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Cam's Corner



Utilities Fail to Deliver We Can Do Better

BY CAM GORDON

This month, the city council, mayor and two large utility companies are poised to sign agreements that will give CenterPoint and Xcel exclusive rights to be the city's natural gas and electricity providers for 10 more years, with options to extend it another 10.

When the gas and electric franchise agreements were last up for renewal in 2013, there was a push led by the group Minneapolis Energy Options, for a municipal, or city, ownership option. Under state law, that is the only legal alternative. In Minnesota, electric and gas utility companies are granted monopolies and are not subject to market competition. But, with a favorable vote of a ballot initiative, cities can own and run their own utility instead.

Back in 2013, after meeting well-funded opposition from the utility companies who seemed eager to avoid a ballot campaign - and facing state laws that favored the private utilities - the municipalization

See Cam, page 6



Will Trump appoint Bob Kroll US Marshall?

BY ED FELIEN

In order to understand the full implications of Trump appointing Bob Kroll as U.S. Marshall, we need to review Hitler's relationship with Ernst Rohm.

Trump's first wife, Ivana, said "The Donald" had a copy of Hitler's speeches on his bedside table.

He once asked his Chief of Staff, John Kelly, "You f—ing

generals, why can't you be like the German generals?"

The German general Trump probably admired most was Ernst Rohm.

After Germany's defeat in World War I, Munich was in chaos. Socialists and Communists were the elected Bavarian government. Then the German military, along with a gang of thugs - the Freikorps, an early version of the Brown Shirts - forc-

ibly overthrew the elected leftist government. There were 600 casualties. Later, 1200 leftists were executed.

Ernst Rohm was in the thick of it. A decorated hero from the war, he was a leader in the Freikorps. He had joined the German Workers Party, the precursor to the Nazi Party, in 1919. Hitler joined the same year.

They planned the Munich Beer Hall Putsch together in

See Kroll, page 3

Can Trump Block the Consent Decree?

BY CLINT COMBS

On Jan. 6th, inside the Minneapolis council chambers, the city and the Department of Justice (DOJ) reached a historic settlement - a federal consent decree aimed at reforming the Minneapolis Police Department following the killing of George Floyd.

The settlement includes bans on neck restraints and First Amendment protections for journalists and activists - something not included in the MDHR agreement. While this milestone signals progress, lingering questions remain about the DOJ's protracted timeline in hammering out such agreements nationwide. U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson has yet to sign the agreement.

Shaila Dewan's New York Times Christmas Eve article briefly addressed concerns that then-President Joe Biden's DOJ was slow in hammering out agreements that would legally bind corrupt police departments to reform their unlawful and racist practices.



Kristen Clark, former Assitant Attorney General for the DOJ's Civil Rights Division, Outlines The Federal Consent Decree.
(Photo/Clint Combs Southside Pride)

"You know, asking the question isn't going to change the terrible situation we're in where you're really pushing up against the wall and trying to get this done before the new administration comes in," said Christy Lopez, a former DOJ Civil Rights Litigator who investigated Ferguson police after the death of Michael Brown. "It might prevent this from happening in the

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Best Friends

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George Floyd Square

BY TOM ABELES

"Just because you invite me to the table doesn't mean that I get something to eat."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The standard development model used by Minneapolis is to invite residents to a series of listening sessions to get ideas and then build possible alternatives. This can be termed an engagement. At the end of implementation, those who contributed are basically not integrated into the effort, and often there is no following participatory plan built into the implementation.

Over time there have been at least 5 to 6 attempts to build such a model for the 4 communities that border on the intersection of 38th and Chicago. There have been similar results for other city projects with concomitant results.

The alternative - a participatory model for which the city invested 400 million dollars over 10 years - is the former Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), where the

funds were given directly to the residents with advice from the city and others. Where citizens have vested interest, there are numerous successful examples from the NRP effort and other programs in the Twin Cities.

38th St. and Chicago Ave.

With the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent riots and destruction, the city needed to repair and rebuild the damage in the blocks between 37th and 39th street along Chicago. Additionally, Floyd's death raised increasing demand to include a memorial and an area for reflection, caring, and repair within the community tempered by the existence of extant racial disparity. As part of the standard engagement via community listening sessions, a Co-creation Team (CCT) was created, which had as its focus the integration of a memorial and other opportunities to respond to the needs of the Black community.

The CCT, seeing no plan to move forward, withdrew and reconstituted itself as the Com-

munity Visioning Council (CVC) with a plan putting the focus first on the historic and current issues facing the Black community. They approached Council Member Jason Chavez with the idea to formally develop a plan - which would replace the perceived failure of the mayor's departments attempt to actualize such a plan - and indicated that they would deliver that plan in the second half of 2025. The first step, as a base, was to be a pedestrian mall between 37th and 38th along Chicago. Chavez authored several RCA's or Requests for council members to act and approve both the planning program and the initial plan for the pedestrian mall.

Under the recent enactment of the new city charter, there is a strict division of the functions of the mayor's departments, including planning and development and the function of the city council. The effort of the CVC and the action of the city council creates a key example of the limits and responsibilities that exist in this strong mayor charter. Whether there is a con-

flict between the two divisions has not been tested with an actual project such as proposed by the CVC. More importantly, there are several examples where council members in the past have authorized and contributed to the action. The new charter's intent to allow either or both the mayor and the council to carry out planning and/or project approval needs clarification to avoid the past problems.

There are a few city council RCA which authorize name changes or designations within the area to be reconstructed. Council authorized name changes are often honorific, such as Kings Highway/Dupont, and are seen by the council as no cost. Unfortunately, when the names define an area, such as George Floyd Square, they have political and cultural significance which deserve attention. The plans for the mall on Chicago are to be designed as pedestrian based and, more importantly, acts intentionally as a constriction for the proposed restoration of Metro Transit

(authorized by a previous RCA). The permit can be revoked if the local businesses and metro transit can identify economic and other problems. Again, the proposed mall should seem to fall within the mayor's department as a planning effort and not within the defined charter functions of the council.

At the present time, the CVC has only a proposed plan - which they will fully construct - which will include the immediate needs to move forward, and a planning document which would be like any proposed development within the city. This includes many elements - including the cost for construction and fiscally sound plans to implement and operate the proposed site - and qualifications of the developer to manage all elements in a fiscal and operational manner, so that the city is relieved of any costs incurred that have not been defined.

The 38th and Chicago effort is the first test of the new city charter, and far more complex than a housing project or similar infrastructure.

Kroll, from page 1

1923. In November, Rohm led about two thousand men from one beer hall to take over the War Ministry. Hitler led another group from another beer hall to support Rohm, but the Bavarian police stopped them. There were 20 casualties.

The cover photo shows Hitler and Rohm at the time of their trial.

Ironically, Hitler was convicted of insurrection and sent to prison for nine months (where he wrote Mein Kampf) and Rohm received a suspended sentence.

Hitler admired and needed Rohm for his daredevil bravery and his organizational contacts.

Trump admires Kroll for his chest full of medals, the many lawsuits against him for excessive force, his organizational skills as head of the Minneapolis Police Officers' Federation and his leadership in City Heat, the white nationalist motorcycle gang of cops from the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

There is an assumed, but so far unproven, connection between Kroll and Mitch Carlson, a member of a white nationalist motorcycle gang of ex-cons. Carlson was video recorded as



1932 Political cartoon

The Umbrella Man smashing the plate glass windows of AutoZone and spray painting "Free Shit for Everyone Zone" on the building. His actions began the looting and burning that caused more than half a billion dollars in damages to Lake Street in 2020.

He was never prosecuted by the Hennepin County Attorney or the Minnesota Attorney General.

restore order.

With Bob Kroll, Trump would have all he needed in one package to sow chaos and restore order.

The job of the U.S. Marshall is to enforce federal laws. Under Donald Trump's direction, it would be expected that the U.S. Marshalls would assist ICE in rounding up illegal immigrants. One would expect Bob Kroll to be most effective at this, and, if he needed any help - Trump just pardoned 1,500 thugs who assaulted police and stormed the Capitol in 2021. While he was a Minneapolis cop, Kroll racked up 52 complaints from the citizens he was pledged to protect. He cost the city millions in lawsuits. Michelle Gross, president of Communities United Against Police Brutality, told the Longfellow Messenger: "Federal Marshalls have enormous power with little oversight - a recipe for disaster if Kroll is in that position."

