a commitment to be "In the City for Good." In 2022 Calvary sold its property to Trellis, a not-for-profit developer focused on creating affordable housing. The sale agreement provides for a long-term lease permitting Calvary to worship each week in the newly renovated space now known as The Belfry Apartments. In addition to providing Calvary with space for worship, the food shelf and other congregational needs, The Belfry is home to residents who occupy 41 deeply affordable apartments. This meets one of our goals, to "House the poor," and the partnership with Trellis has made that possible. A celebratory worship of gratitude begins at 10 a.m., with a light lunch and ice cream social to follow.

**Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis
www.clchurch.org**

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Let's talk about Jesus

BY ED FELIEN

I grew up Roman Catholic. St. Helena's Church in South Minneapolis. I was a good Catholic, went to Mass, took Communion. It fell apart for me in my freshman year at the U. I started reading James Joyce, "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man." Then Orwell, Eliot and Lawrence.

But I still loved Jesus, the perfect soul, the guiding light of my childhood.

I started reading Roman and Middle Eastern history. I learned about how Judas Maccabee drove out the Greeks, fighting them with guerrilla tactics for almost 20 years until in 142 BCE the Greeks gave up and left. The Greeks did achieve one small lasting success, though, in changing the name of the territory from Philistia to Palestine—so the people were no longer Philistines but Palestinians.

The Romans came through in 63 BCE, and the Hasmonean dynasty agreed to support Roman rule, because they knew they could profit from it. Herod supported the Romans, and he became the client king or governor of Israel. Herod's son, Herod Antipas, succeeded his father and

ruled during Jesus's lifetime.

There was resistance to Rome. The Jewish-Roman Civil War began in 66 CE and ended with the mass suicide at Masada in 73 CE. It began in Caesarea, about 40 miles from Nazareth. A gang of young men got into fights with the Greek colonists who had remained rich and powerful through their cooperation with the Romans. The young men were called Zealots.

I like to think they grew up in Nazareth with Jesus and remembered him. He was their hero. He had stood up to the Roman authorities and he had even driven their comprador government out of the temple.

"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, it is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of thieves." Matthew 21:12-13

He had come down from the Mount of Olives, riding a donkey, and the crowd spread cloaks and palms before him. It was a great multitude. They cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in

the highest!"

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:37-40

He led a great crowd into the temple, and they threw out the elitists who had collaborated with Rome, and he re-consecrated the temple for all the people of Israel.

And the people proclaimed him king.

It was a daring act of insurrection.

But soon after, the sun was beginning to set. People were rushing home to prepare the Passover meal. They were satisfied that they had changed their world.

But Jesus must have known this Passover would be his last supper.

"When their supper was done, Jesus turned to his friends, his comrades, his brothers, and said, 'When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?' They said, 'Nothing.' He said to them, 'But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one

who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. It is written: "And he was numbered with the transgressors"; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. For what it written about me has its fulfillment.' And they said, 'Look, Lord, here are two swords.' And he said to them, 'It is enough.'" Luke 22:35-53

The Zealots were known to carry two swords—a short one (dagger) and a long one.

Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities, tried for insurrection, convicted by the same elitists he had tried to overthrow, and he was crucified.

I have a very personal love and understanding of Jesus. I see him as a man, just like me. I think his hope was beautiful—his dream of a world where the meek would inherit the earth, where there would be enough food for everyone, and peace.

According to Acts 2:44, the believers shared everything they had, including their possessions and goods, and sold them to help those in need. Acts 4:32 states that the believers were "one in heart and soul" and "shared everything they owned." No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

This was the spirit of Jesus. From each according to their ability. To each according to their needs. It's not in Marx and

Engels's Communist Manifesto. It's way too radical for the Communist Manifesto.

It was the founding faith of America: The Mayflower Compact in 1620 and the Guilford Covenant in 1639 called for communal sharing.

It was the spirit of Oleanna: "That's where I want to be, than to live in Norway and wear the chains of slavery."

There were thousands of utopian religious communes in America in the nineteenth century: Anabaptists, Mormons, Mennonites. The Amish are still with us, with their gentle, old-fashioned idealism.

There was a revival, of sorts, of this notion of communal sharing with the hippie communes of the 1960s. In Minneapolis, some of those hippie-neo-Christians started the food cooperatives.

But a peaceful world where the meek shall inherit the earth is not possible as long as there are bullies and oppressors, and that's why Jesus worked to end Roman oppression.

