

# Southside Pride

**We build Pride on the Southside**

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**JANUARY  
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## Cam's Corner



### Big Money & City Elections Ready or not...

BY CAM GORDON

Another city election year is here. Campaigning has already started, and at least two independent political committees are already raising money to influence the results.

Since the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision in 2010 - which enabled unlimited expenditures by special interest groups - wealthy donors have been spending more and more money to influence elections across the country, including in Minneapolis in the last few years.

While Minneapolis may be called a one-political-party town, it is becoming a two-political-committee town. Two registered committees, All of Mpls and Minneapolis for the Many, are already collecting contributions and leading campaigns.

In an email in December, All of Mpls called for donations to help them "build the war chest", the need to fight back and win council seats.

Based on past donors, with both mayoral and all city council seats on the ballot, they could spend as much as \$1 million dollars this year.

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## This is a Come to Jesus Moment for us all

BY ED FELIEN

"Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason, and that reason was to save our country and to restore America to greatness," Trump, on election night.

And Mike Johnson thinks he's Moses: "Only God saw the path through the roiling sea."

And Pete Hegseth is on a

White Nationalist Holy Crusade with the tattoo Deus Vult, God's Will, on his bicep. "Our American Crusade is not about literal swords ... our fight is not with guns. Yet." "Voting is a weapon, but it's not enough." "We don't want to fight, but, like our fellow Christians 1,000 years ago, we must." - Pete Hegseth, in his 2020 book "American Crusade."

At the Faith & Freedom

Coalition's Road to Majority conference, Trump announced, "We are going to keep foreign Christian-hating communists, Marxists, and socialists out of America. We're keeping them out of America."

School Boards across the South are posting The Ten Commandments on classroom walls, and the Texas State Board of Education has approved a Bible-based

See Jesus, page 2

## What's Happening at George Floyd Square?

BY TOM ABELES

Prior to the recent resolution of Council member Jason Chavez, a community advisory group had input to the city's planning for the area.

Because of the intersection's critical importance, over the years, a half-dozen efforts have been held to fully develop the site through community listening sessions. The most recent study funded a professional design team which prepared a report for the four neighborhoods - Bryant, Bancroft, Powderhorn and Central - and the city delivered in 2008. [minneapolis2040.com/media/1496/38th-st-chicago-ave-small-area-corridor-framework-plan.pdf](https://www.minneapolis2040.com/media/1496/38th-st-chicago-ave-small-area-corridor-framework-plan.pdf)

No action was taken on this last effort or the previous plethora of proposals.

A major step was the city acquisition of the Speedway site, and with community advice is seeking a developer of the main building on the site, with attention to the management and fiscal strength to meet the criteria acceptable to community input. The developer will own the site and can design the property from the ground up. In the process, many citizens have submitted proposals - written and architectural drawings - as to options for the remainder of the Speedway property which may be added to the current request for a developer or bid separately.

A crucial step is the city owned right of way on Chicago Avenue. Often in humans, recov-



The iconic raised fist sculpture, standing tall at George Floyd Square

ery from a heart attack requires stents to open damaged arteries. It's the same for Chicago Avenue. Reopening the current blockage impacts all wards of the city development, which means what happens at that intersection needs more than local consideration. A University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Rural Affairs' interview of about 6000 residents within a quarter mile radius, plus citizen contribution from the listening sessions, have agreed that the equiva-

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**There's No Place Like Home**

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Cam, from page 1

In the 2023 municipal election, with no mayoral election, the committee reported spending \$708,341 in support of certain candidates, including \$148,281 in support of Ward 8's Andrea Jenkins, who narrowly won.

All of Mpls received early funding of \$1,229,037 from a now defunct group called Plan for Progress that was started in 2021 with a \$1,353,500 contribution from the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Its top 2023 contributors, who donated at least \$10,000, include the Minneapolis Chamber again with a \$150,000 donation, the Bloomington-based MN Multi Housing Association who gave \$90,000, and the International Union of Operating Engineers and the North Central States Carpenters PAC who donated \$55,000 each. Alida Messinger, from St Paul and Wayzata's Vance Opperman each gave \$ 50,000. Jeff Werba-lowsky, from Minneapolis, gave \$15,000. Charlie, Chris, Robert, Tom and William Pohlrad, from Minneapolis, donated \$10,000 each, as did the LGBTQ Victory Fund Federal PAC from Washington, DC, as well as Kathleen MacLennan from Edina, and Minneapolitans Paul Reyelts, Karen Sternal, and Peter Vorbrich.

According to state filings, these combined with donations ranging from \$200 to \$9,000,

brought the total contributions to All of Mpls in 2023 to \$963,295.53.

Last year they sent out regular emails supporting Mayor Jacob Frey and criticizing what they called the "DSA-aligned," "radical left city council majority," and a "do-nothing council majority (consisting of Council Members Payne, Chughtai, Wonsley, Ellison, Osman, Cashman, Chavez, Koski, and Chowdhury)."

The not so wealthy group, Minneapolis for the Many, collected \$213,714 in 2023. They had fewer donations of \$10,000 or more and none over \$60,000.

Their top donor was Movement Voter PAC Minnesota based in Northampton, MA, with a \$60,000 contribution, followed by the Take Action PAC and Faith in Minnesota Fund (both based in St. Paul) who both gave \$30,000. The State Council of UNITE HERE Unions, based in Minneapolis, contributed \$15,000 and the American Federation of Teachers (Washington, DC), Local 59 Political Fund (Minneapolis), and the UNITE HERE TIP State and Local Fund (New York) contributed \$10,000 each.

In their announcement about an upcoming fundraiser, Minneapolis for the Many said, "we're aiming even higher in 2025: expanding the progressive majority and electing a new Mayor of Minneapolis."

While candidates are required to abide by contribution

limits of \$600 for city council and \$1,000 for mayor and other at-large offices, that is not the case for political committees who make independent expenditures. For them there are no spending limits.

Independent expenditures refer to money spent "expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate" without the consent, authorization, cooperation, request or suggestion of any candidate or any candidate's agent.

This arrangement, now becoming common practice in city elections, offers wealthy individuals or well-funded organizations, like a chamber of commerce or a large labor union, a way to donate, without limit, to support or oppose any and all candidates they choose.

In the city, candidates not backed by one of the well-funded groups may find themselves at a disadvantage. Some may feel pressure to modify their campaign message or priorities to win favor with one of the groups who have "war chests" ready spend on them.

Similarly, as wealthy individuals and privately funded organizations, including many located outside the city and state, vastly outspend what local residents can afford to contribute, local voters may feel their significance diminish and question who their elected officials are accountable to - the well-funded committees and wealthy donors, or the people who they are

actually elected to serve?

Some cities are addressing these concerns by providing public funds to qualifying candidates. Perhaps it is time for Minneapolis to join them.

According to research, updated this June, by the Brennan Center for Justice, "small donor public campaign financing has proved to be the most powerful tool available to amplify the voices of everyday Americans and strengthen connections between candidates and constituents."

They identified 26 cities that provide public financing for local campaigns. Some were adopted through local legislation, but most were accomplished through ballot initiatives.

Most of the cities use small-donor matching systems that provide money based on campaign contributions from locals to participating candidates. Some cities offer block grants, and some provide residents with vouchers to assign public funds to participating candidates. Each program requires candidates to meet thresholds to show sufficient community support before they may access public funds.

Baltimore, Maryland's program, for example, was enacted through a ballot referendum and offers a progressive match of between two-to-one and nine-to-one on in-city contributions of \$150 or less to candidates for mayor, and five-to-one and nine-to-one on in-city con-

tributions of \$75 or less for city council candidates.

Berkeley's program provides a six-to-one match on in-city contributions of \$60 or less. Boulder offers a one-to-one match on contributions up to 50 percent of the expenditure limit for city council and Denver offers a nine-to-one match on in-city contributions of \$50 or less. Tucson offers a one-to-one match on contributions up to the contribution limit of \$500.

Oakland and Seattle give residents \$100 in vouchers, that they call "democracy dollars," to contribute to the candidates they choose. Washington, DC provides both a lump-sum partial grant and a five-to-one match on in-city contributions of \$200 or less.

New York City's progressive match program, started in 1988, is one of the oldest in the country. It was strengthened by referendum again in 2018 and was credited as helping elect the city's most diverse and representative city council ever in 2021. The Brennan Center concluded that New York's "system reduces the distorting influence of private wealth in the political process" and "the program has made small contributions from everyday residents the most important source of fundraising."

As we face another year of massive spending by special interest groups, those sound like goals worth striving for here.

Jesus, from page 1

curriculum.

It behooves us all to know as much as we can about Moses and The Ten Commandments and Jesus of Nazareth.

The first time we learn anything about Moses is when Ezra brings The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, from Babylon into Jerusalem. Cyrus the Great financed the expedition and furnished the myths (borrowed from ancient Sumerian stories - like Adam and Eve and The Flood) that justified the expansion of the Persian Achaemenid Empire by building a temple in Jerusalem.

The story of Moses crossing the Red Sea and getting lost in the desert for forty years was probably meant as a cautionary tale for Ezra and his expedition. They had to cross the Syrian Desert from Babylon to get to the Mediterranean and Jerusalem. If they got lost it could take them as much as forty years to find their way out. Of course, it doesn't make sense that Moses, the adopted son of Egyptian royalty, wouldn't know about the thousand-year-old road and trading route from Alexandria to Palestine that went along the shore of the Mediterranean. But Exodus made a good story, and it allowed Ezra (like Mike Johnson) to compare himself to Moses.

The stories we learn about Jesus tell us he preached peace and love, but led a massive

demonstration on Palm Sunday that drove the Roman tax collectors out of the Temple. He was arrested that night after a Passover meal with his friends. He told them, according to Luke, Chapter 22:

35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

They must have found enough money to buy lots of swords because a few years later, in 66, there was a Great Jewish Revolt, beginning first in Caesarea, the big Roman port close to Nazareth. The first rebellion ended in the tragedy of mass suicides at Masada in 73.

Rebellions against Rome continued for another seventy years. And rebellion spread. It was underground in catacombs in Rome. It undermined Roman authority, and, eventually, it drove Roman emperors out of Rome and into Turkey.

Who were these early Christians?

Acts of the Apostles says: Acts 4:35 "And distribution was made unto every man ac-



Painting of cherubim after a detail of "Sistine Madonna" by Raphael

ording as he had need."

Acts 5:1-11 tells the story of Ananias and Sapphira, and how when they didn't share with their brothers and sisters, they were struck dead.

That spirit of utopian communism, sharing everything with everyone, was the utopian communal spirit of the first European settlers on these shores. The Guilford Covenant says:

"We whose names are herein written, intending by God's gracious permission, to plant ourselves in New England, we do faithfully promise each for ourselves and families and those that belong to us, that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation and to be helpful to the other in any common work, according to every man's ability and as need shall require, and we promise not to desert or leave each other on the plantation but with the consent of the rest, or the greater

part of the company, who have entered into this engagement."

"In witness whereof we subscribe our hands, this first day of June 1639."

Acts 4:32-35 "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had."

Acts 2:45 "And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need."

Matthew 19:21 "Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'"

Mark 10:21 "Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.'"

How did this simple doctrine

of love thy neighbor become lost and replaced by the Prosperity Gospel - a gospel that preached that the richer you got meant the greater God's blessings were upon you. Material wealth was, now, a manifestation of God's love.

By this measure, the billionaire oligarchs of Trump's administration must seem like the Heavenly Host to the evangelical faithful steeped in the Prosperity Gospel.

But Matthew 6:24 says "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

"For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect," Matthew 24:24 and Mark 13:22.

"And in their greed they will exploit you with false words," 2 Peter 2:3

According to 2 Thessalonians, Jesus cannot return for the End Times until the "man of lawlessness is revealed," who "will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped." This lawless man will "use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie." But ultimately the man and his followers will be destroyed: "all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

# Luigi Mangione

BY ED FELIEN

From the Manifesto of Luigi Mangione:

“A reminder: the US has the #1 most expensive healthcare system in the world, yet we rank roughly #42 in life expectancy. United is the [indecipherable] largest company in the US by market cap, behind only Apple, Google, Walmart. It has grown and grown, but [h]as our life expectancy? No the reality is, these [indecipherable] have simply gotten too powerful, and they continue to abuse our country for immense profit because the American public has allowed them to get away with it.

“Obviously the problem is more complex, but I do not have space, and frankly I do not pretend to be the most qualified person to lay out the full argument. But many have illuminated the corruption and greed (e.g.: Rosenthal, Moore), decades ago and the problems simply remain.”

Elizabeth Rosenthal wrote “An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back.” Michael Moore made the 2007 documentary film “Sicko.”

It was a shot heard round the world.

He made us conscious of each other. We shared the moment. The frustration with the unexpected cost and, sometimes, the desperation.

We felt a new unity.

He was our hero.

We were a slumbering giant, and he awakened us.

There is no doubt that the

sparks from Luigi Mangione’s gun have ignited a prairie fire. He has raised our consciousness of the universality of popular contempt for the corrupt medical care in America. He has exposed the violence that each of us must endure because we might be somehow out of network.