But disaster might be the justification Trump will be looking for to rule with an iron hand.

A cautionary warning for Bob Kroll: Trump loves to throw his supporters under the bus when he no longer needs them, and Hitler - when he felt him to be a rival to his absolute power - had Rohm executed on The Night of the Long Knives.

So, be careful what you wish for.

So, be careful what you wish for.

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So, be careful what you wish for.

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Best Friends – Wider Knowledge, Fashion, and Trends Fuel Record Spending on Pets

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Why are pet products booming?

It's partly generational, partly the pandemic aftereffects, and partly just vibes. Which means, in this case, when things go viral, it's the thing to do, so it goes even more viral.

In the U.S., about 66 percent of households include one or more

pets, comprising around 87 million animals. Almost a third of the pet owners are millennials, who are more likely right now to be a pet parent than a human parent. Boomers make up the next largest segment, with 27 percent, then GenX with 24 percent. Part of that is the relative size of those cohorts, but still younger adults are where the surge is happening most. Of the U.S. people between 21 and 39 years old, 76 percent of them have at least

one pet. Americans are now spending about \$140 billion a year on pet products, far more than they spend on new clothing, and only slightly less than on fast food restaurants.

Who is tracking this data?

I knew that in this issue I wanted to report on the pet products boom, and as usual, I began with a simple Google search. One of the things I discovered is that businesses are capitalizing on the trend, and some of the emerging businesses are me-

ta-level B2B types, for instance, tracking those very trends for the first-line businesses, or offering them niche software.

Of the nine sources I got from Google for data and tips on pet product trends, five were general marketing trend trackers and four were specialized pet industry businesses or nonprofits. The four specialists:

- etailPet.io – produces software tailored to pet retail shops including online and Direct-to-Consumer (DTC).

- Gingr.com – produces software tailored to doggy daycare, boarding, training, and grooming operations of all types.

- American Pet Products Association (APPA) – a nonprofit membership group.

- Pet Food Industry – an online asset/magazine from a 100+ years old private firm.

So, with these sources, I amassed a lot of information about the exploding trends in pet products and the demographic data behind them.

Pet diets and food treats; supplements

Pets today on the whole are healthier than ever before, and a lot of it is because the natural foods ethos and nutritional science of the human food industry is now being applied to foods for animals. Pet



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food has always been human food, so this is just applying what we think we know about links between food and health to our closest animals, our pets.

Among the values now taking precedence in pet food include emphasis on wild, organic, and raw foods, and using advanced knowledge to take digestive health into consideration. Additives nowadays are more likely to be probiotics or natural fiber and less likely to be corn, soy, or sugar, which were – and still are – common in cheaper foods.

Raw foods for dogs and cats are usually sold frozen, and dry shelf-stable foods are more likely to be freeze-dried with a minimum

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of (or no) preservatives. Chicken, beef, and pork are being replaced with bison, rabbit, salmon, wild turkey, and duck. Grain-free is a powerful value statement on the new pet foods, with green vegetables, blueberries, and flax taking their place for fiber and bulk.

Supplements, too, are converging with humans' supplements, with probiotics and cannabis products being prominent. The cannabis for dogs category is almost a whole new market in itself, with the focus on pet health and the surge in cannabis legalization coinciding.

Pet health, hygiene, and grooming

In the health and hygiene area, emphasis is also on natural products over chemicals, but also on convenience for humans, and sustainability/no-waste. Some new items in this area: pet wipes and compostable options in kitty litter and dog-waste bags. New business models are coming into this space, such as DIY pet-wash outlets (see Bubbly Paws, 4737 Chicago Ave. S.)

Speaking of kitty litter, Pretty Litter is a product that turns colors depending on a cat-user's urinary Ph, which can indicate illnesses. And it's also available by online subscription, which hits another trending category, direct-to-consumer (DTC) marketing.

Veterinary care is being transformed too, with telehealth services now commonly an option. For pets that require surgical procedures, new products ease the healing period, such as a better design than the "cone of shame" and even surgical recovery suits for dogs.

Other things in the health and hygiene category include pet tooth-



Letti Long Pull, one of several cat friends at Catzen Coffee

paste and toothbrushes, customized pet diets, and fitness tracker collars and leashes.

Pet toys, exercise stuff, and whole new categories

Emphasis in the pet toys and exercise trends seems to be on convenience. Witness the ball-launcher, which can play catch all day without getting tired, just like a dog. Or the laser-pointer collar for cats, that causes a laser dot to be produced every time your kitty moves enough.

If Mike Nichols were making The Graduate today, instead of "Plastics," the obnoxious elder in the film would have uttered the word: "Cacios." Cacios are really that world-changing, being attractive outdoor enclosure spaces that solve the age-old problem of how to give your cat outdoor quality time with-

out risking it going feral.

Pet health insurance, cat cafes, and other industries embracing pets

Pet insurance is growing, both in rates of consumer uptake and in coverage areas. Whereas pet insurance was considered a catastrophe or end-of-life protection, plans nowadays commonly cover routine and preventive care and drugs.

Cat cafes are an area where the passion for pets can reach even those of us who don't own one. And they are also booming. A new cat cafe has just opened on St. Paul's Grand Avenue - Catzen Coffee, which combines a coffee lab with a cozy living room full of cats. See catzencoffee.com/meet-the-cats to check out hours, menu, and rules for the mental health of the resident kitties.

Emotional Support Animal kits are a thing now. The clamor to keep your dog involved in your whole life, has led to a rising demand to classify Rover as a necessity. This is

linked to the unfolding revolutions in pet travel with accommodation in hotels becoming more vital. And if you can't take your pet along, there are now luxury pet spas and an amazing array of boarding options.

DTC options also growing

Chewy.com dominates in the DTC retail space. But Walmart, Petco, and other traditional suppliers are offering the same service. Most of the innovative new products and many of the old ones sell both to retail outlets and DTC online.



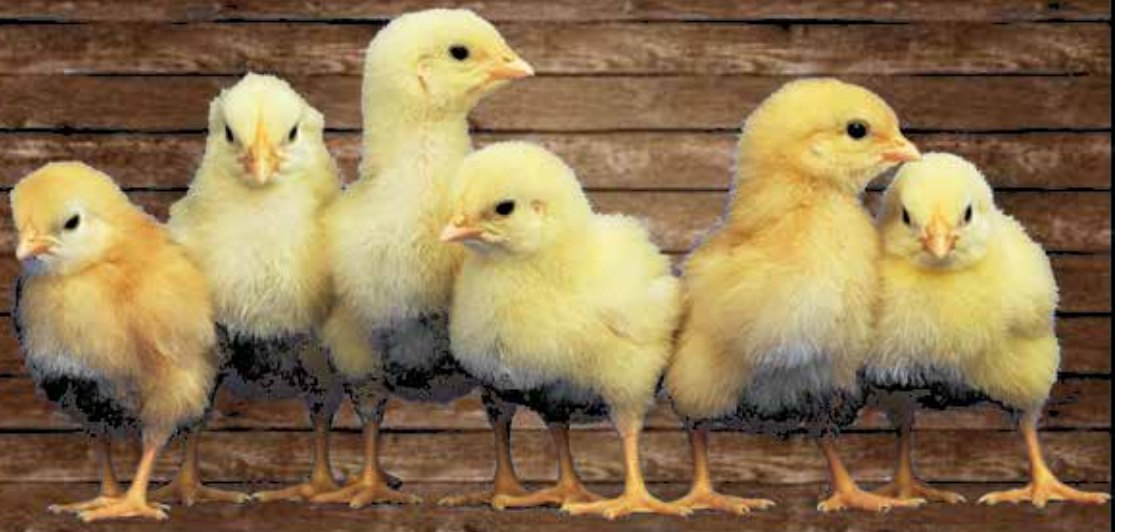
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Hiawatha Links, The Perpetual Dog and Pony Show

BY KATHRYN KELLY

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) held an open house at the Nokomis Community Center on Jan. 16th, to show off their progress with Hiawatha Links, the new name for the Hiawatha Golf Course project.

At the entrance to the gym, the MPRB had several boxes and some plastic discs with which I could indicate which element of the project I was most interested in. I had to make one choice even though more than one was important to me.