The resistance movement against Rome didn't end with the suicides at Masada. It went underground—literally, in the catacombs under Rome. It spread wherever Rome went in Europe.

The Romans were quite good at militarily conquering a na-

See Jesus, page 20

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Regenerative agriculture, a Parcelle mini-review, and other food news

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Openings, closings and other news

The Seward Cafe (2129 E. Franklin Ave.) is now serving brunch all day (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) from Thursday to Sunday. It is closed Monday to Wednesday. A branch of Cafe Ceres, helmed by famed pastry chef Shawn McKenzie, opened in the Wakpada Apartments near 46th Street and Minnehaha.

Planning to open next month, Sip Society Cafe will be a venue in the huge apartment complex called Inspire at 2837 Emerson Ave. S. This is the project of Sacad Guled, a young entrepreneur who has already had success with a transportation company. The cafe will serve coffee from Wesley Andrews, Somali tea, wraps, sandwiches and smoothies.

Picnic, in Linden Hills at 4307 Upton Ave. S., had its grand opening on April 2. The crowd-funded and already popular neighborhood spot in the former Clancey's Meats space serves casual cafe food, but also restaurant-style plates and bowls, and it has a full bar. No reservations, order at the bar,

closed Sundays, open until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Origami Sushi in Uptown, which closed earlier this year, reopened in April as Origami Tiger Sushi, and is now owned by its head chef. Vegan East closed its longtime cafe location at 24th and Lyndale Avenue South. Its bakery location at 5500 34th Ave. S. is still open, but they don't have sandwiches and drinks, just cakes, cupcakes and bars to go, or cakes by special order. Diane Moua's highly anticipated Diane's Place, a Hmong-American restaurant, opened April 6 in the Northeast Minneapolis Food Building.

Regenerative agriculture - the next big thing that might save the human race

(I'm starting to say this now instead of "save the planet," since wiser heads have pointed out that it's not the actual spinning globe the anthropocene is damaging, just the far more fragile biosphere that we anthropos need to survive.)

Civil Eats is one of my favorite information sources, covering agriculture, food politics, global and local hunger, nutrition, food waste, health and more. It's

mainly through them that I even learned about the concept of regenerative agriculture. What is that, you may ask?

It's agriculture that rebuilds soil rather than depleting it of life (which leads to the use of chemical fertilizers and could at length mean mass starvation). It's agriculture that takes into account the impact on atmospheric carbon, by building soil and raising crops that capture carbon. It also takes food waste and plant and animal diversity into account.

If you care about this kind of thing, you'll want to read this excellent piece in Civil Eats, tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Regen-Ag, which addresses how some regenerative-ag pioneers are trying to transform state legislatures and ag departments to implement these life-saving ideas.

Other food news and views

Here are four pieces in the last few months from Twin Cities Eater that caught my interest:

- 14 Underrated Restaurants to Explore in the Twin Cities (Feb. 6)
- 15 Essential Twin Cities



Inside Parcelle



Bento box from Parcelle

Coffee Shops (Feb. 15)

- Where to Get Great Vegan and Vegetarian Food (March 29)
- 10 Twin Cities Restaurants That Solve the Pre-theater Diner Dilemma (April 12)

Mini-review - Parcelle Organics

I went to lunch with My Last Boss recently and used the opportunity to check out the latest organic cafe I had heard about: Parcelle. This bright, cheery place made me feel rather old. Mainly because almost all of the seating is on high stools, lining the picture windows, or surrounding a large and high round table. (Sitting perched on a thing where our feet can't reach the floor is unattainable to many of us olds.) And it has a pervasive Gen Z vibe to it, but that's not necessarily bad.

Parcelle is billed as "clean eating," and is owned by Kamal Mohamed, also known for StepChld and Nashville Coop and some other enterprises. Its location is 233 E. Hennepin Ave., until 2019

the home of a beloved sausage shop.

Parcelle is open from 7 a.m. (8 a.m. on weekends) to 5 p.m. seven days a week. At the counter, they serve breakfast from opening until 11 a.m., and lunch - salad bowls, panini, or a burrito - from 11 a.m. to closing. They also have a lunch bento box served cafeteria style as one main and two sides, selecting randomly from about eight items that include things like several kinds of roasted vegetables, chicken coconut curry, couscous, and buffalo cauliflower, all organic. The bento is available until 2 p.m. Additionally, Parcelle serves coffee from Wesley Andrews (the second time I've mentioned this brand, which I had never heard of before today), a nice variety of teas, and several uber-healthy smoothies.