Their indifference to our suf-



UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson earned over \$10 million annually.

fering has taught us to be indifferent to theirs.

Senator Elizabeth Warren grilled the United Health CEO months before the Mangione killing. She commented:

“The visceral response from people across this country who feel cheated, ripped off, and threatened by the vile practices of their insurance companies should be a warning to everyone in the health care system.

“Violence is never the answer, but people can be pushed only so far.

“This is a warning that if you

push people hard enough, they lose faith in the ability of their government to make change. They lose faith in the ability of the people who are providing the health care to make change, and start to take matters into their own hands in ways that will ultimately be a threat to everyone.”

Veteran civil rights attorney Ron Kuby told The Guardian: “He has one and only one viable defense and that is extreme emotional disturbance. One version of extreme emotional disturbance is he just snapped, but the defense is broader than that and certainly covers the slow, bitter, corrosive wearing away of normal sentiments of right and wrong until it all collapses in pain.”

“The good thing about the defense, from what I’m going to assume is Mr. Mangione’s perspective, is that it’s a strong legal defense or at least it’s a viable legal defense, but it’s also a very strong public, political defense. All of his difficulties with the health insurance industry, all of his problems with them, everything that he knows and has read and has heard, the whole narrative comes in at the trial to show his state of mind.”

People might come to think, “He saw so much sufferin’ and there was his own pain, too. It just drove him over the edge.”

N.Y. Penal Law, Section 40.15 - Mental disease or defect:

“In any prosecution for an



Luigi Mangione (art by Cooper Gatzmer)

offense, it is an affirmative defense that when the defendant engaged in the proscribed conduct, he lacked criminal responsibility by reason of mental disease or defect. Such lack of criminal responsibility means that at the time of such conduct, as a result of mental disease or defect, he lacked substantial capacity to know or appreciate either:

- “1. The nature and consequences of such conduct; or
- “2. That such conduct was wrong.”

If livin’ were a thing money could buy

You know the rich would live and the poor would die

All my trials, lord, soon be over.

- A Traditionl American Spiritual



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Why it Makes Sense to Explore Income-based City Taxes

BY STEVE BRANDT

I was pleased to see Cam Gordon's column in the December issue of Southside Pride, and its focus on the potential advantages that an income-based tax might bring to Minneapolis city finances.

As an elected member of the Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation, I've been advocating since last summer for a serious and sustained examination of the city's alternatives to continued reliance on the regressive property tax as the chief tax-based source of city funding. In fact, I voted for the mayor's proposed 8.1 percent property tax proposal solely because he and the council president pledged such a review.

Fortunately, the council was able to cut his 2025 levy increase to below 7 percent, but that's still a hardship, especially for those on low or fixed incomes. That's especially so with a projected 9 percent property tax increase on the horizon for 2026. Some Minneapolitans simply can't afford such increases without severe sacrifices.

The plain truth is that property taxes are the only major discretionary tax available to the mayor and council. The city sales tax and the special taxes we pay on such items as restaurant meals and liquor are at a percentage set by state law. Those collections are only now recovering from a severe dip during the pandemic.

The property tax burden on homeowners this year is worsened by the shift in tax base. Home values in the city dropped less than apartment and commercial property values so those who own homes pay a bigger slice of the tax pie.

As Gordon noted, there are several potential new taxes based on income: a wealth tax, which would be trickiest to implement, a payroll tax on workers, or a straight income tax, which could prove the simplest to administer as an add-on to the state's income tax calculation. My preference is to explore a modest income tax but only on higher-earner households. Setting the starting point for such a tax is open for debate. The city's median household income still is below \$100,000. Should a city income tax kick in at twice that level? Three times?

Those questions should be shaped by public input. Thorough research is needed into the multiple cities

and counties that levy an income tax in both red and blue states. Do wealthier residents flee such a tax? If so, are they replaced by other well-off residents? How much money would such a tax collect? How should it be used?

My rough calculation is that a 1 percent city income tax on higher earners could raise tens of millions of dollars. One purpose could be both to provide some property tax relief to those already heavily burdened and to shift from regressive property taxes to progressive income taxation as the shock absorber for inevitable inflationary increases in the city budget. Or such a tax could pay for a list of new desired city services.

A number of people have reacted to this idea by urging first that city spending be cut or at least moderated. As a member of the Board of Estimate, I have only two powers: to vote on the maximum property tax increase set for the council to live within, and to authorize city borrowing for infrastructure projects. The council and mayor determine how much the city spends and for what it is used. Major factors influencing spending include inflation in items consumed by the city, such as asphalt and gasoline, by labor contract increases and - to a much smaller degree - by choices the council makes to add discretionary programs, as we saw with the 2025 budget. I tell people who call for city spending moderation to contact their council member. Enough of them did so to reduce the property tax increase from the mayor's proposed 8.1 percent to the council's 6.8 percent.

But we should also look for opportunities for further savings, perhaps following the example of a group of St. Paul residents who recently examined that city's budget in detail. A citizen budget commission might be able to identify potential savings for further debate.

Meanwhile, the city needs to evaluate its options for raising revenue, determine their political salability at the Legislature, and add the best option to its legislative agenda. The new political balance in the House may make the job tougher for the next two years. But it's time to lay the groundwork, especially with such influential lawmakers as Rep. Aisha Gomez, who represents me and many other Southsiders, and who will be the ranking House DFLer on the tax committee.

The alternative is ever more property tax pain.

## Making Minneapolis a Better Place

BY BILL MARSHALL

Well, now that the election is over, hopefully we can come to some type of agreements in certain areas to make this a better place! And I'm thinking locally, not nationally, and I have two ideas that I think could be incorporated to make this a better place.

Number one, for those that do not take the bus - which I do being a senior citizen that can no longer drive due to medications - the MTC Transit. They're realigning bus routes, and these new super routes are cutting out a lot of stops. Well, I happen to have COPD, and I'm considered disabled - along with many other people who are disabled - and this cuts out our mobility a great deal. I have twice contacted MTC about this and they've never responded, even though they claim they will respond with an email. But this breaks up their narrative that everything they do is wonderful. Just like the Chicago Lake Transit Center - which will soon be tore down - that they spent a ton of money on. You know, if you're a disabled person or person that uses a walker, to have to go an extra block or two is an unbelievable struggle - ESPECIALLY in the winter. In the next five years, almost a third of America will be senior citizens, with the majority being disabled. News flash for MTC: most people taking the bus are not in a hurry. I feel this is a direct violation of the DISABILITY ACT, but I can't find anybody who will touch this when I call on the phone, because it breaks up the narratives the Democrats in power want to feed us!!

My second thing I think we should be doing, is that the CITY COUNCIL make it illegal for businesses to only accept credit cards. How many poor people, homeless people or disadvantage people have credit cards? I shop at a bakery over by Roosevelt High School and they only take credit cards. I asked them why and the kid at the counter told me it's to keep the Riff Raff away who live in tents. Like it or not these people are human beings and deserve better!!

You know I'm probably one of the few people that is still around that saw John Kennedy when he came to Minneapolis to campaign in 1960, and the motorcade came up Park Avenue because there was no 35W then! And it's funny, now I voted for Donald Trump and the reason was the Democratic party was the working class. And now the Republican party has become the party of the working class and stuff like this that I mentioned is the very reason. Liberal Progressive Democrats do not listen to people at all, it seems like they know what's best for them and me too.

AND IN CLOSING, I'D LIKE TO THANK THE PUBLISHER, MY FRIEND ED. FOR ALL THE WORK HE'S DONE, FOR SAVING THE GOLF COURSE AND HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT EVERY PAGE HAS TWO SIDES AND BEING WILLING TO PUT THE OTHER SIDE FORWARD. SO, LET'S TRY TO MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A BETTER PLACE IN 2025 WITH LOVE NOT HATE!!!!



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# Food Shelves Struggle to Meet the Growing Needs and Growing Hunger in Minnesota

BY STEPHANIE FOX

The number of people around the country, and in Minnesota, who find the need to seek out food shelves has grown every year. In 2023, more than seven million Minnesotans visited local food shelves, up two million the year before. Last year, the numbers were up again. Organizations are working hard to fulfill the need, operating nearly 600 sites around Minneapolis, many in South Minneapolis. Different groups have varying strategies on how to try to meet the need.

Step inside Minnehaha United Methodist Church on a Tuesday morning and you'll join the more than 6,000 people a month who come to the food shelf. Food Shelf director George Gal-

agher, who has been doing this work for 25 years, says the need has grown 300 percent during the last two years. "We distribute 240 pounds of goods each month," he said. "Our monthly bill is about \$4,000."



At the pet food shelf

agher, who has been doing this work for 25 years, says the need has grown 300 percent during the last two years. "We distribute 240 pounds of goods each month," he said. "Our monthly bill is about \$4,000."

Gallagher said he's spent his life in groceries, from a first job bagging groceries and later, managing a Country Club Market. More recently, he served as the director of the Emergency Food Shelf Network. He's now at the Minnehaha food shelf and he said, "I do this work because I like it." His job at the food shelf includes organizing the food deliveries and working with the 35 volunteers, many bilingual, who help clients choose their food and carry it from the basement to the sidewalks outside. New volunteers are welcome.

This food shelf gets some of their foods from the nearby Oxendale's Grocery store and some bakery products from Panera Bread, but most of their food from Second Harvest Heartland and other food programs, including the Federal Emergency Food Program. "The stuff from Second Harvest isn't free and we survive on donations. The food shelf isn't as well stocked as it once was, Gallagher said.

"For a lot of people, the food shelf is a staple," he said. "It used to be a band aide and now

it's a necessity. This season has been an unusually demanding time. SNAP (food stamps) has been cut back. It takes a while for the money to trickle down and service the people who need it."

Their biggest client group are newly arrived Ecuadorians, but the food shelf is starting to get more people from Argentina. They also serve 30 households with the Healthy Seniors program where members can arrive on Tuesday distribution day at 9 a.m., an hour before the doors open for other clients. The seniors can also arrange for their food to be delivered to their home, if that's needed.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church is located at 3701 East 50th Street, Minneapolis.

Harvest from the Heart, a

one of the oldest free distribution centers in the city. In 2021, the food shelf moved from the basement of the church rectory to a converted four-car garage where it now distributes food to anyone in need. In their first year at the new location, they distributed 450 tons directly donated of food. Harvest from the Heart is a leader in keeping hunger from the neighborhood.

But, now Harvest from the Heart, like most food shelves, is facing hard times. Director Chris Pangle says that some days they are finding it hard to keep up with demand. To cope, while clients could once visit as often as they needed to avoid hunger, they are now asked to limit their visits to once a week.

He doesn't know when things might get better, he said. But he hopes things will change soon. "The need is great," he said. Last year, the organization served 42,000 families, more than any other food shelf in South Minneapolis.

Harvest from the Heart is located at 3801 Pleasant Ave. and is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Food shelves aren't just for people. One organization, The Bond Between, is a small food shelf letting people who have fallen on hard times keep their best (furry) friends by offering pet food, collars, leashes, pet toys and more.

"Some people will say, 'it's just a dog,' said Nick Stewart, the organization's program coordinator. "But for a lot of people, dogs and cats are a lifeline. They keep people happy when times are tough."

Steward finds his work rewarding, sometimes even emotionally touching. "One of the things I really remember was a woman came in saying that her cat was not neutered and had a litter of kittens. She was overwhelmed." After Bond Between was able to help her, said Stewart, she started crying happy tears. "She pulled me toward her and hugged me. I'll never forget this."

The Bond Between started as a pet rescue group, Secondhand Hounds, which rescued more



Fresh vegetables are one of the foods clients can choose



Marna Jacobi, a Minnehaha Food Shelf volunteer works to help those in need of groceries



Harvest from the Heart worker gets food ready to distribute



Karen Vetsch, a volunteer at the Minnehaha food shelf helps clients choose food

than 29,000 animals. Another organization, People and Pets Together, began by passing out bags of pet food after the tornado came through North Minneapolis in 2011, when grocery stores and pet stores were shuttered. The Bond Between absorbed People and Pets in 2023. That year, the group distributed nearly 340,000 pounds of dog food, cat food and cat litter, helping an average of 2,300 animals every month.

"We get more dogs than cats and we also help small critters like gerbils and guinea pigs," he said.

Not everyone can shop at The Bond Between. Shoppers must be receiving some kind of government assistance, such as government disability, EBT, be on social security or be age

65 and older. Tribal members are also welcomed. Volunteers who help at the food shelf for six or more months can become clients, too. Shoppers living in Minneapolis can shop every 30 days and those living outside the city can come in only every six months.

Stewart says the group can use contributions, including supplies and monetary donations. "And, if anyone is interested in volunteering, we'd love to have you."

The shelf is open to clients on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 until 7:45 p.m. and on Saturday morning, opening at 9:30 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. The small food shelf was once located on Bloomington Ave., but is now located at 2501 Minnehaha Ave.