As I went to the first 5 display boards, I felt like I was back in 2017 when I first attended these meetings. The boards asked people what they wanted on the site by having them stick blue dots on the items they like. Didn't we all attend meetings and fill out surveys, ad nauseam, in previous years to

determine this? YES! But these 5 boards were heavily oriented to non-golf items. There were 9 golf items, 13 food and beverage items, 15 non-golf activities and 18 social activities. There were many duplicates across the boards which is one way to over-represent a particular item in the results, hoping that a person will select it each time they see it. The other problem with these amenities is that most already exist in the Hiawatha and Nokomis parks. For example, why do we need to build another fishing dock a few hundred feet from the existing one on Lake Hiawatha?

I then saw boards with invalid information like the current 9-hole golf course design which is obsolete and will be replaced by 3 new designs.

Some boards contained problematic information. For example, one board talked about Theodore Wirth dredging and

filling the property for the current golf course; the Park Board has shamed Superintendent Wirth for doing this. Yet, another board proposed the exact same thing for the new Hiawatha Links golf course. Also, a board stated that the plan will improve flooding to the north. This appears to be the same old solution that the City of Minneapolis has used for over 50 years; send more water to Lake Hiawatha which just continues to unfairly burden the Lake Hiawatha neighborhood with more and more water.

Then, there were disturbing elements of the plan. The proposal still plans on dumping storm water at E. 43rd St. and 19th Ave. S. - across the street from homes - for pollution mitigation. This violates Environmental Protection Agency guidelines which say "do not implement pollution mitigation near other properties."

And a new statement is also disturbing for nearby at-risk homeowners. It says that the plan will "address potential impacts to nearby properties resulting from changes to pumping by installing a more localized pump or nearby resident sump pumps." They have always said that the plan will "protect nearby low basements from groundwater intrusion to the same degree they are protected today." Are they now telling homeowners to prepare for water intrusion into their homes by installing sump pumps? Is the Park Board now willing to admit that their plan will not protect the homes?

In the end, this meeting had some pretty posters and a new project name, but nothing really new to show for the \$1 million dollars of golf revenue that the Park Board has spent. This meeting just reinforced that, over the past 10 years,

they have been spending money hand over fist on nothing while crying poverty, and the new contractors are being paid to start again from square one. If there was an indication of total cost, I didn't see it. We have only seen a 6-year-old estimate of up to \$64 million. Certainly, costs have gone up since then. Many believe that the project will now cost over \$100 million!

On the way out, the MPRB had more little boxes and plastic chips, and asked me to make a choice again. I said that I wanted another box that said, "I don't support this project." The employee didn't know what to say, so I picked up a chip and laid it on the table and said, "This is my choice; keep 18 holes."

It's time to quit wasting money on this project and start spending golf course revenue on maintaining and enhancing the existing golf courses!

Cam, from page 1

effort looked unlikely to make it to ballot and was leveraged to approve shorter, (10 instead of 20-year) franchise agreements and create the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership (CEP). The partnership, which includes the two utilities and the city, was created through memorandums-of-understandings (MOU) that said the utilities would help the city reach its clean energy goals.

If judged on its use as a tool to improve public relations, and to make all sides look like they are doing more to address climate concerns, the CEP can easily be seen as a success.

If judged on its ability to di-

vert community activists and city elected officials away from municipalization efforts and towards managing work plans and meeting agendas, it also appears to be successful.

But if we judge the success of the partnership on how well it has helped the city reach its clean energy vision, it might not look so good.

In one of CEP's annual reports, released in 2023, only 2 of their own 7 measurable goals were scored as being "on track," and those 2 were under city control and totally due to changes in city operations. The 5 that required utility cooperation all failed to be on track.

Earlier, despite agreeing to prioritize an on-bill pay-as-you-

save - or inclusive financing initiative that has successfully been used in other cities - the utilities failed to provide the needed support and assistance. Despite studies, experts and strong support from the community advisors, it has yet to be implemented.

John Farrell, co-director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, director of the Energy Democracy Initiative and member of the city's Energy Vision Advisory Committee, is one of those experts. "The partnership gave the utilities an opportunity to prove their willingness to aid the city's ambitious climate aims," he wrote last June in a Star Tribune commentary. "Ten years later, the results are clear: Utilities are doing little absent state policy or regulatory requirements..."

It is easy to imagine how things could have been worse. Prior to the CEP, the utility managers and executives rarely met with elected officials and often ignored city council regulations, including a city law passed in the 1960s that required all new electric lines to be buried. Xcel also fought the council over burying the powerlines along the Midtown Greenway that they insisted should have been above ground.

With the CEP, city and utility company staff at least meet regularly to discuss work plans with approved goals and CEP efforts. An appointed community advisory committee, the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC), was formed and the utilities have agreed to shared goals and work plans with the city.

Some progress has been made, like required energy disclosure when properties are sold or rented, zero-interest financing for energy-burdened households, and matching grant

funding to support clean energy and energy efficiency projects. But most, if not all, the work for those was done by the city and could have happened without CEP.

Too often the utilities have used the partnership to slow down or back away from commitments that company leaders may have reassessed as too cumbersome or threatening to future profits, like the Resilient Minneapolis program that could have led to much more local clean energy by now, or the inclusive financing initiative.

Now, with this agreement, it seems clear that the companies are more interested in managing city and community concerns, rather than seeing the CEP succeed.

In a report about the current franchise agreement negotiations, city staff acknowledge that "The city sought but was not able to secure structural enhancements to the Clean Energy Partnership that were recommended by city staff or members of the Partnership's Energy Vision Advisory Committee."

Both utilities, apparently, opposed city and community supported efforts, including funding and hiring an independent CEP administrator to staff the partnership, adding a board seat designated for a member of EVAC and the "procedural inclusion of EVAC if and when a utility does not meet their established goals and commitments."

Imagine how much further along we would be if the city owned and managed the utilities.

In 2023 Xcel took in \$489,000,000 and CenterPoint made \$248,000,000, from Minneapolis rate payers. That is a total of \$737,000,000, used to cover costs of providing energy to properties in the city as well as profits to pay divi-

dends to stockholders and help cover other expenses like the \$21,181,951 in compensation paid to Xcel's CEO Bob Frenzel that same year.

What if we kept that in our local economy? What if that could be used to cover the costs of providing fossil-free heat and electricity, to invest in energy efficiency, and for the creation of new, clean energy through small scale thermal energy districts, solar gardens and more?

We need better energy options and changing the energy system through these partnership agreements has not worked.

The upcoming approval process of these latest agreements could be more than a celebratory look-good opportunity for elected officials and utility companies. Can we use it also to pivot towards something better? While likely to pass, let's make this our last set of franchise agreements with the for-profit monopolies. Let us use the time and the likely ongoing existence of the CEP, EVAC, as well as the option to cancel any time with a 12-month notice, to clear the path to municipalization. What legislative barriers do we need to address? What do we need to know and do before we finally put the question before the voters? And, once approved, how do we ensure a smooth transition?

Through independence and democratic oversight, we can join hundreds of municipal gas and electric utilities and secure the freedom and opportunity to create the clean, reliable, affordable, and renewable energy future, and quality green jobs, that the people of Minneapolis deserve, and the future of our species requires.

Park Board Notes

Park Board arrogance on Lake Hiawatha plan

The Park Board had a public hearing in January to ask for public comments on their plan for Lake Hiawatha. On their project page they said:

“Groundwater Pumping Permit

“Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued a Water Appropriations Permit (#2015-2560) that the MPRB must follow. The permit includes a maximum yearly volume of 400 million gallons.

“The DNR issued this permit to bring the MPRB into compliance while the MPRB works to reduce groundwater pumping. Yearly reporting of monthly pumping records is required.”

I wrote to them:

“If the Park Board is concerned about exceeding the maximum pumping limit at Lake Hiawatha, then why don't they remove the artificial dams that are blocking the exit of water on Minnehaha Creek? The Barr Engineering Report said removal of rock weir and gas pipe would lower the lake and surrounding water table by at least two feet.”

They never answered. I wrote again:

“Please explain to our read-



ers why the Park Board is raising the water level of Lake Hiawatha and the surrounding water table by continuing to allow the illegal dams on Minnehaha Creek to block the exit of water from Lake Hiawatha in violation of Minnesota Statute 103G.141.”

Finally, they wrote back:

“Mr. Felien,
“The MPRB has already responded to this question. Please review previous emails or read the related project pages at minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/park-projects/current_projects/”

I wrote back,

“Robin,
“Thank you very much for getting back to me.