I had their most popular panino, the Caprese, with jasmine iced tea. I also got a bento box to take home for later with buffalo cauliflower, and roasted sweet potatoes, carrots and Brussels sprouts. It was all excellent.

Jesus, from page 19

tion and then Romanizing their religion. They easily accepted Greek gods and goddesses and gave them Roman names. They changed indigenous religions in North Africa and made them universal and mandatory and subservient to Rome.

So it was not a difficult trick for Constantine the Great, the emperor of Rome, to rewrite the accepted stories of Jesus at his Council of Nicea in 325 CE and create the Roman (as in ROMAN) Catholic (as in UNIVER-

SAL) Church and impose it with vigor on all of Europe.

Of course, the Roman Catholic Church, in defending the existing order, was in direct juxtaposition to the teachings of Jesus.

[My feminist wife loved the story, but she was upset that I said nothing about Boudica, the great Celtic warrior queen who fought against Roman oppression in early England. Boudica burned down London. Her rebellion came out of that same Jesus impulse, a tribal uprising to resist an oppressor.]



There's No Place Like Home

Home improvement is mood improvement (if you're doing it right)

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Trends in 2024 – dopamine decorating

Trends in home decor, renovation, and even home choices for buyers and renters, follow cycles, as all style considerations do. In the current age of instant information, changes in these trends come more frequently. Whereas before, a design trend might characterize at least an entire decade (the '60s look, or the '70s look), now design trends can change in a single year. By understanding the pendulum nature of humans' tastes and opinions, you can even predict fairly well how they're going to trend.

For instance, in the last five or so years, looking at just kitchen aesthetics, we went from stark white and angular shapes, to pastel or bright colors and something called "cottagecore," to the current trend, which is more luxurious, urban, "old money" and – joy

of joys – personalized. (Yes, in the days of peak minimalism, it was a faux pas to have too much personality showing. Thank heaven we're past that now.)

As you no doubt know, Marie Kondo and her acolytes kicked off the minimalism trend about a decade ago. It had a long tenure, but maximalism and the various "-core" aesthetics came as a reaction. One thing survived, though: "Does it spark joy?" (Kondo's guidewords to making decisions on what to keep around when you're minimalizing.) Add in "hygge" and other old-world ideas about pleasure, and now we have what Nice News and a few other media outlets have dubbed "dopamine decorating." It's all about pleasure now.

The elements of mood improvement (indoors)

The consensus list of mood-enhancing elements of home decor comes down to:

- Welcoming
- Colors
- Lighting
- Curves
- Scents
- Plants
- Tidiness

We'll expand on each of those elements. Implementing them all will require some homework to discern what works for you, and for this, Nice News recommends a practice they call "joyspotting." Be alert to what "sparks joy" or lifts your mood in public and private spaces. If you have a spot, at home or away, where you magically feel happier and more at ease, try to discern what it is about this spot. That is joyspotting.

"Welcoming" is all about your front entrance, or any entrance to your home. Instead of making it strictly utilitarian, pay attention to the look and feel of your entryway. This might be the place to put a lush plant, a large and beautiful piece of art, or some



The '70s revival look for 2024

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There's No Place Like Home

personal thing that welcomes in visitors and makes you happy to come home.

Colors should be chosen by

what makes you feel good, not what's popular or safe. Bright colors are more mood-lifting for most people, but if pastels do



A bathroom design using the 'old money' look, plus curves, plants and natural light

it for you, go with them. A light study of Ayurvedic doshas, and knowing what your own dominant dosha is, can guide you here. For instance, I have a dominant pitta dosha, which is associated with heat and energy, and cool colors like blue, soft green or violet help me to relax and chill. Other people need heat and energy, even in the summer, so they might choose warm colors like turmeric, apricot or pink.

In 2023, the fashion for wall colors swung away from the dictatorial white shades, and color started coming back, even more so in 2024. For wall surfaces, the watchword is anything but dry-wall, any color you like. Colored concrete is being used for bathroom walls. Wallpaper is back in fashion. Ceramic tile is still popular, this year in smooth, regular squares with lots of color. Even



An example of the latest kitchen aesthetic

paneling and wainscoting are being explored as part of the "old money" look of luxury.

Lighting is known as a major

mood enhancer, so much so that light therapy is a thing. Go for natural light from the sun when that is available, and have full spectrum lighting available for when it's gloomy. Softer lighting with more red tones than blue can be used in the evening to wind down and prepare for sleep.