# Race for Mayor

BY ED FELIEN

It's beginning to look like an interesting race for mayor this year.

First, Frey vetoed the Council's Budget. He objected to the cuts in downtown personnel in favor of funding "pet projects" in the Council members' wards.

The Council voted to override the mayor's veto, and Emily Koski, 11th Ward council member, responded:

"The mayor recommended a 2025 city budget that included \$1.883 billion in expenses, \$1.896 billion in revenues, and an 8.3 percent property tax levy increase. The Council adopted city budget included \$1.880 billion in expenses, \$1.893 billion in revenues, and a 6.8 percent property tax levy increase.

"The Council cut \$7.120 million in expenses and revenues and used \$3.875 million in the city's current fund balance to offset \$3.875 million in new one-time spending. The Council lowered the property tax levy increase by 1.5 percent."

Koski is running for Mayor. Her father, Al Hofstede, was mayor of Minneapolis from 1974 to 1975 and from 1978 to 1979. He and Tom Kelm and Andy Kozak (both former aides to Governor Wendell Anderson) formed North State Advisors — a lobbying firm that included clients like The Tobacco Institute. Along with Tony Scallon and Jeff Spartz, they ran DFL politics in South Minneapolis for thirty years up to just a few years ago when a majority of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)-endorsed candidates won a majority on the City Council.



Jacob Frey



Omar Fateh



Emily Koski

Koski is playing a clever game. She has been an essential key vote for overturning many of Frey's vetoes of DSA initiatives. Koski understands the one rule in politics, you have to know how to count. If the left faction on the City Council can count on her for key votes, then, maybe, she should be able to count on the left for support when she goes up against Frey. She is obviously courting the left because she knows when the DFL City Convention happens on July 19, no one candidate will have the 60 percent necessary for endorsement. Four years ago, Frey couldn't get the DFL endorsement.

Veteran prognosticators say Frey would get about 30 percent of the vote; Koski would get about 30 percent of the vote; Omar Fateh, the DSA socialist, would get about 30 percent of the vote; with 10 percent going to Uncommitted, or to DeWayne Davis or Brenda Short.

If in ranked choice voting: Frey comes in first; Koski second; Fateh third; and the others

are dropped; and the third-place finisher (Fateh) would be eliminated on the next ballot, then it would be possible for Koski to get the 60 percent necessary for endorsement if Fateh threw his support to Koski. Fateh and DSA could make that deal if they could get agreement from Koski on the DSA platform and the promise of some kind of policy influencing position in a Koski administration.

Of course, the deal would have to work both ways. If Fateh is ahead and Koski would be dropped on the next ballot, then Koski should tell her supporters to support Fateh. If she doesn't do that, and, if her supporters split their votes between Frey and Fateh, then the Convention could deadlock on an endorsement and the candidates would go to the general election, and that always favors the candidate with the most money, which would favor Frey and Koski.

If you want a ringside seat and you want to participate in this contest, then you should go to your Precinct Caucus on Tuesday, April 8 and get elected a precinct delegate.

Frey is a very attractive and intelligent candidate. He is a liberal in, most definitely, the Rybak tradition. Rybak even picked his staff and helped set up his office for Frey's first term. The struggle over the budget best illustrates the differences between Frey and the left-leaning City Council. Frey wants the money to stay downtown to hire more planners and bureaucrats. The Council wants the money to go out to the communities with the most needs and be administrated by local organizations in those communities.

Council member Jason Chavez wrote:

"After three very long days of debate, discussion, and negotiations; and after many months of meetings, research, and community engagement; the Council passed a 2025 city budget at 11:55 p.m. on Tuesday night.

"I was disappointed when Mayor Frey recklessly vetoed the budget on Wednesday, risking the jobs of more than 4,000 employees as well as all of the



Brenda Short



DeWayne Davis

vital services that the city provides. Just as a supermajority of the Council voted to approve most of the budget amendments that we passed, I joined a majority of the City Council to override that veto yesterday, averting a potential budget crisis. I, together with most of my Council colleagues, believe that the city's budget is too important to use as a tool for political points.

"Thankfully, at the end of the day, common sense prevailed and 9 of the 13 Council Members ensured that roads will be plowed, potholes will be filled, and that we have a city budget that reflects the values of Ward 9 and Minneapolis."

Chavez authored or co-authored 29 amendments to the budget, totaling \$8.6 million. Some of the projects he supported include:

An expansion of the Stable Homes, Stable School program with an Early Childhood Prevention Pilot Program and a Middle School Pilot Program to reduce homelessness. By funding these pilot expansions, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority estimates an additional 180-225 families (representing 440-565 children) could be served by the program. Amount: \$830,500 one-time

Stabilize the shelter operations of Avivo Village to prevent losing needed services meant to address homelessness. This shelter is a first-ever, indoor community of 100 secure, private dwellings or "tiny houses" that provides shelter and wraparound services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Amount: \$1.6 million one-time

Establish a program that

is designed to improve public safety by helping employ adults encountering homelessness or housing instability with sustainable low-barrier work and income and increasing the cleanliness and livability of the Southside Green Zone. The program will create teams of workers who will focus on cleaning this area that is disproportionately impacted by public safety, homelessness, and cleanliness issues. Amount: \$285,000 one-time

This seems to be the way city government should work. The mayor should think about the big picture and the Council should think about their particular communities. It seems unfair to call the three examples "pet projects." They seem like carefully chosen strategies to deal with specific homelessness problems.

State Senator Omar Fateh is also a candidate for mayor. He won the undying support of the Uber and Lyft drivers when he fought for a minimum wage and worker protection for them. He declared: I am DFL and I am a socialist. Hubert Humphrey arranged the merger of the Democratic Party and the Farmer-Labor Party in 1944 to assist FDR's re-election. The 1934 Farmer-Labor Platform said, "Capitalism has failed and should be abolished." Floyd B. Olson, the Farmer-Labor Governor at the time, said, "I am what I want to be. I am a radical. I'm not a liberal. We need a definite change in the system." Radicals and socialists have a legitimate home in the DFL.

Clint Combs has an excellent report in this issue on the

See Mayor page 8

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GFS, from page 1

lent of arterial stenting is needed to reopen the blockage of the route from downtown to the Mall.

Additionally, Unity Food has filed a suit claiming city closure has resulted in economic loss. Most occupants along the street in the area are businesses who could join the Unity suit if the "stenting" and concomitant elements are not executed. Their survival is public access to their business, both vehicular and pedestrian. Reopening impacts the entire route but particularly those enterprises. It impacts on restoring local confidence.

The Chavez resolution offers an opportunity to propose a plan for 38th and Chicago due in 2025. Since the Community Visioning Committee (CVC) does not meet criteria like that required for a developer at Speedway, that proposal has the same standing as the others that have been submitted to the city. It is possible that funding may be found, but the lack of credentials of the CVC precludes that they can be the developer, whether funds are from the city or other public or private funds.

At the present time, the mayor's development team have released basic options which can be delivered to allow negotiations with a developer. The city departments have a timeline for construction that is flexible, and which can proceed in a prudent and professional manner, allowing for the terms in the Chavez resolution.

**Editor's Note:**

The Dec. 5 City Council meet-

ing approved Council member Jason Chavez's concept layout for the 38th Street and Chicago Avenue, George Floyd Square project and authorized negotiation with private property owners to acquire easements and additional right-of-way, if necessary, for the project.

The Resolution read, in part: "Expressing statements of po-



George Floyd

sition pertaining to the future of George Floyd Square.

"Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

"That the City Council supports the Pedestrian Plaza Concept Plan, which allows for vehicular access to local residents and businesses only, while maintaining access for emergency vehicles.

"Be It Further Resolved that the City Council supports establishment of a pedestrian plaza to the extent permitted and in compliance with Minnesota Statutes Section 430.011, in conjunction with the street im-

provement.

"Be It Further Resolved that as the Pedestrian Plaza Concept is being developed, the City Council supports the Community of George Floyd Square (residents, businesses, and extended community) and the family of George Floyd using the existing Community Visioning Council to create a comprehensive vision for George Floyd Square that is community led and includes the permanent memorial to George Floyd, the People's Way, and the right of way. This vision could be presented to the City Council as a pathway forward by June 2025.

"Be It Further Resolved that the City Council supports a racial justice and healing center in the 38th Street Cultural District.

"Be It Further Resolved that the City Council supports appropriating city funding towards the implementation of the Thirty-Eighth Street THRIVE Strategic Development Plan."

**Tom Abeles:**

The CVC wants, with no qualifications, to develop on their own, a section of the intersection with a Black Lives Matter focus. Their larger vision, as Andrea said (screamed) is that their aim is to replace the city/community as the developer. Basically, it's the equivalent of a mutiny, with others empowering them and underwriting the costs.

Their discussions indicate that the Chavez resolution is THE mandate and gives them the rights; and it's the City that should fund them sans credentials and as a mandate.



**Ed Felien:**

Yes, Tom, it does look like a mutiny. The grassroots against the downtown city planners and developers. I guess I'm in favor of the grassroots.

Democracy is messy and imprecise. And it takes a lot of time. And it ain't gonna produce a slick book like those million-dollar people in the Planning Department did with their THRIVE booklet. But maybe

that's not the point. Maybe the point of all this is to empower the people who have been historically left out of the planning process. Who knows, maybe they'll decide the best way to honor George Floyd is to subsidize a bar-b-que restaurant that serves the best Texas-style ribs in town. Maybe the rest of us should hold our breaths for a little while and see what they come up with.

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# Questionnaire Answers from Brenda Short, Candidate for Mayor

Southside Pride sent this Questionnaire to all the candidates running for mayor of Minneapolis. Last month we published a response from DeWayne Davis. We have not received responses to our questions from Omar Fateh, Emily Koski or Jacob Frey.

*Why are you running for Mayor?*

A: During my 2021 election, I opposed granting the mayor executive powers, fearing it would silence the community. While focused on issues like police reform, I saw the importance of protecting community voice. Now, running for mayor, I aim to ensure Minneapolis remains a city where everyone has a

voice and a home.

*What has Frey done wrong?*

A: God warned us, “Jacob will lie, cheat, and steal,” and he did. He deceived the community, promised what we wanted to hear, and manipulated the election with money. Now, he’s taking our inheritance and homes. We still haven’t learned from the warning God gave us.

*What will you do differently?*

A: I would listen to the community, understanding we may not agree on everything, but ensuring everyone feels heard. Difficult conversations are necessary for change, and through these discussions, progress can

be made. Ultimately, we all share the goal of creating a better Minneapolis for everyone.

*What is your solution to the homeless problem?*

A: As someone who was once unhoused, I plan to build relationships with training programs and connect with individuals ready for housing. There are two empty buildings available – one can house 200 to 300 people and provide wraparound services to support their transition into stable living conditions.

*Should the city re-examine the Terrance Franklin killing by the MPD?*

A: Yes, as a mother of four young adults, I believe the city of Minneapolis owes Terrance Franklin’s mother and family the truth. I can only imagine her pain. She deserves to share her son’s story with pride, allowing her and her family to begin the healing process.

*Does the city have responsibility for removing sand from Lake Hiawatha that was dumped on city streets in the winter and has flowed through storm sewers into the lake and reduced the depth from 33 feet to a sandbar in spots?*

A: Yes, I believe the city has a responsibility to protect Lake Hiawatha. We must address sand buildup caused by winter



Brenda Short

road treatments and stormwater runoff. I will prioritize better stormwater management, lake restoration efforts, and sustainable road treatment practices to preserve the lake’s health and depth.

## Mayor, from page 6

discussions within the DSA on whether to endorse a candidate for mayor.

There is beginning to be a little excitement in South Minneapolis about the contests for seats on the City Council.

Word in City Hall is that Andrea Jenkins is thinking she won’t run for re-election. She began downtown as an aide to Sixth Ward Council Member Robert Lilligren. Nobody knows the building and how it works better than Andrea. A poet and transgender performance artist, Jenkins helped a lot of people rethink what they thought about race and sex and gender identity. She was President of the City Council, 2022 to 2024. She knows how it works, and she could give us all some good advice on how it could work better.

The Ward 8 Convention is on Sunday, May 4.

What’s going to happen in the Eleventh Ward? If Koski’s running for Mayor, then the seat is open. Or, does Koski want the Convention to adjourn until after the Mayor Convention so she could keep her options open? No, she can’t do that. She has to go for broke. She’ll have to let the Convention endorse a candidate for her City Council

seat. This will have to happen pretty fast.

The Ward 11 Convention is on Saturday, May 31.

The Twelfth Ward DFL Convention should be a barnburner. Park Board Commissioner Becky Alper will be challenging Aurin Chowdhury. Chowdhury has been a reliable vote in support of the DSA Council majority, but she has received criticism from some constituents for not listening to their concerns.

## Taxes and Crime in South Minneapolis

By Kathryn Kelly

“What are the Minneapolis politicians (the mayor and City Council) doing about the cost of living and crime in South Minneapolis? Letters in the Star-Tribune and postings on Nextdoor document a constant stream of concerns and problems in South Minneapolis that the politicians seem to be ignoring.