“I'm sorry but in all the correspondence I have reviewed and in looking at your Project Page, I found no references to the illegal dams and weirs blocking the exit of water from Lake Hiawatha to Minnehaha Creek.

“Please refer me to the Park Board's answer to my question about why we are not removing the causes of the flooding of Lake Hiawatha wetlands and the basements of surrounding homes.”

I haven't heard back from them, yet.

Correction

In our January edition we said, “Park Board Commissioner Becky Alper will be challenging Aurin Chowdhury.”

We got our Beckys mixed up. Apologies to Becky Alper, but Becka Thompson is possibly

challenging Aurin Chowdhury for a seat on the city council in Ward 12, even though, currently, Thompson lives in North Minneapolis. She wrote a mournful complaint to the Star Tribune that our local city council was more concerned about world problems than problems here at home:

“There are some in our community who would rather cry about issues on the other side of the globe than roll up their sleeves to care for those right in our backyard. Why? Well, from my perspective, it's because it's easier.

“It's easy to hold a news conference and complain, and it gets you like-minded donor money from across the country, too. Win-win for those who only care about power. By contrast, it's difficult to look children in the eyes as they tell you about their homelessness, or how their parents just overdosed, or while you help them search the city for a free coat. It's difficult to sit down with parents and try to help them realize that some of their actions are harming their children, or work with community members to make sure that programming can continue in a city that is quickly coming to financial ruin.”

She has a website: vote4becka.com/ that says, “Becka Thompson Minneapolis Ward 12.”

She's even inspired a satir-

ical website: voteforbecka.com/ that says she's running in Ward 14 (there are only 13 wards in the city).

She has not responded to Southside Pride questions about the seriousness of her candidacy.

Park Board Elections

Precinct Caucuses are April 8. All precinct delegates can attend the City Convention July 19 and 20. July 19 will struggle to endorse a candidate for mayor, and July 20 will seek to endorse At Large candidates for Park Board.

We sent the two candidates who we knew were running for At Large Park Board seats a simple two-part questionnaire:

- Do you support removing the dams on Minnehaha Creek that have blocked the exiting of water from Lake Hiawatha that has resulted in the flooding of basements and sinkholes in neighboring homes in violation of Minnesota Statute 103G.141 – a person is guilty of a misdemeanor for altering the cross section of a public water?

- Do you support insisting the City of Minneapolis remove the sand that has flowed through the storm sewer system to seriously reduce the depth of Lake Hiawatha from 33 feet to a sandbar in many places?

The candidates haven't gotten back to us.

Consent, from page 1

future.”

The DOJ under Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke and Attorney General Merrick Garland launched investigations into 12 police departments but only two agreements were reached: Louisville and Minneapolis. (Mind you judges have yet to sign off on these agreements.)

Michelle Gross, President of Communities United Against Police Brutality echoed concerns outlined in Dewan's article.

“What I know is this, we need to get this consent decree to happen before and it needs to be signed off by a judge before January 20,” said Gross. “Only thing I care about right now, if there are some of these issues with the monitors, whatever those can be dealt with later. But right now, we are on a timeline, and a very fast timeline.”

Jaylani Hussein, President of Minnesota's Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR) chimed in: “That was by intention.”

“That was by intention by who?” I asked.

Both argued Mayor Frey.

“They put us in a position where the incoming Trump administration would remove the opportunity from the community to request stronger provisions in the dissent decree,”

Hussein added. “Now we can't ask for that, because asking for that means it will happen during the Trump administration, with a new DOJ handler, that DOJ handler could scrap this entire thing.”

“The night of the election,” Gross added, “In my mind, I could see Jacob Frey doing handsprings in his office.”

“They're not going to be able to negotiate consent decrees in a lot of cities where there should be or file suit, where cities refuse to negotiate consent decrees, and there's a pattern or practice of misconduct, and that should be untenable for anyone”, Lopez said. “They're making findings of patterns of violating people's rights, and they're not going to be able to obtain any remedy. That's a real problem, and they should be, they should be really looking at how this happened.”

Trump's new DOJ team froze the remaining litigations into two memos obtained by the Associated Press. The memos say that the White House ordered the Civil Rights Division not to file any new complaints against police departments.

The White House, “may wish to reconsider” walking away from agreements made the past 90 days, the memos read.

Below is a Q and A from the press conference on Jan. 6, where city and DOJ officials



Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey Speaks to reporters about the DOJ's Federal Agreement. (Photo/Clint Combs Southside Pride)

constantly sidestepped questions on the timing of this agreement:

Ernesto Londoño, NYT - Q: Is there anything holding the incoming Trump administration back from just saying they're not interested in pursuing this and opting out of the continued enforcement of this agreement.

Clarke - A: “I can't speak to the future, but the Justice Department has always been focused on ensuring compliance with the Constitution, ensuring compliance with federal law, ensuring public safety. That's what brought us to the table today.”

Clint Combs, SSP - Q: What took so long between the time Trump won in November to right now to get a consent decree? Because right now, it seems like it's being played out

in the public that the consent decree was just dealt with today amid Trump's election victory. Do you feel like there was a delay between the time Trump won, till the time you guys got the decree in place?”

Clarke - A: “The Justice Department carries out its work without regard to the electoral calendar, free from political interference. We have been hard at work with city officials negotiating a consent decree that works to address the problems that we identified here in this community. It was hard work, but I know it is a document that the mayor and police chief and the Justice Department are incredibly proud of.”

Mayor Frey: “I'll add, I gave very clear direction to our entire administration to not just get an agreement done with urgency, but to get an agreement done right, to get something that set a standard that everybody understands, a standard that is not going to shift with political wins or changes of administration at the city or federal level. This agreement is rock solid, and our commitment to it, regardless of the circumstances, is also rock solid.”

(Frey's answer makes subsequent rounds on FOX as AP reports potential plans to ditch the agreements. “I have NO doubt that the U.S. DOJ worked with incredible urgency. I also have no doubt they would nev-

er say in public that the city dragged its feet,” Stacey Guri-an-Sherman of Minneapolis for a Better Police Contract replied via email. “Read between the lines - Clarke never backed up that the city acted with the same urgency despite Frey's claims.”)

Liz Sawyer, Strib - Q: “You said that the DOJ acted swiftly in this case, but there was about a year in between the findings report coming out and the city saying that formal talks began when a draft consent decree was offered to them, and then negotiation, formal negotiations started. Is that typical? And why was there such a year-long break?”

Clarke - A: “You know, our work to ensure constitutional policing has been and remains one of our highest priorities, achieved not just through our pattern and practice investigations, but our prosecutions of officers who violate the law, our use of other vehicles such as Title Seven and Title Six of the Civil Rights Act and so much more. It was important that we get it right. We owe that to people here in Minneapolis. This was not a race to the finish line. We put forth a consent decree. Once we got the job done, once we, in partnership with the city, felt that we had mapped out a remedial roadmap designed to address the violations that we identified here.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerns About Metro Transit

Dear Editor

I agree with Bill Marshall about Metro Transit cutting stops (Letter to the Editor, Southside Pride January edition). As a senior and someone with a back injury, I know personally what it is like to have to walk extra steps when stops are closed. Recently, Metro Transit changed the #9 route in downtown Minneapolis. They used to go down 9th Street going north. Now they go on 7th Street instead and the only stop on 9th Street is at Park Avenue. Most people are using the Govt. Center stop because it has heated shelters. That means extra walking and starting out sooner for appointments. There was no notice of this change. I take the bus all the time and I never heard they were changing this route. When I was on the #9 bus going north, I heard nothing but complaints about the change.

Another problem which might surprise people is that their cameras only focus on one image at a time for a few seconds. A Metro driver mangled my grocery cart, and I tried to get compensation. They did not catch it on camera. Because of this reason they did not compensate me for the cart. I pointed out that their cameras only focus on objects and people for a few seconds and then they focus on another image. Not likely to get a mangled cart under these conditions. This could also be a problem when someone commits a crime. The cameras might not catch the image because of the fact they only focus on one image for a few seconds.

Kathie Noga

Editor's note: Metro Transit has upgraded their camera system to include real-time monitoring and playback capabilities. If you have an issue while riding the bus or train, text 612-900-0411 to report suspicious or unwanted behavior.