Curves are very popular in 2024. Curved surfaces are not only mentally comforting, but they are also physically less threatening than sharp corners and stiff, uncomfortable chairs. The principles of hygge call for soft, curved surfaces, plump cushions, velvety throws, and tactile fabrics. Curved doorway arches and furniture with curved edges are also great.

Scents are very personal. I prefer none at all, unless it's the smell of freshly baked bread or good food. But I do like to use a diffuser/humidifier with natural essential oils, and this is also popular in house staging, and a big improvement on plug-in fake scents. (Those things are evil.) Choose your cleaning and personal care products to be either fragrance-free, or with a natural fragrance that is harmonious with your other decor.

Plants, living ones, can not only lift your mood, but actually purify the air. Some plants also impart a scent and can be part of that element. Living plants are best, but only if they are healthy. Fake plants should be as real in both appearance and feel as possible. And they don't purify the air. In addition to potted plants, bring cut flowers into your space for an extra mood boost. Nice News recommends pothos, snake plant, peace lily, spider plant, and rubber tree plant as robust, easy-care choices.

Tidiness means different things to different people. But even maximalists feel better if their collections are curated and organized. Pay attention to more than just physical clutter; mental clutter is

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a real thing. Paperwork should be hidden away. Instead of a random collection of photos and small artwork, choose a small number of the very happiest of memories to frame in a photo. Or even better, get one of those digital photo-frames where you have hundreds of photos in one frame. (I have an Aura, a gift from a kid, and I love it.) Digital devices no longer make for good decor. Keep your big computer in a separate area from where you relax and have guests, and especially from where you cook and eat.

In and out of style in 2024

What's in style this year? Jewel-tone paint colors, especially blues and greens, bold wallpaper, back-to-classics (the old money look), statement rugs, fluted detailing, soft, rounded furniture, '60s and '70s influences (baskets, wicker, posters), and mudroom/laundry combinations.

What's out of style? All-white kitchens, all-white bathrooms, hard, shiny surfaces, black kitchen appliances, wooden word signs, open shelves in the kitchen or bathroom, sliding barn doors, gold hardware, neutral gray paint everywhere, and backless benches for dining tables.

homegrown marijuana to flourish openly in your garden. Years of prohibition have given many people the false idea that good weed can only be produced indoors with grow lights. People are hungry for information on growing recreational or medicinal cannabis in the garden, where it naturally belongs. Johanna Silver, a writer

for Sunset magazine, has come to the rescue with her latest book, "Growing Weed in the Garden."

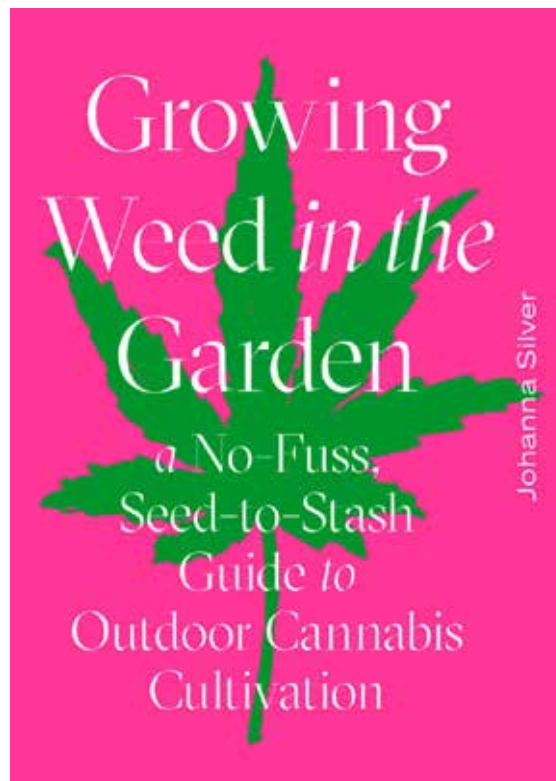
A few resources

Go joyspotting at the Parade of Homes. Full schedule at www.paradeofhomes.org/dates-hours.

Learn about Ayurveda: www.healthline.com/nutrition/vata-dosha-pitta-dosha-kapha-dosha.

Get houseplants and advice about them at twincitiesmom.com/local-plant-shops.

Look at the colors of 2024 from major paint companies: archive.ph/9r1QS.



A guide to the now-legal-in-Minnesota practice of growing your own cannabis out of doors



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