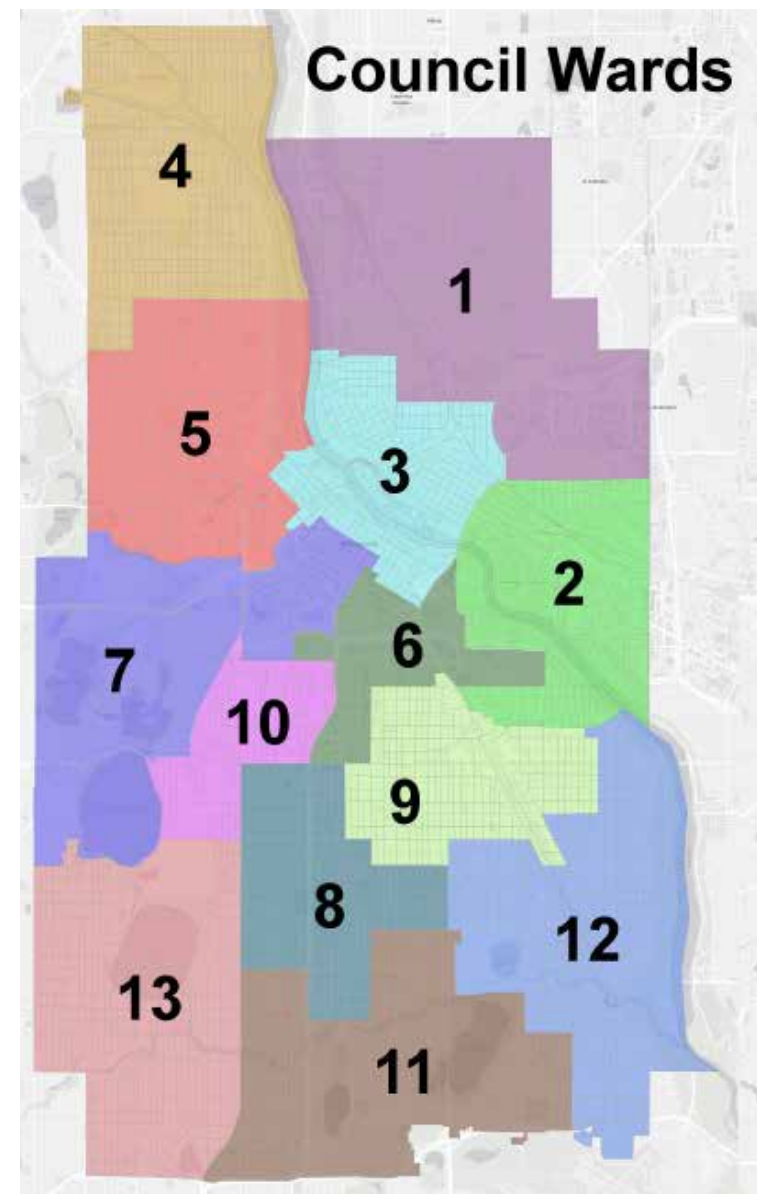
“The most recent is the proposed increase in Minneapolis property taxes that started out at 13 percent, then went down to 8 percent, and are now 6.8 percent due to public pressure. And, this is not counting the increases with the Park Board, school board tax levies, Henne-

pin County and the Met Council. People are more and more concerned with how they can afford to live in the city. This, while I have seen businesses complaining that they no longer have parking for their customers because of all of the changes to the streets, along with the increase in on-street parking of cars due to more and more density.

“Then, people record and lament all of the petty (and some not so petty) crimes going on in the city, and all they can do is file a complaint with the city. If you read Nextdoor, you come across story after story of porch pirates, stolen cars, car break-ins, garage break-ins and property theft. Last year I saw a post with video of a garage that was broken into. It belonged to a friend of mine. And, just recently, I saw a video where a vehicle rammed a garage door, destroyed it, but didn’t get in. Yet, the owner now had to replace the garage door. And, there is video after video of people trolling alleys in the early morning looking for items to steal.

“Then, there are the more concerning crimes. By Lake Hiawatha, a resident recently had an intruder break into her home while she was sleeping. The intruder was totally inebriated, and the police came and took him away. Also, in 2023, someone tried to kick in the front door of a resident at 10:30 p.m. Two weeks later, someone came back at 1:30 a.m. ringing the doorbell, and again 2 weeks later, ringing the doorbell at 1:30 a.m.

“I have also read posts by people stating that they were avoiding businesses where there has been drug-dealing over on Hiawatha Avenue. And, I’ve read posts from people who have concerns when homeless populations take up residence in their neighborhoods, leaving needles on the ground for their



kids to pick up, not to mention the homes that have been damaged or destroyed by fires in the homeless encampments.

“The residents keep asking, what should they do? Can the politicians respond to this, especially in this upcoming election year?”

A copy of this letter was sent to Chowdhury. We asked for her response. She has not responded.

The Ward 12 Convention will

be on Saturday, May 3.

If you want to get in on the fun, if you want your voice to be heard – by your neighbors, by your City Council Member and by your mayor – then remember, the meeting belongs to the people who show up for the meeting. Meet your neighbors. Start it off by showing up at your precinct caucus on Tuesday, April 8 and getting elected a precinct delegate.

**Southside Pride would love to include news about your faith-based community in our free religion calendar. Contact Kay at [kaysouthsidepride@gmail.com](mailto:kaysouthsidepride@gmail.com) or call 612-822-4662.**





# There's No Place Like Home

## No Place Like Home - Neighborhoods, Suburbs, and Ownership Options

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Neighborhoods of Minneapolis

What makes a home? What makes it feel right for you? In the real estate industry, the cliché is “Location, location, location.” In an urban setting, this can be shortened to “Neighborhood.” Neighborhoods have identities, and they may or may not fit with our own identity. A cute little

are many colloquial terms for areas that are not neighborhoods, but sound like they are (such as Uptown and Dinkytown) and there are eleven “communities” that the city uses to group them, some of which have the same name as a neighborhood. It’s a lot for a city with only 57.5 square miles (about 1/6 of it water) and about 425,000 people (again, according to Wikipedia.)

Due to the NRP, a now sun-

Standish (part of Powderhorn, the community, not the neighborhood) and Ericsson (part of Nokomis.) Also, over time, the names can change.

The name-change of the major south Minneapolis lake, Bde Maka Ska, affected a lot of groups that had used the name Calhoun. In the neighborhood world, CARAG became South Uptown in 2018, ECCO became East Bde Maka Ska in 2021, and West Calhoun became West Maka Ska in 2020. (Bde means Lake, more or less, in the Dakota language.) The community they are grouped in is still known as Calhoun-Isles, however.

To get around to what this all has to do with housing and homes - the real estate industry decided they were going to play this game too, but without rules. So, you have real



Let's call this Old Town

estate listings under neighborhoods that may or may not exist. Also, people want to rename things for other reasons, especially those unoffi-

cial ones. Recently there has been a movement afoot to rename Old St. Anthony, the area

See Home page 10



North Loop Green 360 Apartments

website called Hoodmaps kind of nailed it for my neighborhood (see picture page 11.)

To research Minneapolis neighborhoods requires tremendous focus and mental fortitude. According to Wikipedia, the city officially recognizes and contains 83 neighborhoods. And Wikipedia, as far as I can tell, is the only source that is both up to date and not full of stupid malarkey. Because in addition to the 83 real neighborhoods, there

settled program that still exerts a powerful influence, almost every neighborhood in Minneapolis is represented by an officially recognized voluntary nonprofit neighborhood association, or NA. Many of them are known by their acronyms, and a few of them have the same acronym as another one. Some NA's represent more than one neighborhood, including the one I live in, which merges two neighborhoods not even in the same larger community -



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**Home, from page 9**

where St. Anthony Main and the riverside reside, as simply Old Town.

In 2020, homesmsp.com, a blog created by a conglomerate of Re/Max realtors, published a neighborhood guide that was accurate at the time. But there have been a few mergers and neighborhood name changes since then. Nevertheless, if you're looking to buy or sell in Minneapolis, this might be a good resource (remember the median prices have changed as well) - [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2020homes](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2020homes).

A smaller site is Redfin's blog, which published what should be very up to date: "12 Popular Minneapolis, MN Neighborhoods: Where to Live in Minneapolis in 2025." Except eleven of the twelve

are actually the eleven official communities, and then the first one, Bryn Mawr, is a neighborhood that is in the north of Calhoun-Isles. Well to be fair, this piece was written by an author who lives out in Seattle. Apart from that, it's a good source, with up-to-date median rent amounts and median home prices: [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-homes2025](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-homes2025).

The final real-estate site we are highlighting is aimed at renters. VeryApt.com headlines their page "Best Neighborhoods in Minneapolis," but the ones they describe are not all in Minneapolis, nor are they all neighborhoods. For instance, in highlighting Como Park, they don't even mention St. Paul's existence and call it a suburb. Whereas actual suburbs - Falcon Heights, for example - are presented as Min-



**Murals of Powderhorn neighborhood**



**Nokomis Square Senior Housing Co-op**

neapolis neighborhoods. Still, resources for renters are rare, so here's a link if you want to check it out for its amenities, and median rents on various apartment sizes: [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-apthoods](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-apthoods).

Local lifestyle magazines such as Mpls/StPaul ([msp-mag.com](https://msp-mag.com)) often do profiles of neighborhoods which can be very informative, especially if recent. A recent one titled "The 2024 Insider's Guide to Downtown Minneapolis" was a revelation. It made me want to live downtown even more. [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-downtown](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-downtown)



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**First ring suburbs of Minneapolis**

Location can be translated to the suburbs, if you don't seem to thrive in the city itself. We won't even get into rural living, although that is a thing with its own attractions. It's not really our wheelhouse, as an urban paper. Maybe in a future article. Like the neighborhoods in the cities, the huge number of Twin Cities suburbs each offer a very different version of that catch-all place name, "the metro area." To keep within the limits of this piece, we'll just look at first ring suburbs, those that share a border with Minneapolis.

The homesmsp.com blog did a guide to first-ring suburbs of both cities in 2022, so fairly recent for statistical purposes. The Minneapolis-adjointing cities are Lauderdale, St. Anthony, Columbia Heights, Fridley, Brooklyn Center, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley, St. Louis Park, Edina, and Richfield. Besides

# There's No Place Like Home make it even better!

a schools rating and a wealth of statistics, it offers a pretty good capsule profile of each burb, like this excerpt from the one for Golden Valley: "Its hills and valleys include parks and nature areas, with parts of Minneapolis Theodore Wirth Park that rivals NYC Central

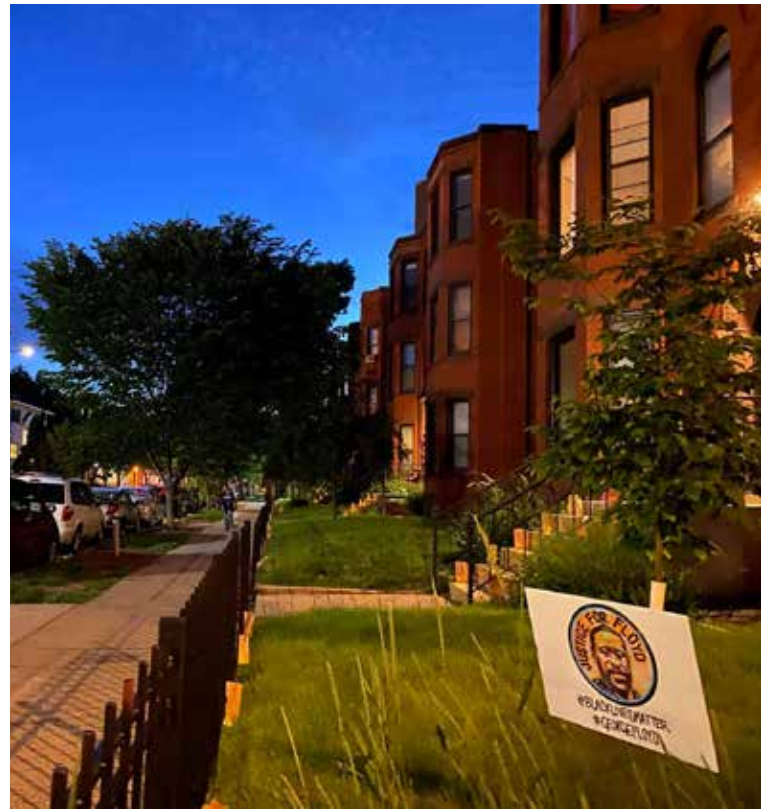
you're making a change.) Conventional wisdom, at least in the US, has always been that "it's better to own," but I have done all of the above, and I think that's a terrible oversimplification.

The homesmp.com blog offers articles exploring both

nard Keynes famously noted, "In the long run, we are all dead.") Another piece from September of 2024 exposes the horrors of a particularly cruel insurance scam, the deliberate misdiagnosis of hail damage. (As a condo owner, I have seen this trick performed on a multifamily industrial scale. It's ugly.)