Property Tax Suggestions

Dear Cam, Ed, and the readers of Southside Pride.

What to do about property taxes? Such an easy problem to solve! Why doesn't the State of Minnesota buy the Minnesota Twins and operate the team to benefit all the communities that depend on property taxes to pay for necessary services and infrastructure? They are, after all, up for sale, and Governor Walz is quite proud of the budget surpluses he racks up for the state. In fact, he even told me himself it was an interesting idea in 2018 when he first ran for Governor! Since there is no Rozelle Clause limiting the team's sale to a public entity, what's to stop us? Unlike the NFL charter that unconstitutionally limits the team owner's ability to sell, implemented after the City of Green Bay bought the Packers to thwart an attempt to move the team out of state, MLB does not have this limit, so it's a green field. Who needs private equity funds or out of town billionaires to milk our towns, teams and fans when we have the most industrious, hardest working taxpayers around?

So instead of getting a tax rebate, I propose we forgo the few hundred dollars and all work toward this possibility. Of course, this plan will inevitably lead to charges of socialism; but it isn't. It's a capitalist plan all the way. Like Green Bay, the state should take the team public so everyone can be a shareholder, as well as a fan. Run the team for profit, but use it to offset costs normally borne by property taxes, not make an owner richer. Municipalize all professional sports franchises in the Twin Cities and we can eliminate nearly all forms of taxation in the state. Nationwide, it would change EVERYTHING.

But wait, there's more! While we cut property taxes to benefit homeowners and landlords – and use the proceeds to make sure we have the best schools and services in the nation – we can also offer our ADOS residents and indigenous neighbors' common stock in each team at par value before each IPO, giving each a chance to accrue generational wealth moving forward as a form of reparations. Since property owners are already getting a boon, all that's left is to make EVERYONE whole. No taxes, social justice, great schools; everyone wins.

If anyone is interested in this plan, please let the folks at Southside Pride know; I've got the framework of a plan already written and ready to go. I call it the "Save the World Hat Trick."

And the Governor ALREADY said it was interesting...

Ken Shain

The many trials of Brenda Short

BY CLINT COMBS

Brenda Short's path to launching her mayoral campaign in Minneapolis has been shaped by both her past political involvement and current challenges.

In 2022, she was actively involved in Don Samuels' congressional primary campaign against Ilhan Omar, canvassing and door-knocking for the former school board member. Samuels' campaign was financed by billionaire Harlan Crow, who has funded conservative causes linked to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Furthermore, Samuels' ties to the landlord and real estate industries – sectors that often come into conflict with progressive stances on housing – have put him at odds with organizations like the Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), whose platform centers around tenants' rights and housing justice.

Short's campaign has also been marred by internal conflicts. In a recent interview with Minnesota Daily, she revealed that she had fired her campaign manager, Jake Amerca-Luna, after a series of blunders surrounding press releases and media outreach. "Another challenge was that I hired my campaign manager Jake, who will no longer be working on my team as of today," Short explained. "I had a press release and I sent it to Jake, and all he had to do was forward it. I even gave him the emails to all the newspapers and all Fox 9, KARE 11 numbers. Jake sent in the press release and then I kept on asking him, 'Jake, did you follow up? Did you hear anything back?'" Short noted that Amerca-Luna mishandled the details, sending incomplete information to Fox 9, which led to a missed opportunity for media coverage.

In addition to campaign drama, Short's legal battle against Omar Fateh's campaign, DSA, and Amerca-Luna over alleged violations of Minnesota's Fair Campaign Practices Act also ended in epic failure (not to mention the multiple misspelled names that didn't make the docket). Administrative Law Judge Jessica A. Palmer-Denig dismissed her complaint, ruling that the claims did not meet the necessary legal standards for proving a violation.

Despite the setbacks and her complicated political alliance to controversial figures like Samuels, Short remains committed to her goal of becoming Minneapolis' next mayor.




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ospreywilds.org | Sandstone, MN

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Art, theater, circus, puppets, music

Adventures in Cardboard (AIC) leads off our camp offerings in the arts category, although it could go in games or adventure as well. AIC was founded in 2012 in Powderhorn Park and has gathered a fanatic following, as evidenced by its growth and waitlists. With numerous “realms” around the Twin Cities, hundreds of campers, and a staff comprising actors, veterans of puppet theaters, and artists of renown, it’s a perfect place for an imaginative active child who likes fantasy lore and messing around with cardboard. adventuresincardboard.com.

Graceful Monsters is a small but growing theater school for kids, covering puppetry and improv as well as mainline theater arts. It was founded by Haley and Anthony Sisler-Neuman, a husband and wife team of theater teachers and ex-theater kids. It is located in Minneapolis and offers ten different week-long day camps this summer. gracefulmonstersetc.com/camp.

The Guthrie Theater is an op-

tion for more traditional theater arts. This elite company is one of the cultural jewels of the Twin Cities and offers a selection of day camps running from June 16 to Aug. 15. There are 3-day, 5-day, and 10-day camps, divided into two age cohorts, school grade 6 to 8, or 9 to 12. guthrietheater.org/

and their waitlists had exceeded capacity by the last week of January, but there may be openings in the sampler camps and teen adventures. circusjuventas.org.

The Loft offers the Young Writers Program in the summer. Registration for the different camps are not open until March, and



Archery at Camp Northern Star

education/camps. Circus Juventas is another cultural icon. Located in Highland Park in St. Paul, this long-running circus school offers thorough training in skills such as acrobatics and aerial work. All weeklong performance camps

currently there is only a bit of information about the program available. There is a free Zoom information session on Feb. 18 at 6 pm. Here is a link to register: tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-LoftReg. The MacPhail Center for Music is another long-standing institution that offers summer camps in its downtown Minneapolis location. They offer five different camps for musical youth this summer, all 5-day duration, between mid-June and mid-August. macphail.org/meta/camps.

Articulture is an arts education nonprofit located on Franklin Avenue in the Seward neighborhood. They are offering a variety of summer camps for Grades K through 6. Registration is open now: articulture.org/summer-camps-children. Northern Clay Center is also on the same avenue. Online registration opened Feb. 4 for camps running June 16 to Aug. 22 – in 5-day sessions – with a choice of half or full day, and there are varying themes, ages 6 and up. northernclaycenter.org.

The Arts Creative is a private arts studio with classes, located in Bloomington. They are offering day camps from June 9 to Aug. 29, on a 5-day week basis or drop-in for single days. theartscreative.com/camps-and-youth-programs. Way Cool Cooking School in Eden Prairie is the culinary arts option



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See Camps page 10



Summer

Camps, from page 9

we are covering this year. Their cooking classes are offered as

weekly options, Monday through Thursday, with a choice of a.m. or p.m. session (both are three hours.) Campers can do both

sessions and stay over the lunch break. Register at waycoolcookingschool.com/summer-cooking-camp.



Hmong Language Camp village time learn line dancing



Academics, STEM, games, and languages

Hmong language summer camp by iStrive was featured in a Sahan Journal article in August 2024 - tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Hmong-Camp. Based at North Hennepin Community College, the camp is a vital resource to prevent Hmong communities from losing their language and culture. Registration was not open yet as of writing but will be at mnzejzog.org/istrive.

The International Spanish Language Academy, a Spanish immersion K through 6 school in Edina, offers summer camps in Spanish. Some camps combine language with sports or art activities. Register at isla.school/explore/summer-camps.

Leonardo's Basement (LB) is an arts and engineering studio founded in the late 1990s by a group of students and their parents and teachers from Clara Barton Open School. Currently based in a large industrial facility in Prospect Park, LB offers year-round workshops. The summer camp catalog and registration will be available online at leonardobasement.org on Feb. 9.

iDTech is a highly rated nation-



Classic TaeKwonDo's Boston family owner-teachers

wide system of STEM summer camps. Locally, Macalester College in St. Paul hosts the camps in coding and robotics. Start exploring the 2025 offerings at idtech.com/locations/minnesota-summer-camps/macalester-college#.

Sports and fitness

Classic TaeKwonDo is a small, family-run TKD studio in south Minneapolis. They offer youth as well as adult classes year-round, and in the summer, classes are

enhanced into a day camp experience. Booked on a daily basis, students arrive in the morning for informal play activities until noon, when they depart for a daily field trip which includes lunch. They return to the studio for a 4 p.m. TKD class. Classes may be held in nearby Todd Park, weather permitting. classictkdstudios.com/#summer-camp.

Macalester Athletics hosts the Nike Volleyball Camp this summer for boys and girls ages 10 to 18. The All-skills camps are day camps, where campers provide their own lunch. The Advanced Skills camp is a choice between Extended Day Camp where lunch and dinner are included, or overnight where housing is in Macalester dorms. Registration is here: ussportscamps.com/volleyball/nike/macalester-college-nike-volleyball-camp.

MN Hockey Camps (for boys only) is located in Breezy Point MN, just north of Brainerd on Pelican Lake. It's a residential camp. Details and registration can be found here: mnhockeycamps.com/datesandpricing. MN Girls Hockey, on the other hand, is a day camp format hosted by the University of MN on their Minneapolis Campus using the rink in the Ridder Arena. Registration here: minnesotagirlshockeycamps.com/camps.html.

Day camps - wilderness, animals, plants, nature, and adventure

Osprey Wilds, a nature and environmental studies camp located on the shores of Grindstone Lake near Sandstone, MN, offers six different day camps as well as one overnight. Themes include

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LOFT.ORG/YOUTH

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CAMP NORTHERN STAR

DISCOVERY ADVENTURE CAMP

Week-Long Overnight Camp for 6-8th graders

Some activities include swimming, archery, boating, horseback riding, hiking, and climbing, and more! Bussing to/from camp included.

Information and Registration at camp.northernstar.org/discovery 612-261-2303

CAMP NORTHERN STAR

DISCOVERY DAY CAMP

Week-Long Day Camp for K-5th graders

2025 Locations:
Base Camp (Fort Snelling, MN)
Kiwanis (Marine on St Croix, MN)
Phillippo (Cannon Falls, MN)
Rum River (Anoka-Ramsey, MN)
Tomahawk (Birchwood, WI)
New location in 2025 in Duluth, MN



Circus Juventas

Farm to Fork, Xtreme Art, and Wonderful Wildlife. Get connected here: ospreywilds.org/educational-programs/summer-camps.

Under the rubric of Camp Northern Star Discovery Day Camps, the Boy Scouts (BSA) offers several day camp options, including a STEM camp for Grades 2 through 7 (split into two groups) at Base Camp at Ft. Snelling. All day camps offer a wide assortment of outdoor activities, and there are several different locations to choose from. There is also an option for an overnight camp (see below). Go to camp.northernstar.org/discovery, find your camp, and click to register.

The Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley, MN, offers two kinds of day camp for animal loving kids, Shelter Explorers, and Animal Art Adventures. Registration opens on Wednesday, Feb. 5, and will presumably be here: animalhumanesociety.org/summer-camp.

General interest day camps

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation offers a plethora of day camps in every area of interest, and in almost every park in its huge system. With so much choice, finding the right camp will take some online work. Start here - minneapolisparcs.org/activities-events/youth-programs/camps - and either use the interests menu to the left or click one of the "browse and register" buttons and browse until you find it. There's a phone number at the bottom of the page if you need extra help navigating.

Overnight camps

Skate Camp Midwest has three week-long overnight sessions, two co-ed and one for girls and non-binary only. The camp, complete with an onsite skate park/

ramp, is located in Houlton, WI, on the St. Croix River and offers camping adventures to youth ages 8 to 17. They have a Facebook page, or you can go directly to their registration page here - skatecampmidwest.com/registration.

Located in Crow Wing County, on Lake Hubert, there are two camps for ages 6 to 17. Camp Lincoln (for boys) and Camp Lake Hubert (for girls). Campers stay in log-style cabins - organized by grade and length of stay - that include indoor bathrooms with hot water. Offering sessions lasting two or four weeks, and with more than 40 land and water activities to choose from, there is plenty to

do outside in nature. Learn more and register here: lincoln-lakehubert.com.

Birchwood Wilderness Camp (small - by design) is located in Grand Marais, MN. It consists of bunkhouses, a large bathhouse with private compartments with toilet, sink and shower, a dining hall with a glorious wilderness view, and a clubhouse with games like chess and foosball. The summer camp program is for boys, but they have other programs that are co-ed as well as for adults. Start exploring here: birchwoodwildernesscamp.com.

Camp Northern Star Discovery Adventure Camp is the four-night overnight camp offered by BSA. It's located at Camp Tomahawk in Birchwood, WI, with buses to carry campers from Base Camp in the Twin Cities to the camp. Here is a direct link to the registration site: scoutingevent.com/250-2025dac

Osprey Wilds Rocks, Ropes, and Rafts Overnight Camp is for kids entering Grades 7 through 9. As the name implies, it includes learning skills like whitewater rafting, high ropes, rock climbing, and canoeing. It's a five-day, four-night stay on the campus by Grindstone Lake, with optional shuttle transportation. Register here: ospreywilds.org/event/rocks-ropes-and-rafts-overnight-summer-camp.



Adventures in Cardboard: Bryant Castle and a defender

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Taking Power

BY LEE SAMELSON

Now more than ever, taking action at the local level to slash pollution that causes climate change is critical, and through a clean energy transition that Minneapolis residents overwhelmingly support across cultures and zip codes.

In the August issue of Southside Pride, I co-authored with Ulla Nilsen “Why utility franchise agreements matter for equitable climate solutions”. It

echoed other recently published opinion pieces such as how the city’s utility franchise negotiations were “Minneapolis’ once-a-decade chance to fight for energy and the climate” by John Farrell.

On July 31, several organizations all joined in for a rally downtown that was covered by the Sahan Journal. These included Isaiah, Unidos MN, NorthStar Sierra Club and Community Power (the Minneapolis-based energy democracy

nonprofit which I work for). CenterPoint was invited but did not show up. Constituents from all 13 wards in the city told Xcel Energy’s local government relations staff what they wanted the next utility franchise agreements to include:

- Shorter contract terms (five years instead of ten) to allow more frequent reassessment.
- Franchise fees that are set up to make the biggest polluters pay their fair share, based on electricity carbon intensity and fossil gas volume, to incentivize clean energy.

• Clear, enforceable annual performance metrics for utilities with consequences for failure to meet city goals.

• Commitment to transparency about the cost of our local energy system.

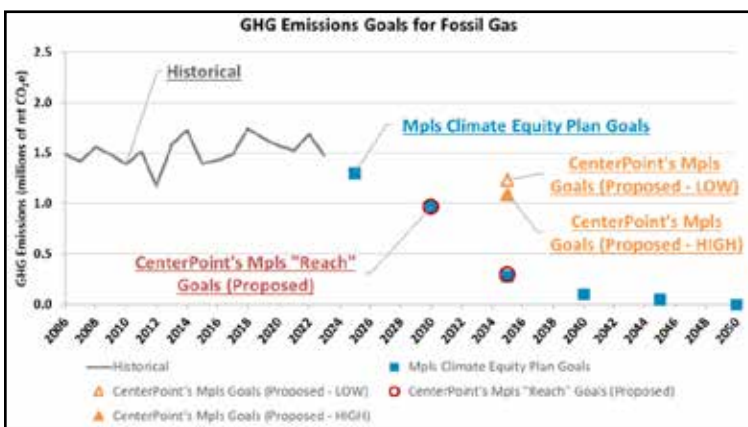
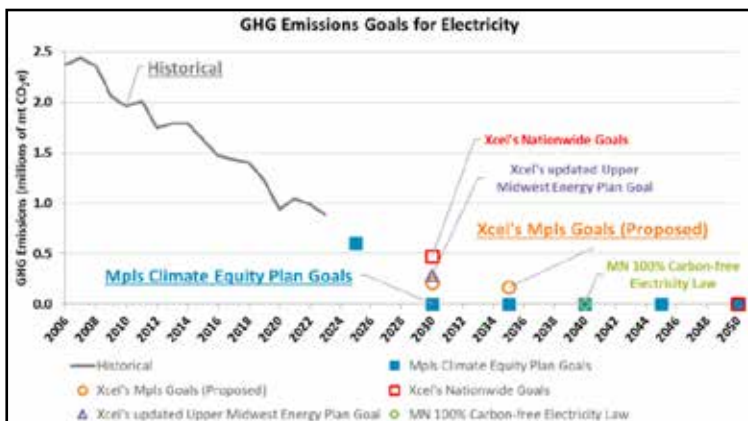
On Jan. 13, after months of being negotiated in secret, Minneapolis’ tentative new agreements with Xcel and CenterPoint were published on the city website.