Housing co-operatives are one alternative that can offer people of modest means a way to build wealth and have secure housing with less risk and expense, and also are a favorite of wealthy people, which ought to tell you something. Housing co-ops can do this because they have a range of different financial models, from zero equity, to limited equity, to a model that is little different from a condominium. And both condominiums and co-ops have an elected board, representational democracy for owner-members, and reserve funds.

Finally, there are various models of village living in cities, such as co-housing, a more collectivized mode than co-ops, or multi-generational living, which was the only kind of living for thousands of years and is now experiencing a comeback. Here is a piece about that - [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Generations](http://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Generations).



Old Town in Town Cooperative



Park within its borders... Much of it was developed in the 1950s and 1960s. This makes it a good suburb in which to find mid-century modern homes. Tyrol Hills, bordering Minneapolis on both the north and south sides of I-394 is a treasure trove of custom designed mid-century and modern homes on generous lots. Golden Valley does not have its own school district... parts are in the Hopkins school district, parts in the Robbinsdale school district." [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-burbs](http://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-burbs)

sides of the question. No doubt other resources do as well. One piece from December 2024 is titled "Why owning a home is worth it in the long run," which at least admits by implication that there are downsides. (And as John May-



Hoodmaps: Nokomis Neighborhood

Owning, co-operatives, co-housing, renting?

Another attribute of home is whether you rent, own, or hold possession through some other mechanism such as housing co-operatives. (Or want to, if

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# DSA Weighs Endorsing Omar Fateh for Mayor

BY CLINT COMBS

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) Twin Cities have notched significant victories on the Minneapolis City Council, pushing forward city ordinances like a ceasefire resolution, a ride-share wage increase ordinance, a labor standards board, and a resolution calling for all charges to be dropped against pro-Palestinian activists who occupied the UofM administrative building on Oct. 21.

The first two ordinances —

the ride-share wage increase and the ceasefire resolution — successfully overrode Mayor Jacob Frey’s veto, reflecting the DSA’s ability to push through transformative policies in the face of opposition from powerful businesses. Meanwhile, both the labor standards board ordinance and the resolution supporting the pro-Palestinian activists failed to override Mayor Frey’s veto. The labor standards board ordinance fell just one vote short, while the resolution supporting the activists did

not secure enough votes for an override. These setbacks highlight the continued struggle to advance progressive, working-class policies.

Amid this continued struggle against Mayor Frey’s vetoes, the DSA Twin Cities is now considering endorsing State Rep. Omar Fateh for mayor. His potential candidacy comes at a time when the DSA’s endorsed representatives on the city council have faced repeated opposition from Frey, underscoring the need for a strong progressive leader who can advance the working-class agenda at City Hall.

Shane Miller, a DSA Twin Cities member, took a more level-headed approach, expressing concerns about the endorsement process. “I think we’re getting a little too ahead of the curve here...we haven’t seen the endorsement process carry out,” Miller said. “I think it’s bad practice for us to really lead with a de facto ‘oh, yeah, we’re going to endorse you anyway.’ Endorsements are about negotiation.” Miller emphasized that any endorsement should come with clear expectations and mutual commitment from the candidate.

Kieran Knutson, self-described anarchist and President of CWA Local 1750 — a non-profit membership labor union representing workers at AT&T Mo-



DSA members reflect on how best to prepare for an incoming Trump Administration. (Photo/Clint Combs Southside Pride)

bility retail stores in Minnesota, as well as AT&T Legacy T employees — questioned the role of elections in the current political climate. “Do they conceive of that as happening through elections for mayor, I wonder, and, if so, that has certain answers,

dismissed, even though that was a sort of mass demand from the poorest part of our community and the most oppressed part of the working class,” Knutson said. He went on to question the emphasis on electoral politics in light of these critical issues,



Minneapolis City Council Member Robin Wonsley, a Democratic Socialist representing Ward 2, speaks to DSA Minneapolis. (Photo/Clint Combs Southside Pride)



Arianna Feldman, Omar Fateh’s Campaign Manager speaks to DSA members in Minneapolis. (Photo/Clint Combs Southside Pride)

I would think? And if not, that also has certain answers about how people should proceed,” Knutson said.

Knutson’s remarks highlight how organizations like DSA are vetting candidates best suited to lead Minneapolis in the wake of George Floyd’s murder by Derek Chauvin, which catalyzed widespread protests and calls for justice, accountability, and systemic change. “I wonder if, in a campaign like this, I still think a lot of the city is living in the wake of the uprising and that a lot of what we do is impacted, even now, four years later, by the uprising,” Knutson said.

Knutson also raised concerns about Fateh’s stance on the demand to abolish the police. “Like, where do the demands like abolish the police fit in anymore? It feels like they’ve been

asking, “So I guess I’m just curious, as socialists or as people advocating for workers’ power, why are elections sort of the centerpiece of people’s strategy?”

As of this writing, Omar Fateh has yet to release a campaign platform, leaving many questions for DSA members regarding an endorsement. Emma Fletcher, a DSA Twin Cities Labor Rep, noted the challenges of preemptively endorsing a candidate who has not yet shared his platform.

“I was taking some notes in this, and I really agree with the position that the energy is here for Omar in our chapter,” Fletcher said. “It is, and I think it would be a big mistake not to endorse him. But I think we

See DSA, page 13

**O BLESSINGS INFINITE!  
O GLAD NEW YEAR!  
SWEET SIGN AND SUBSTANCE  
OF GOD’S PRESENCE HERE.**

Mary Baker Eddy, Miscellany – pg 354:15

## Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Minneapolis

A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL THINKERS PURSUING INSPIRED SOLUTIONS THAT ELEVATE, HEAL, AND EMPOWER

### Church and Sunday School Services

#### WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETINGS

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
A time when attendees can share encouraging stories of healing through prayer.

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 am – 11:00 am

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Services are available on Zoom or by phone, please see our website for more details.

### Reading Room Hours

SUN. 9:30 am – 11:30 am

MON. 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm

TUES. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

WEDS. 3:30 pm – 8:45 pm

THURS. 3:00 am – 6:30 pm

FRI. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

SAT. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

CHURCH AND READING ROOM – 1822 Hennepin Ave South • Minneapolis, MN 55403 • secondchurchminneapolis.com

DSA, from page 12

should endorse and campaign for him on a more principled basis as, you know, an independent expenditure campaign, that we are socialists for Omar.”

“In doing that, we can do it in a way that doesn’t stifle our socialism, right? If we just accept his lit and accept his talking points on the doors, that is potentially problematic. We haven’t seen his platform yet, which I also think is a problem. The DSA hasn’t seen his platform and isn’t involved in the creation of his platform. It’s a big problem.”

After the breakout group sessions, Arianna Feldman, campaign manager for Omar Fateh, highlighted the community support Fateh has already garnered. “What I’m already hearing on the campaign side, in the community, when Little Earth members like Joe Vitale, when workers, when Uber and Lyft drivers have shown up and been supportive and said, ‘You are one of us, you showed up for us, so we have your back,’” Feldman said. “Where the hell is DSA?”

She challenged DSA members to consider their involvement. “He is already being considered the socialist mayor, whether we like it or not,” Feldman said. “That’s it. Do you all want to be a part of this or not?”

Another DSA member and mayoral candidate, Brenda Short, also voiced her frustration with Mayor Frey’s actions in regard to her own campaign. Short claimed that Frey and

his team have actively tried to block her candidacy. “Oh, um, I have been trying... this gentleman,” she said, pointing at someone across the table, “will tell you I’ve been trying to register my candidacy, and Mayor Frey and his team have stopped me,” Short stated.

Short’s frustration stems from her perception that her candidacy is being ignored due to Frey’s influence. “I can’t even get anyone to see me as a candidate because the mayor is over the person who allows me to register my candidacy,” she said. “I have had to go to the Secretary of State and scream in their office, and they’re telling me I have to wait until July to register my candidacy.”

Short also expressed discontent with the political maneuvering around her campaign, noting, “The silly part about it is Mayor Frey’s team watched me so badly that they stole everything I said in my campaign.” She cited past grievances, including the need for policy changes in police reform, which she believes have been overshadowed by recent events.

Council member Robin Wonsley also weighed in on the political landscape, noting that former supporters of Mayor Frey are now searching for alternatives. “Former fraud supporters in the liberal political class are also looking for an alternative, and that person is currently Council member Emily Koski,” Wonsley said. “And in her recent op-ed, Koski states that she essentially shares Frey’s politics. However, she dislikes a divisive



approach and basically presents herself as the safer, civil, and diplomatic alternative to Frey.”

Wonsley further emphasized the importance of Omar Fateh’s campaign, saying, “Through Omar’s campaign, our chapter has the opportunity to both normalize socialist politics and offer working-class people another vision for our city. As we’ve seen with other electoral campaigns like Socialist Daron Madani’s mayoral bid in New York, Omar’s mayoral campaign will give our chapter a platform to organize thousands of residents around our chapter’s key priorities. Meaning, we could have a shot at making rent control finally happen. We can amplify key labor policies and actions such as the \$20 minimum

wage and the Delta Union campaign. We’ll be able to speak candidly to residents about how they can support ceasefire and BDS, BDS efforts locally to help end the genocide in Palestine.”

Ramy Khalil, who was Kshama Sawant’s 2013 election campaign manager, also weighed in on the current mayoral race, expressing some reservations about Omar Fateh’s platform but supporting his candidacy. “I agree that we don’t yet have Omar’s platform and that we should look at it,” Khalil said. “He does not present a bold class struggle campaign so far. In the Star Tribune, he said ‘I’m DFL and I’m a socialist.’”

Despite his reservations, Khalil expressed support for Fateh, noting his track record

on key issues. “He’s a good comrade and I think we should support him,” Khalil said. “He does have a record of standing up to big business on the Uber/Lyft struggle. He fought for free college.”

Khalil went on to outline the policy areas where he hopes to see further commitments from Fateh. “I would like to see, will he support free childcare? Will he advocate for rent control in building tens of thousands of social housing units? Is he going to tact to the left or tact to the right?” Khalil asked. “I do think we as socialists and as DSA should do our best as we engage in this campaign to put forward those bold demands.”

Finally, Khalil commented on how electoral candidates tend to adjust their message when faced with pressure from the media and corporate interests. “When these candidates, they get scared of the media and the tremendous pressure from corporations and moderate union leaders, they tend to moderate their message thinking that that’s more effective,” Khalil said. (For example, Kamala Harris sought the support of Republican Liz Cheney, an abject campaign failure that establishment Democrats argued would court moderate voters.)

The DSA Twin Cities chapter will vote on endorsements from March 17 to 21, with the announcement being made public the week of March 24.

**Southside Pride**  
NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

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

If you want to share some news of your church, school or organization, please write us at:  
**Southside Pride**  
2721 E. 42ND STREET SUITE B  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406  
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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

### EVENTS

#### Chair Yoga Online

Jan. 8 through Feb. 26,  
10 to 10:30 a.m.

#### Eight Sessions via Zoom

Chair Yoga focuses on breath, linking breath to movement, stretching, and balance. No experience necessary. All you need is a chair and comfortable clothes! Instructor Barb Yanish, certified yoga teacher, aims to make yoga accessible to all. Free. Registration required. Not sure how to access classes via Zoom? To register call Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 or you can email [juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors](mailto:juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors) and we will help you get set up!

#### Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster

Jan. 8 through March 9  
Children's Theater Company  
2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.

Monsters have one job and it's to be SCARY! But as hard as he tries, Leonardo can't scare even a mouse. When other monsters laugh and make fun of him, Leonardo goes in search of the most scary-cat kid in the whole world to try and scare the tuna salad out of him! Nationally acclaimed theatre company Manual Cinema breathes life into this beloved story (and its doubly charming sequel), using hundreds of puppets to magically create a movie before your very eyes. Inspired by the books "Leonardo, The Terrible Monster" and "Sam, The Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World" by Mo Willems. Tickets \$15-\$25 at [childrenstheatre.org](http://childrenstheatre.org).

#### The Empire Strips Back:

#### A Burlesque Parody

Jan. 8 through Feb. 2,  
Granada Theater

3022 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

The Empire Strips Back celebrates a resurgence of burlesque, while delivering a fun and rowdy experience for fans of the art form as well as the classic film series. Ariana Bindman of SF Gate said, "Popularized in the U.S. in the 19th century, burlesque blurs the line between comedy and adult entertainment, incorporating camp and theater in playful strip routines." Transporting audiences to a world of burlesque fantasy, of menacing and sexy dance, of dangerous seduction, of hilarious parody, and even the droids you're looking for. Information at [granadampls.com](http://granadampls.com)

#### Rhythms of Renewal:

#### A New Year's Celebration

Jan. 11, 2 to 3 p.m.

Hamline University

Sundin Music Hall

1531 Hewitt Ave. Saint Paul

Celebrate the New Year with a dynamic fusion of tradition and innovation, as Japanese taiko

drumming, ballet, and contemporary dance unite in a mesmerizing performance.

This performance is a symbolic journey through the transition of the old year to the new, honoring Japanese culture, tradition, and spiritual renewal. It blends the elegance and poise of ballet, the fluidity and expressiveness of contemporary dance, and the intensity and power of taiko drumming to represent different aspects of life, nature, and renewal.

#### Timbre Junction for Habitat for Humanity

Jan. 11, 7 p.m.

Prospect Park United Methodist Church  
22 Orlin Ave. SE., Mpls.

As one of the Twin Cities hardest working acoustic acts, Timbre Junction has a reputation for playing a variety of musical styles and putting on a spirited show. With their emphasis on skillful playing, tight arrangements and expressive vocals done "their way", Timbre Junction pushes the envelope. Habitat for Humanity works with families, local communities, volunteers and partners from around the world so more people can live in affordable and safe homes. For more information, call 612-378-2380 or visit [prospectparkchurch.org](http://prospectparkchurch.org). Free, with a freewill offering benefitting Habitat for Humanity.

#### Forward Together : Day 1 for ERA - Rally at the Capitol

Jan. 14 · 10am to 12pm  
MN State Capitol Rotunda

75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Saint Paul

10:00 a.m.: Rally with us in the rotunda and hear from equal rights leaders throughout the state.

11:30 a.m. Greet legislators as they enter the chambers, write notes in support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, and connect with other advocates. [eramn.org](http://eramn.org)

#### Seed Sorting Party

Jan. 15 and 29,

Feb. 5 and 19,

1 to 2 p.m.

Nokomis Branch,  
Hennepin County Library  
5100 34th Ave. S., Mpls.

Help sort and label donated seeds for the Nokomis Community Seed Library! A seed library is a collection of community-donated seeds that can be borrowed from the library and planted at home. Volunteer while learning more about seed saving and gardening. Collaborator: Seed Sages.

#### Arthritis Exercise Class

Jan. 16 through March 6

Eight sessions, Thursdays,  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 East 31st St., Mpls.

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP) is a low-impact,

recreational exercise program for people with or without arthritis. Trained AFEP instructor Julia Ockuly will cover range-of-motion and endurance-building activities, relaxation techniques, and health education topics. Exercises can be modified. Suggested donation of \$2 per class.

To register, call Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799, or email [juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors](mailto:juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors).

#### Make Art at the Museum: Botanical Watercolors with Artist Alyssa Whetstone

Jan. 16, 6 p.m.

The Museum of Russian Art,  
Robert J. Brokop Gallery  
5500 Stevens Ave., Mpls.

Surrounded by Alexander Viazemsky's stunning botanical paintings, learn watercolor techniques in a fun, relaxed environment and create a work of art to take home. Be skillfully lead, step-by-step, through this immersive painting class while you enjoy the beauty of TMORA's galleries. No experience needed. Recommended for ages 16 and up. Information at [tmora.org](http://tmora.org). Cost: \$50, includes supplies.

#### '7 Dirty Words' A Celebration of The Original Culture Critic!

Jan. 17, Doors 7 p.m.,

Big Screen 7:30 p.m.

The Hook & Ladder Theater  
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.

Join the Firehouse Performing Arts Center (FPAC) board, staff and volunteers at The Hook & Ladder Theater the week before inauguration. A very special evening on the big screen, we dive into the timeless material left behind by one of America's greatest comedians, focused on sociocultural criticism of American society. Free Registration. Donations accepted at the door!

#### Art Shanty Projects

Jan. 18 through Feb. 9,

Weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bde Unma (Lake Harriet)

4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy.,  
Mpls.

Each winter Art Shanty Projects hosts an immersive art program on a frozen lake in Minneapolis. Artists embrace the challenges and opportunities of winter and the ephemeral nature of a frozen winter landscape to create a temporary vibrant and colorful public art community. We welcome visitors around DIY shanties. Welcoming all ages to play, learn, grow, laugh, smile, sing, groove and gather with us! More details to come. Information at [artshantyprojects.org](http://artshantyprojects.org).

#### Dangers and Disasters Tours

Jan. 19, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Mill City Museum

704 S 2nd St., Mpls.

Flour milling could be a dangerous job. Workers were exposed to constantly moving machinery, high-powered water turbines,

and tall grain elevators where one wrong move might have disastrous consequences. This tour of the Washburn A Mill will explore the dangers that workers faced on the job, including the deadly 1878 mill explosion that led to the destruction and rebuilding of the riverfront industrial district. The tour will also include discussions of daily workplace machinery hazards such as the "Humphrey manlift." Tour price includes museum admission. Discount for MNHS members. [mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org)

#### Cult Cinema Classic Presents: Rocky Horror Picture Show

Jan. 19, 7 to 10 p.m.

Roxy's Cabaret

1345 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.

Welcome to Cult Cinema Classic Sunday! Get ready for a night with one of our favorite cult films from the past. Join us on Sundays at 7 p.m. Central Time for a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Grab some popcorn, sit back, and enjoy a selection of iconic movies that have stood the test of time. Whether you're a die-hard fan or just looking for a fun way to spend your Sunday, this event is perfect for all cinephiles. Don't miss out on this opportunity to experience some of the greatest cult classics on the big screen! See the schedule at [roxyscabaret.com](http://roxyscabaret.com)

#### Mubanga Kalimukwento presents Obligations to the Wounded

Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

Magers & Quinn Booksellers

3038 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

"Obligations to the Wounded" is the winner of the 2024 Drue Heinz Literature Prize, selected by Angie Cruz. In formally adventurous stories rooted in Zambian literary tradition, Obligations to the Wounded explores the expectations and burdens of womanhood in Zambia and for Zambian women living abroad. The collection converses with global social problems through the depiction of games, social media feuds, letters, and folklore to illustrate how girls and women manage religious expectation, migration, loss of language, death, intimate partner violence, and racial discrimination. [magersandquinn.com](http://magersandquinn.com)

#### Marcie Rendon, Stitches Of Tradition - Evening Storytime and Crafts!

Jan. 23, 6 p.m.

Red Balloon Bookshop

891 Grand Ave., Saint Paul

Through the years, an Ojibwe grandmother and her granddaughter share the cultural tradition of sewing ribbon skirts to honor previous generations and celebrate women. Celebrate the power of Indigenous craft and community with Marcie Rendon at Red Balloon Bookshop! Join Marcie for a read-aloud from the

book and put your own creative talents to the test with a ribbon craft activity. This event is open to the public, but registration helps us when considering spatial constraints. You can register for a ticket for free through January 23, 4 p.m., and order the book on Red Balloon's website.

#### Taylor Swift Day

January 25, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Inbound BrewCo

701 North 5th Street, Mpls.

Calling all Swifties! Join us on January 25th, 2025, for a day packed with everything Taylor Swift. From crafting to trivia, singing, and live music, it's going to be a magical celebration for fans! Here's the lineup:  
Bracelet Making:  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Swiftie Trivia: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Karaoke: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Taylor's Version Cover Band:  
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Bring your friends, make some new ones, and hang with fellow fans as we celebrate all things Taylor.

#### 20th Annual Winter Kite Festival

Jan. 25, noon to 4 p.m.

Bde Unma (Lake Harriet)

4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy.,

Mpls.

A free, family outdoor event on the north end of the lake. Bring a kite or buy one there. Check out the huge kites and high-flying talents of the Minnesota Kite Society. Music, ice-fishing lessons from Tips Outdoors and a free marshmallow roast sponsored by LHNC. Food trucks onsite. Free shuttle, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., from the Calhoun Executive Lot (3033 Excelsior Blvd); masks required. Driving? Bandshell parking lot will be closed to vehicle traffic. Expect delays on West Lake Harriet Parkway, allow ample time to find a spot and walk to the venue.

#### Dolls of Our Lives: Why We Can't Quit American Girl

Jan. 25, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota History Center

345 West Kellogg Boulevard

Saint Paul

Join Mary Mahoney for a talk about the wild world of American Girl fandom. Mary will dive into American Girl books from their (and perhaps your) childhood. Using their knowledge as a professional historian and finely tuned instincts as an amateur pop culture critic, they'll take you back to a very different time - the 1990s. Bring your Minnesota dolls Kirsten Larson (1986) and Lila Monetti (2024) - or just bring your questions - for what promises to be an engaging conversation! Book signing in the lobby following the talk.

#### 763rd Annual Powderhorn

Art Sled Rally

Jan. 25, 2 p.m.

Powderhorn Park

# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

### 3412 S. 15th Ave., Mpls.

A celebration almost older than Jesus. Snow or not, we'll be ready to drag your butt down the hill! If you're building something, finish it no matter the weather! And the rest of you? I hope you'll come by and cheer whatever gets created! Build a sled and bring it to the park a little before 2 p.m. Slide down for the crowd, accept cheers and adulation for your courage and creativity! No rules about designs, sizes or materials. Not a contest, a celebration! Sometimes there are five sleds, sometimes fifty! Dress appropriately, rather than dress warm. Information at [artsledrally.com](http://artsledrally.com).

### Finding Inspiration in the Collections

Jan. 25, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

#### Milkweed Books

1011 Washington Ave S., Mpls.

Join us to hear Marlene Zuk and Kathryn Nuernberger read, discuss science writing and finding inspiration from museum collections. Students from the workshop will be invited—but not required—to share their writing at the open mic after the reading and conversation. This event is preceded by a workshop at the Bell Museum. Guests are encouraged to attend both, but this reading is open to the public. See [bellmuseum.umn.edu](http://bellmuseum.umn.edu) for more information.

### The Root Beer Lady

Jan. 25 through Feb. 23

#### History Theater

30 East 10th St., St. Paul

The story of Dorothy Molter, the last legal non-indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters, reflects the beauty and hardships of Molter's solitary yet satisfying life beginning in 1934. The play, funny and passionate, explores her independence, fortitude, and love of nature. Molter pushes back against the premise that her time in the North Woods made her the "Loneliest Woman in America," as the Saturday Evening Post claimed in 1952. Tickets: \$25-69, Students: \$15 at [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com). There are 15 steps to balcony seating. No elevator available. If this is a concern, please contact the box office at 651-292-4323.

### Beauty and Bubbles

#### Drag Brunch

Jan 26, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Roxy's Cabaret

1333 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.

Indulge in a delicious brunch while being entertained by talented drag performers who will dazzle you with their incredible performances. Whether you're a drag enthusiast or new to the scene, this event promises an unforgettable experience. Grab your friends and come dressed to impress! This event is in person, so mark your calendars and secure your spot!

### The Greatest Showman

#### Sing-along

Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

#### Riverview Theater

3800 42nd Ave. S., Mpls.

From the producers of Sing-along-a "Sound of Music" and Sing-along-a "Grease"! Experience The Greatest Showman in the greatest way possible – with lyrics on the screen! Sing as loud as you want! Our live host will teach you dance moves and show you how to use our prop bags. It couldn't be easier or more fun! Costumes strongly encouraged, full audience participation essential. Visit [singalonga.net](http://singalonga.net) for more information. All seating is reserved. [riverviewtheater.com](http://riverviewtheater.com)

### Dismantling White Saviorism:

#### Knowing Your Role in Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion

Jan. 29, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

#### Virtual Workshop – Live/Online

As White folks, we often do not seek to understand what our role is in anti-racism, equity and inclusion, even in our own workplaces and community spaces. This training will help you understand the Eight White Identities and find your role in the ongoing work of racial and social justice in our communities. All learner types were thought of when planning this training, with times for individual reflection, small group work, and full group sharing. Join us to say no to white saviorism and commit to working toward being an ally and accomplice. \$95 for MCN members, \$135 for nonmembers. [minnesotanonprofits.org](http://minnesotanonprofits.org)

### The Saint Paul Chamber

#### Orchestra: Haydn's

#### "Fire" Symphony

Jan. 30, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Temple Israel

2323 Fremont Ave. S., Mpls

In another strand of the temporal theme woven throughout the 2024/25 season, SPCO violinist Nina Tso-Ning Fan lights a fire in January, leading the orchestra in Winter from Antonio Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Works by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel and Max Richter offer additional interpretations on the passage of time, driving toward the centerpiece of this program — Franz Joseph Haydn's spirited Fire Symphony.

### California Dreamin':

#### The Songs of Laurel Canyon

Jan. 30 through Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.

#### Chanhassen Dinner Theatres

501 West 78th St., Chanhassen

The Laurel Canyon neighborhood in Los Angeles in the 1960s and early 1970s produced some of the greatest music of that era. Down the road from Joni Mitchell or upstairs from Jackson Browne. Being at a neighbor's house, there's a guitar or piano... and it's Neil Young or Graham

Nash. Imagine your neighbors were musicians starting bands called The Doors, The Byrds, and The Eagles.

Veteran singers Mary Jane Alm, Boyd Lee, Aimée Lee, Paul and Timothy Frantzich, with stellar musicians, will walk you through the streets of this magical place and time. Hear the stories of some of your favorite musicians. Your memory will be flooded with songs from many artists... all who resided in this beautiful bubble of creativity, friendship, sunshine and music.