At least 2 city council members so far, Katie Cashman (Ward 7), and Robin Wonsley (Ward 2) have both shared in their recent newsletters, that the agreements also have “equity expectations in service quality and program delivery, and improvements to information sharing for work done on public streets” that were not in the previous 10-year agreements.

The most interesting link on the city’s webpage is “The City Priorities of Proposed Utility Franchise Agreements and



Organizations gathered for a rally downtown



MOUs” that sums up all 4 documents.

It shows that these agreements will mark the first time the utilities have made a commitment to greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals within a specific city boundary, if passed by the city council and signed by the mayor and each utility.

However, simply having impressive goals on paper is no substitute for devoting resources needed to meet them.

A presentation to the city council on Jan. 9 revealed that we are behind on meeting 5 out of 7 existing energy and climate goals, all except the 2 involving municipal operations.

Let that be a segway to how both Franchise Agreements are also accompanied by 2 memorandums-of-understanding (MOUs) with each utility that re-establishes the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership.

Back in 2013 both utilities pledged to be “good partners” in helping Minneapolis reach its Climate Action Plan goals as a way to dissuade the city from the grassroots-backed effort to consider forming a green municipal energy utility. City leaders formed the Partnership to provide both utilities every chance to demonstrate that they were actually genuine about their promise.

Currently, the Partnership states 3 main themes which the

First, CenterPoint Energy still has a website up that gives kickbacks to installers of gas appliances and has ghostwritten comments in favor of rebates for gas appliances, which both go against the spirit of stated electrification goals.

Second, the Partnership’s task force to address Xcel’s delays in interconnecting local solar projects has not met for over a year.

Third, neither Xcel nor CenterPoint have been willing to offer Minneapolis the field-tested version of Inclusive Financing for energy efficiency despite the Partnership defining it back in 2018 as part of their work plan. CenterPoint was not willing to pilot it without demanding they receive a guaranteed minimum profit margin on it.

For these reasons, this Partnership deserves more public attention so that the utilities can be held accountable to their agreements. Yet for well over a year, the Partnership’s website has been dysfunctional due to technical troubles. Also, the city’s monthly sustainability newsletter has not been including the upcoming Clean Energy Partnership meetings which would be the other way they can help constituents engage in monitoring the Partnership.

One disappointment from the negotiations was that the city was not able to successfully negotiate into the MOUs hiring an outside administrator for



city and both utilities state their intent to collaborate on:

- Decarbonizing Homes via Electrification & Energy Efficiency Retrofits.
- Equitably Accelerate In-Boundary Solar in Support of the City’s Goal of 30 percent Distributed Solar by 2030.
- Impactful Reductions in Commercial and Industrial Building Gas Use.

Despite some recent successes mentioned in the Partnership’s most Recent Annual Report, such as a home electrification guide, I have personally observed some ongoing challenges in the space.

The Clean Energy Partnership to save staff capacity, or to give the Partnership’s 15-member Energy Vision Advisory Committee of community experts some greater decision-making powers. But these are structural improvements that we can mobilize for and win over the next few years.

The city is accepting public comment until Feb. 13 at 9 a.m. before the full 13-member city council takes a vote. You can submit public comments by email at: councilcomment@minneapolismn.gov or in the online public comment form.

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Trump Inherits Chaos

BY DAVE GUTKNECHT

At last, we have a U.S. president who may not be completely beholden to the military-industrial complex and its lobby, or to the Israel lobby. Yet both of these extremely powerful forces, and a triumphalist outlook in U.S. ruling circles, make it difficult to alter foreign policy directions.

Here are condensed points slightly outside mainstream messages:

Trump, even before taking office, forced a pause in the genocide of Palestinians, in the same way that Biden and Blinken could have done more than a year earlier. The big question is whether the President will allow Israel to once again trash any agreement limiting its war aims.

In early January, Trump held a lengthy press conference in which he mentioned a fundamental fact that very few U.S. politicians have said: An agreement between Ukraine and Russia was achieved in Istanbul within a few weeks after the 2022 invasion, but Biden stopped its implementation. Importantly, Trump also broached a key point on international relations: mutual recognition of security concerns. Trump in his usual manner spoke the obvious: "I can understand why Russia was concerned about NATO on its doorstep." Anyone reviewing the history of NATO expansion and its wars could also understand this.

War in Ukraine through NATO was planned and provoked for years, despite being warned against by many Western diplomatic, scholarly, and military voices. European opposition

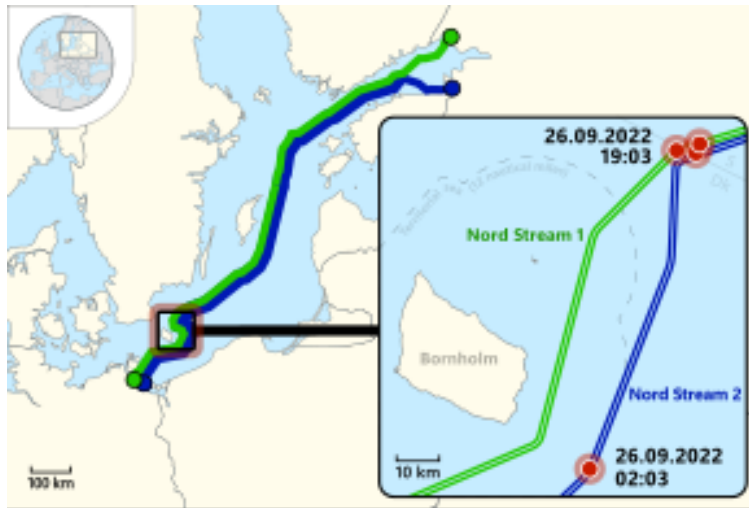
was overcome in 2008, and Russian proposals for discussing new European security arrangements were repeatedly ignored. U.S. failure in Ukraine may yet lead to such talks, but the road ahead looks rocky. The strategy of war on Russia remains.

The Nord Stream pipeline destruction was a monumental act of sabotage against its owners in several European "allies" (Russia's Gazprom was a minor partner) — a crime publicly promised by Biden himself but not honestly investigated. Add in extreme sanctions that have largely failed, and a Europe that thrived on Russian energy is seeing its economies thrown into deepening recession. Russian oil refined and shipped from elsewhere is more expensive. U.S. liquified natural gas also is more expensive, and Europe has continued purchasing some Russian gas. But the remaining gas supply to Europe through Ukraine has been recently cut, and EU energy disputes are sharpening quickly.

In early January, for the first time in EU history, a democratic election was suspended by a national court. Why? Because in Romania, the leading presidential candidate said he was not pro-Russian but pro-Romanian and did not support the war in neighboring Ukraine. Note the power of the military-industrial complex: NATO is building what will be Europe's largest military base — in Romania.

For European nations, a question becomes evident: How much abuse will you be willing to take?

Trump, as mentioned, will surely take advantage of his bully pulpit. In early January,



Map showing the location of the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipeline explosions near Bornholm. (Image/FactsWithoutBias1)

Trump reinforced his comments about Ukraine by posting on the X platform a link to an interview with the internationally renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs. In it, Sachs explained how the U.S. had provoked the 2014 overthrow of the democratically elected Ukraine government, then had prepared for war in eastern Ukraine, rejecting Russian proposed security discussions.

Thanks to Sachs and Trump, the latter's millions of followers on X were exposed to the largely unmentioned U.S. history in Ukraine — but also in the Mid-

east. U.S. rulers, many of them U.S./Israel dual citizens, and the Israel lobby have been driving a war agenda — planning for war in seven countries ending with Iran, as testified by Wesley Clark on "Democracy Now" after 2001. Sachs also described Israel's repeated sabotage of Palestine peace agreements. This is history that few Americans have been told by their leaders or media figures.

Ambrose Bierce: "War is God's way of teaching geography to Americans."

Here is a brief lineage of U.S. sponsoring of terrorism to

weaken its global adversaries: In the 1980s, the U.S. armed the mujahideen in Afghanistan; the mujahideen begat Al Qaeda, which begat ISIS/IS (they're "on our side" in Syria, said Hillary Clinton in an email released by Wikileaks); IS begat Al-Nusra, which begat HTS in Syria. HTS leader al-Julani, despite a murderous legacy, has now become respectable. This continues a long U.S. history of empowering tyrants: "He may be a head-chopper, but he's OUR head-chopper."