### Art & Science on the River:

#### Salt Workshop

Feb. 1, 10 a.m. to noon

#### Mississippi Watershed

#### Management Organization

2522 Marshall Street Northeast, Mpls.

Join us for a morning at the MWMO Stormwater Park and Learning Center where we will learn about the impacts of salt on the Mississippi River and surrounding watershed. Did you know that one teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water and salt makes freshwater uninhabitable for many aquatic species?

Local artists Kimberly Boustead and Annie Hejny will lead an art-making activity centered around the interaction of salt and water and MWMO staff member, Abby Moore, will share information about salt pollution in the river and best practices to prevent it.

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

Feb. 1 through March 23

#### Guthrie Theater,

#### Wurtele Thrust Stage

818 S. 2nd St., Mpls

On the shortest night of the year, magical and mortal worlds collide. What could go wrong? Shakespeare gives us a clue: "The course of true love never did run smooth." In this beloved tale of mischief and merriment, four stories are woven together: the marriage of the Athenian duke to the Amazon queen; a spat between the fairy king and queen; the follies of four lovers; and the hilarious antics of amateur actors staging a play. Ticket information at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org).

### City of Lakes Loppet

#### Winter Festival

Feb. 1 and 2

1301 Theodore Wirth Pkwy., Mpls.

A two-day festival, including a variety of point-to-point Cross-Country Ski, Fat Bike, Skijor, and Snowshoe events, competitive races and recreational touring events. With unique events, such as the Kubb Tournament. Keep the fun going with the Luminary Loppet (also the Loppet's largest fundraiser of the year!) on the second Saturday in February. [loppet.org](http://loppet.org)

### Spring Flower Show

Feb. 1 through 28,

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 1 through 16,

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Minnesota Landscape

#### Arboretum

3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska

Over a dozen breathtaking displays, crafted by our talented staff and community partners. This year's installations will transport you to enchanted spring gardens, where the magic of nature comes alive through floral designs. Don't miss special nights: After Hours with the Flowers, Fairy Garden Workshops and afternoon Teas. Enjoy the Woodland Friends Hunt and Birds & Botanicals exhibit. Register on the website. Free - \$25. [arb.umn.edu/flowershow](http://arb.umn.edu/flowershow)

### Glory, A Hockey Play That Swings

Feb. 2 through 25

Fridays & Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.

Sundays, 2 p.m.

#### Theatre in the Round

245 Cedar Ave., Mpls.

It's 1933. Four friends set out to prove to Canada that hockey isn't just a men's sport. But with the Great Depression weighing on the nation and political tensions rising in Europe, can they overcome the odds, and people's expectations, to forge their own path to glory? Inspired by the true story of the Preston Rivulettes and with music of the jazz age, Glory proves that a woman's place is on home ice. Ticket information at [theatreintheround.org](http://theatreintheround.org)

### Multigenerational Competency in the Workplace

Feb. 5, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

#### Virtual Event – Live/Online

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits is excited to partner with Transformative Leadership Strat-

egies (TLS) on this training. Workplace teams are composed of four generations of people who work in different ways. In this session, participants will review the attitudes, behaviors and skills that each generation exhibits. Participants will also discuss generational stereotypes that exist. Additionally, they will identify key characteristics of how they tend to work best. Finally, skills for effectively communicating and working across generations will be explored. \$50 for MCN members, \$70 for nonmembers. [minnesotanonprofits.org](http://minnesotanonprofits.org)

### North Star Voices: Diversity and the Outdoors

Feb. 8, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

#### Minnesota History Center

345 West Kellogg Boulevard Saint Paul

Learn about the changing face of conservation and outdoor recreation in America with acclaimed Duluth-based author, photographer and advocate, Dudley Edmondson. In this thought-provoking talk, Edmondson, explores the intersection of race, representation and environmental stewardship. Drawing from his compelling book, *People the Planet Needs Now*, Edmondson shares powerful stories from Black and Brown scientists and activists whose lived experiences and groundbreaking work offer new perspectives on addressing the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. Join us for this inspiring talk to discover how representation and inclusion in conservation can spark solutions and affect global change. The event is free to the public. For further information, please visit [dudleyedmondson.com](http://dudleyedmondson.com).

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### EVENTS

**ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.  
612-724-3643  
saintalbertthegreat.org

**Donut Sale**  
Feb. 1 & 2, before and after mass  
Cash and check only please.  
\$10/dozen  
\$5/half dozen  
\$1/each  
Sign up to place pre-orders for  
Full dozens!  
Sign up to volunteer!

**Diamond Lake Lutheran Church**  
5760 Portland Ave. S.  
612-866-2579, dlhc.org  
**Six Weeks on Money**  
Beginning Jan. 8  
Community meal: 5:30 p.m.  
Kids Club runs concurrently with  
program. Free and all are welcome!  
An ELCA initiative designed to help  
participants better understand the  
role money plays in our lives through  
the lens of Christian faith, provid-  
ing practical guidance and spiritual  
reflection. Every week delves into  
a different topic including Values,  
Scarcity, and Agility. The course is  
open to everyone, regardless of  
background or financial experience.  
You will gain the tools and support  
needed to make better financial  
decisions while staying grounded in  
your faith. No personal details about  
income, debt, or savings will be re-  
quired. Let's learn together how we  
can live out the principles of stew-  
ardship and generosity in every area  
of our lives! (Six Weeks on Money  
does not take place on Jan. 29 or  
Feb. 5. Alternate programming will  
occur at those Lakeview Forums.)

**Saint Joan of Arc  
Catholic Community**  
4537 3rd Ave. S.  
612-823-8205  
stjoan.com

**St. Joan of Arc Book Club**  
Jan. 8, 6 to 8 p.m.  
The purpose of the Parish Book Club  
is to build community through the  
shared experience of great stories  
— and we do just that on the second  
Wednesday of most months. This  
month we are discussing the play  
"A Midsummer Night's Dream" by  
William Shakespeare. We meet in  
the Arc\* (on the north side of 45th  
Street across from the parking lot).  
Everyone is welcome. Our books  
are chosen by surveying the group.  
We recommend joining our email  
group. Please contact Lucy Peter-  
meier 612-823-8205 to join the  
email group.  
**SAGES 2nd Monday Dialogue**  
Jan. 13, 1:30 to 3 p.m.  
Eyleen Braaten, Executive Director  
of Giving Voice, will share how this  
organization inspires and equips  
organizations to bring together  
people with Alzheimer's and other  
dementias.  
**LGBTQ+ January Book Club**  
Jan. 13, 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
We will be discussing "We Are  
Only Ghosts" by Jeffrey L. Richards.  
Google Books calls it an exhilarating,  
brutally candid saga about sexuality  
and war, tenderness and trauma.  
**Seniors' Empowerment**  
Jan. 18, 10 a.m. to noon  
"If You're Alive - Your Mission on  
Earth Isn't Finished" Author David  
McNally, believing in the transcen-  
dent nature of the human spirit,  
brings his focus and expertise.  
**Health Home Campaign**

Jan. 23, 5 to 7 p.m.  
Join us in Hospitality Hall for an  
interactive class on African cooking.  
RSVP to Julie Madden,  
Phone: 612-823-8205.  
It will be a delicious time!

**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
1900 Nicolett Ave. S.  
612-871-7400  
Plymouth.org  
**Book Club**  
Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m.  
Interested in joining? Have any  
questions? Contact Wanda Bee  
at realestate@wandabee.com.  
Check the book cart in the Cloister  
Garden to purchase books. We  
prefer to meet in person, however,  
if you need to join via Zoom,  
please call: 253-215-8782  
**Plymouth's Elaine Marsh Library**  
This is a lending library with a rich  
spectrum of over 3,000 books,  
which may be checked out for up  
to a month. The library is open on  
weekdays and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m., and 6 to 9 p.m. Wednes-  
days during the program year.

**Minnehaha United  
Methodist Church**  
3701 E. 50th St.  
612-721-6231, minnehaha.org  
**Taizé Service**  
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. We will  
be live-streaming our services, so  
you can catch Taizé from your home  
(or cabin or wherever you are) in  
real time, or anytime you want.

**Central Lutheran Church**  
**Free Store Needs Donations!**  
333 S. 12th St.  
612-870-4416  
centrallmpls.org  
Sunday through Thursday  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
The Free Store is a critical  
community resource that allows  
guests to shop for what they need  
at no cost. Items needed: blankets,  
towels, sheets, kitchenware and  
clothing. Donations accepted from  
4th Ave. loading dock. Press the call  
button and someone will come to  
help you. All donated items should  
be clean and in good condition.  
Call with any questions.

**MCC Refugee Services**  
122 Franklin Ave. W, Suite 100  
651-724-0944  
mnchurches.org  
**Household and Bathroom  
Supplies Needed!**  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Since January, MCC has welcomed  
>392 new arrivals to Minnesota.  
These families come with nothing  
but a few suitcases. We need your  
support in creating welcome kits.  
We have set up gift registries with  
items included in every welcome  
kit. Donation guidelines and links to  
our wish-lists available at  
mnchurches.org/ways-help/give-  
items. We are especially looking  
for: bar soap, laundry detergent,  
deodorant, shower curtains, and  
shower rings. Call, email Noah at  
noah.wilkerson@mnchurches.org,  
or drop any donations off at our  
offices

### SHARING FOOD

**Church of the Incarnation**  
3817 Pleasant Ave. S., 612-822-2101  
Español: 612-874-7169  
incarnationmpls.org  
**Harvest of the Heart**  
harvestfromtheheart.org  
Tuesday through Friday  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
2730 E. 31st St. 612-978-7974  
htlcmpls.org  
**Soup for You! Café**  
soupforyou.info  
Lunch Monday through Friday  
noon to 1 p.m.  
Groceries Wednesday  
noon to 1 p.m.  
More information on our  
Facebook page or our website

**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
3901 Chicago Ave. 612-827-2504  
clchurch.org  
**Calvary Emergency Food Shelf**  
612-827-2504, ext. 3.  
clchurch.org/food-shelf  
Continuing its mission of providing  
access to fresh, nutritious food for  
the community. Call for more info.

**New Creation Baptist Church**  
1414 E. 48th St., 612-825-6933  
newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org  
facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf.  
(Grey door on the corner of  
48th St. & 15th Ave.)  
Saturday (except 5th Saturdays)  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
We do require mask, sanitizer  
and temp check.  
Be safe and God bless!

See Sharing, page 18

## The Southside Religious Community Welcomes You

**Bahá'í**  
**BAHÁ'I CENTER OF MINNEAPOLIS**  
3644 Chicago Ave. S., 612-823-3494  
minneapolisbahai.org  
Assembly@minneapolisbahai.org  
Devotions at the Bahá'í Center  
and via Zoom  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Tuesday via Zoom 6:30 p.m.  
*So powerful is the light of unity  
that it can illuminate the whole  
earth.*  
-Baha'u'llah

**Christian**  
**DIAMOND LAKE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
5760 Portland Ave. S.  
612.866-2579, dlhc.org  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Followed by Congregational  
Fellowship Hour 11:45 a.m.  
Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3901 Chicago Ave. S.  
612-827-2504, clchurch.org  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
Pastor: Jenny Sung  
*A Reconciling in Christ  
Congregation*

**FAITH EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3430 E. 51st St., 612-729-5463

faithlutheranmpls.org  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
and online on Facebook  
facebook.com/felcmpls  
Blind Faith Ministry  
Jan. 18, noon to 2 p.m.  
AA group Monday 6:30 p.m.  
Senior Exercise Class  
Monday 10 a.m.  
NA groups Tuesday 7 p.m. and  
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN  
CHURCH (ELCA)**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.  
612-722-1083  
holycrossmpls.org  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
*An inclusive community  
encouraging lives of service.*

**LIVING SPIRIT**  
Multicultural/United Methodist  
Justice — Generosity — Faith  
4501 Bloomington Ave.  
612-721-5025  
livingspiritumc.org  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Check website for worship  
schedule  
Anytime: livingspiritumc.org/watch

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
The Center for Changing Lives  
2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831  
messiahlutheranmpls.org  
Traditional Worship with  
Holy Communion Sunday 9 a.m.  
Praise Worship Sunday 11 a.m.  
(Holy Communion

1st and 3rd Sunday)  
Fellowship Sunday 12:30 p.m.

**MINNEHAHA COMMUNION  
LUTHERAN**  
4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527  
minnehahacommunion.org  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
in person & online  
12-step groups Tuesday  
through Friday evenings,  
see website for more info.  
Pastor: Kyle Anderson  
*Reconciling in Christ  
Congregation*

**NOKOMIS HEIGHTS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH — ELCA**  
5300 10th Ave. S., 612-825-6846  
nokomisheights.org  
Bilingual (English/Spanish)  
Sunday Worship in  
Sanctuary 10 a.m.  
Holy Communion  
1st and 3rd Sunday  
Adult Forum and Sunday School  
at 9 a.m.  
Sunday worship is recorded live  
for viewing on Monday  
mornings on Facebook and  
YouTube.

**ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.  
612-724-3643  
saintalbertthegreat.org  
Weekend Masses  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

(also live-streamed on  
Facebook)  
Sunday noon  
Weekday Masses  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, and Friday  
8:15 a.m. in the Chapel  
Pastor: Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.


**ST. JOAN OF ARC  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
4537 Third Ave. S.  
612-823-8205. stjoan.com  
Saturday 5 p.m. in the Church  
Sunday 7:45 am in the Church,  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the gym,  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Family Mass  
in the Church  
Video available on our website  
and Facebook page  
*We Welcome You Wherever You  
Are On Your Journey*

**SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
SCIENTIST**  
1822 Hennepin Ave. S.  
612-377-5668  
secondchurchminneapolis.com  
Join us in-person or online for  
Sunday and Wednesday church  
Services.  
Sunday Service and Sunday school  
for ages 3 to 20, 10 a.m.  
Wednesday's Service  
with Testimonies of healing  
through prayer, 7:30 p.m.  
Childcare is provided for small  
children at all services.  
The Christian Science Reading  
Room and bookstore is open

7 days a week  
To learn more about Christian  
Science and Reading room hours,  
please visit our website

**TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CONGREGATION**  
Augsburg College,  
Hoversten Chapel  
Riverside & 22nd Aves.  
612-333-2561  
trinitylutherancongregation.org  
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.  
Adult Forum 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
Pastor: Jane Buckley-Farlee

*International Society for  
Krishna Consciousness*  
**ISKCON MINNESOTA TEMPLE**  
4000 Minnehaha Ave.  
612-999-7851  
iskconminnesota.org  
Open Monday through Friday  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday Temple Service  
4:30 to 7 p.m.  
(Kirtan, Dharma talk,  
free vegetarian feast)  
Wednesday Night Wisdom Talk  
7 to 8 p.m.  
Saphala Ekadashi: Jan. 7  
Putrada Ekadashi: Jan. 21  
All are welcome, we practice  
Bhakti Yoga, devotional service  
to God, stop by and see what  
it's all about.

 All directory churches  
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# MCWD's 45-Year-Old Plan for Gray's Bay Dam

BY KATHRYN KELLY

Why was Lake Hiawatha at risk for flooding again this year? And why did Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner Musich make a special trip to Hiawatha Golf Course to warn the staff? Maybe it is because the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is using a 45-year-old plan for controlling the water coming from Lake Minnetonka into Minnehaha Creek. The high rainfall in early summer exposed concerns with the plan and the decisions that were made.

The MCWD website states, "The operating plan for the Gray's Bay Dam was designed to mimic the hydrologic conditions of Minnehaha Creek before urbanization, but it also accounts for changing weather." Also, the operating plan says their goal is to reduce flooding on the lake by stabilizing Lake Minnetonka's levels between the elevation of the low point on the previous fixed weir prior to 1979 (928.6 feet) and the Ordinary High-Water level (929.4 feet).

Why is this concerning? The top of the dam is at 930.0 feet. Thus, the operating plan allows only 16.8 inches of play from the lowest water level allowed in Lake Minnetonka to the overflow of the dam. How realistic is this with climate change and

massive changes in the watershed due to development since 1979?

We researched what happened this year after being in a drought.

The operating plan states that the starting point for the lake level in the spring is supposed to be 928.6 feet. On March 20, 2024, the lake level was at 928.64 feet, the expected starting point.

The operating plan also states, "It is the policy of the district to operate the Headwater Control Structure to reduce flooding both on Minnehaha Creek and Lake Minnetonka. This is accomplished by controlling the discharge from Lake Minnetonka to Minnehaha Creek after ice-out (approximately April 15) until approximately mid-June. As a result, water is temporarily stored on the lake."

In 2024, ice-out was declared on Lake Minnetonka on March 13, 2024. Yet, the MCWD did not start releasing any water from Lake Minnetonka until May 1. By that time the lake level had risen to 929.52, about 6 inches below the top of the dam. The reason stated for the late date was that spring precipitation finally removed the watershed from a drought classification. After May 1, due to high rainfall, the lake level fluctuated until it hit 929.92 feet on July 5, less



Gray's Bay Dam

than an inch below the top of the dam!! Throughout this timeframe, MCWD staff was increasing and decreasing the rate of flow through the dam, trying to balance the water coming from Lake Minnetonka with the water entering Minnehaha Creek

from the lower watershed.

So, why had it increased to 929.52 feet before the MCWD started releasing water from the lake? We looked at precipitation levels for the MSP airport for March and April.

In March and April there

were 4 periods of precipitation - March 24-26 (2.32 inches), April 7-8 (0.78 inches), April 16-17 (1.66 inches) and April 27-30 (1.5 inches). The first 3 were followed by 11, 7 and 9

See Grays, page 18

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Gray's, from page 17

days of little or no precipitation, respectively. Since ice-out on Lake Minnetonka was prior to this rainfall, it appears that the MCWD could have released water for any or all of these precipitation events to lower the lake level. The MCWD finally opened up the dam after the 4th rainfall (April 27-30) after holding onto about 6.26 inches of precipitation. Note: We also looked at Chanhassen rain statistics and the total rain from March 13 to April 30 was a comparable 6.08 inches.

Since the MCWD states that water can be released from Lake Minnetonka in a controlled manner after ice-out, why did the MCWD allow water to build up in Lake Minnetonka for almost one and a half months instead of releasing water to keep the lake at its lowest level? Based on this assessment, it appears that the problem was due to management decisions before the excessive rainfall occurred.

Also of concern is that the operating plan for the dam only allows the level of Lake Minnetonka to fall to 928.6 feet, or

16.8 inches below the top of the dam. According to the operating plan this level is based on the lowest level of the old dam which was replaced in 1979. So, the minimum level of Lake Minnetonka and the release of water is based on the composition of the watershed 45 years ago. Can this lake level be lowered to release more water at appropriate times to provide more storage in Lake Minnetonka for high rainfalls? The lowest lake level on record is 921.78 feet in 1937, almost 7 feet below the currently maintained lowest level.

And we looked at how many years the level of Lake Minnetonka hit or exceeded the top of the dam. 1906-1949 (1 time), 1950-1959 (3 times), 1960-1969 (3 times), 1970-1979 (2 times), 1980-1989 (4 times), 1990-1999 (3 times), 2000-2009 (4 times), 2010-2019 (4 times), 2020-2023 (0 times, so far). It appears that the height of the dam has become less and less effective as a structure for preventing flooding in the lower watershed.

During the last drought, we also found that the creek and Lake Hiawatha are filled with sand and silt from years of build-up. The rules for when to release water are based on the carrying capacity of the creek.



Without periodic dredging of the whole length of the creek, it is continuing to lose its carrying capacity.

With all of the warnings of climate change, and the massive development of the watershed

in the past 45 years, why would the MCWD still be working under these outdated parameters? It appears that Hiawatha Golf Course and Lake Hiawatha are the victim of outdated operating plans and questionable manage-

ment regarding control of water in the watershed.

We have reached out to the MCWD but have not received any answers to our questions at this time.

## Sharing, from page 16

### All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission

3044 Longfellow Ave., 612-791-1253  
allsaintsindianmission.org

### First Nations Kitchen

firstnationskitchen.org  
Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.

We welcome all to our weekly To Go meals and Produce Give Away.

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: director@firstnationskitchen.org or go to our website.

### Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St., 612-721-6231  
minnehaha.org  
facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf  
Tuesday 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 guests and 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.

### Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicolett Ave. S., 612-871-7400  
Plymouth.org  
**Groveland Emergency Food Shelf**  
612-871-0277  
grovelandfoodshelf.org  
Monday through Friday  
9:30 a.m. to noon  
On Groveland Avenue between Nicollet and LaSalle (Temporary entrance on Nicollet Avenue.)  
Hosted in the basement. Delivery is available for individuals who are housebound due to disability.

### Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

5300 10th Ave. S., 612-825-6846  
nokomisheights.org

### Loaves & Fishes

loavesandfishesmn.org  
Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m.  
Free, to-go meals served from side door on 53rd Street. Open to all, no questions asked. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome. Just simply drive or walk up to the church.

### Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service

2600 E. 38th St. 612-827-7928  
greatfriend.org  
**Food Hub**  
Second and fourth Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
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*Donations are essential to our continued ability to save more dogs and cats as well as take on cases that others cannot afford such as extensive surgery, hospice care, and respite foster care. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation towards our animal rescue.*

# The Dish – 2024 in Review, Openings and Closings, and a Local Favorite Lunch Special Mini-review

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Openings and closings of note

In late November, openings included a second location of Francis Burger Joint, a popular NE vegan food outlet. This is on East Lake Street, in the former Peppers & Fries. Two others were new ventures: at 656 Grand Avenue in St. Paul, Russell's replaces the recently closed Tavern on Grand, but has their old main attraction, walleye (both as a taco or an entree.) Meanwhile at 600 West Lake Street, the new Jade Dynasty replaces the Nankin, which closed over 20 years ago! Also, a new Chipotle has opened in Dinkytown.

December (or it might have been Nov. 30, close enough) saw the opening of the Saturday Dumpling Co., in the former spot of the NE Glam Doll Donuts, which also allowed msp-



**Saturday Dumpling Co. owners Peter and Linda**

mag.com's Stephanie March to wrap up her series following the process toward opening, which we mentioned in last month's Dish.

Quite late in December, Razava Bread Co., a long-awaited artisanal bakery, was opened



**Razava Bread Co.**

by Steve Baldinger and Head Baker Omri Zin-Tamir. Located on the ground floor of the Kenton House apartments on St. Paul's Grand Avenue, the bakery includes coffee, tea, and food offerings – such as specialty house bagels with schmears,



**Jade Dynasty opens in former Fuji-Ya space**

shakshuka with a side bagel, or ricotta and smoked mackerel on either toast or pita.

And I guess this is an opening? (It's hard to tell these days, with all the pop-ups, etc.) A bakery-cum-pizzeria called Farina Rossa Kitchen has begun operating out of the space next door to and owned by Fair State



**Harvesting wild rice**

Brewing Cooperative, helmed by a chef-veteran of Travail, JM Lynch. The thing is, it's hard to tell if it's a stand-alone restaurant as well as the food service option of Fair State, and also if it's only there for the winter or permanently. I should be



**Farina Rossa: Frenchy and Bring Za Heat**

finding out soon, as I am going there in early January.

The major closing news was another iconic Chinese restaurant, the Red Dragon at 2116 Lyndale Avenue South. Open since 1976, the restaurant closed on Dec. 29. The other news is the ongoing struggles of Wuollet Bakery, which also owns A Baker's Wife and suburban bakeries Hans' and Grandma's. Several of its many locations have closed in recent months, and they are being sued by two banks, one for a loan default, and one for failure to vacate the premises at 3608 West 50th Street in Minneapolis. One of the owners said he and his partners are in the process of recapitalizing.

## Food producer story of the month

Wild rice, also known as "ma-noomin" in the Anishinaabe language, "psin" in Dakota, is coming back from being endangered. This is especially noticeable in Wisconsin lakes and the northern backwaters of the Mississippi River. A decade ago, wild rice was very scarce

in these areas, but now is more widespread every year. In some areas, it's even blocking boat traffic, impacting recreational uses of the waters. Besides providing food, its growth keeps the waters clearer and healthier,

so the ideal situation would be a balance. But it's mysterious. Even experts cannot say why it thrives in a certain time or place. More research may help. (Minnpost.com, 12/20/2024)

## Food insecurity story of the month

Food bank Open Cupboard operates two "free grocery stores" under the name Today's Harvest. The stores, one in Oakdale, and one that just opened on Dec. 17 in Maplewood, stock food near its sell-by dates but still safe to eat. Unlike in traditional food shelves, customers only need to identify by ZIP code and number in their household, and can select their own items, up to maximum limits. See archive. ph/oEEQi for the Minnesota Star Tribune's coverage of this.

## Mini-review #1 – Chicken Molokhia Soup at May Day Cafe

May Day Cafe's soup-of-the-day specials are extremely varied, extremely cheap, and always delicious. They use social media to advertise what their specials will be the next day, and I was lured in by the news of Molokhia Soup coming up. Wow, it did not disappoint! I wrote in this column about molokhia, a spinach-like green that is a favorite in western Asia and Northern Africa, especially Palestine and Egypt. (See tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-DishSept2024.)

The traditional soup is teeming with bright green molokhia and made hearty with chicken and a slightly thickened broth, flavored with lemon and herbs. It is served with a side of white rice. A generous serving is just \$5! With a fancy lemonade, my entire lunch bill was just \$8.



**May Day Cafe: Chicken Molokai Soup**

## Mini-review #2 – Freekeh salad recipe from Canaan.com

I also wrote recently about Canaan.com, an online shop selling Palestinian olive oil (heavenly!) and other products (see tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-DishNov2024.)

One of the things I bought was freekeh (green wheat.) I made a tabbouleh-like salad with the packet containing their lemon olive oil and cooked freekeh, cherry tomatoes, parsley, mint, and scallions. It's pretty fabulous.



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