More chaos is growing in a fragmented Syria; and it looks like the Kurds will be betrayed once again.

Parting comments from Blinken, who has been the "Secretary of War" (NYT) and perhaps acting president, were remarkably divorced from reality. Journalists with questions about Palestine were ejected. He asserted that during Biden's term our global standing and that of our allies was strengthened. That the position of our adversaries has weakened. That Ukraine is winning — a statement both cruel and delusory. That Israel was not committing genocide — contradicting the UN, the ICC, the ICJ, everyday horrific videos, and elementary honesty.

Good riddance!

Southside Pride

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Southside Pride
2721 East 42nd Street, Suite B
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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MPLS. - ST. PAUL - THE WORLD

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

EVENTS

'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.

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

Cult Cinema Classic Sunday

Sundays, 7 p.m.

Roxy's Cabaret

1333 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.

Get ready for a night with one of our favorite cult films from the past. Join us on 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 unique opportunity to experience some of the greatest cult classics on the big screen!

Feb. 2: Groundhog Day

Feb. 9: Mean Girls

Feb. 16: Labyrinth

Feb. 23: Drop Dead Gorgeous

See full schedule at roxyscabaret.com

'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

Seed Sorting Party

Feb. 5, 1 to 2 p.m.

Nokomis Public 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.

Streets to Housing

Feb. 5, 1 to 3 p.m.

Hosmer Public Library

347 E. 36th St., Mpls.

The Streets to Housing team provides trauma-informed, housing-focused services that reduce barriers and identify safe, appropriate alternatives to living outside, including emergency shelter and permanent housing. Streets to Housing can offer housing assessments, including Coordinated Entry Assessments. No appointment necessary. Collaborator: Hennepin County Streets to Housing Program.

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 Strategies (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.

Belfast Cowboys

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

The Hook and Ladder

Theater & Lounge

3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.

The Belfast Cowboys are a nine-piece, horn-driven band from Minneapolis that specializes in the music of Van Morrison - mixing rock, blues, roots and soul sounds. Led by veteran songwriter and guitarist Terry Walsh and powered by a four-piece horn section, the Cowboys have flourished in the renowned Minnesota music scene and have consistently packed houses and wowed crowds since 2002. Tickets: \$22 - \$27

North Star Voices:

Diversity and the Outdoors

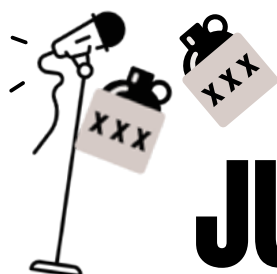
Feb. 8, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota History Center

345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. 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

ANNUAL MINNEAPOLIS BATTLE OF THE JUG BANDS 2025

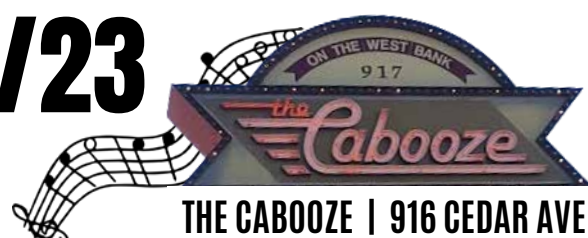


PRE PARTY & JUG BAND JAM

SATURDAY 2/22 | 3PM - 7PM | PALMER'S BAR | 500 CEDAR AVE

SUNDAY 2/23

12:30 - 7PM



THE CABOOZE | 916 CEDAR AVE

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@MinneapolisBattleOfTheJugBands



JugBandMpls.weebly.com



NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

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

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

Southside Pride

2721 E. 42ND STREET SUITE B

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406

CALL US AT 612-822-4662

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

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. The event is free to the public. For further information, please visit dudleyedmondson.com.

Neave Trio

Feb. 9, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4100 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls.**

Violinist Anna Williams, cellist Mikhael Veselov, and pianist Eri Nakamura formed the Grammy-winning Neave Trio in 2010. The Trio has earned enormous praise for its engaging and cutting edge performances that are imbued with passion, sensitivity and grace. Ticket reservations are limited to a total of 4 tickets per person. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Bethlehem Music Series. Refreshments will be served in the Gallery following the concert. Free valet parking. Free nursery available for children 3 months to 3 years of age. This concert will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

**Family Day at MIA –
Inspiration Everywhere
Feb. 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Minneapolis Institute of Art
2400 Third Ave. S., Mpls.**

Join us for our free monthly event for families, kids, and the young at heart. On the second Sunday of every month, the museum is filled with hands-on art activities, storytelling, artist demonstrations, gallery hunts, self-guided tours and more — all inspired by MIA's incredible collection.

**Beyond Climate Silence:
Transforming Eco-Anxiety
Workshop**

Feb. 11, 1 to 2 p.m.

Online

Reserve at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

The last two hottest historic years on Earth have negatively affected the majority of 16-to-25 year olds, with 81% of them worried about climate change. Two huge hurricanes in two weeks (one 600 miles wide) emerged from the Caribbean in September and a month later twenty inches of rain fell on a Spanish city in just eight hours. 2025 began with \$250 billion of fire damage to Los Angeles. The hot-ocean cycle has just ended and the planet will probably cool off for a few years, but by 2030

it is likely that the floods (along with droughts and wildfires) will be back and be worse. How can people (especially youth with the future before them) be happy and enjoy their mid-21st-century lives?

**Explore The Chemistry of
Love and the Science of Sex
Feb. 13, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Science Museum of Minnesota
120 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul**

Explore unbreakable bonds, lessons in chemistry, and the science behind what makes us fall in love with a rosy night at the museum. The Chemistry of Love and the Science of Sex brings matters of the heart to the museum floor, complete with love-filled live performances and heart-warming hands-on activities. Throughout this science-packed soiree, enjoy booze with your boos and sweets with your sweeties. And if you aren't paired up this Valentine's Day, don't fear. Our love-filled evening is the perfect excursion for you and your gals, your pals, or yourself. Plus, you can still get a dose of phenylethylamine — the body's naturally occurring love drug — by snacking on chocolate from our food vendors. Chocolate is more than just a creature comfort; it has been scientifically proven to cause the same warm and fuzzy feelings that attraction can bring. Tickets: \$34.95 - \$65. This event is 21+.

**Vegetable Garden Planning
Feb. 15, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Nokomis Public Library
5100 34th Ave. S., Mpls.**

Whether you are new to growing food or an experienced gardener, learn how to plan a vegetable garden with local garden enthusiast Vanessa Van Alstine. Topics include thinking about available space and growing techniques, testing soil, choosing which plants to grow, estimating yields, watering and timing for planting and harvesting. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

The Okee Dokee Brothers

Feb. 16, Doors: 10 a.m.

Show: 11 a.m.

**The Cedar Cultural Center
416 Cedar Ave. S., Mpls**

As childhood friends growing up outside of Denver, Colorado, Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander were always exploring the outdoors. They channeled their adventurous nature into their wildly popular albums — "Can You Canoe?", "Through The Woods", "Saddle Up", "Winterland", and "Songs For Singin'" — and ended up in the hearts of American families everywhere. They've inspired countless, plaid-shirted fans to get outside, get creative, and sing in harmony along the way. Their most recent

effort, "Brambletown", is a full-length feature now available on PBS Kids that wanders deep into the forest of imagination and features the cut-paper animation of Eric Power. Joe and Justin spent time writing songs about a community of critters who are grappling with disconnection and restoring interconnection through the healing power of nature. Their gorgeous melodies and unfussy lyrics ease listeners through these woods on a path that is both ancient and reborn. All Ages. Mixed seated and standing. Tickets: \$25 Advance, \$30 Day of Show. Children under 2 years: Free admission.

Aluminum Embossed Art

Feb. 16, 2 to 4 p.m.

**East Lake Public Library
2727 E. Lake St., Mpls.**

Using drawing and foiling techniques, learn how to transfer (emboss) your design onto a piece of metal foil and create a cutout suspended with twine. Materials provided. Led by COMPAS Teaching Artist Teresa Cox. Collaborator: COMPAS. This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

'Legacy of Light'

Feb. 21 to March 16,

Fridays & Saturdays 7:30 p.m.,

Sundays at 2 p.m.

**Theatre in the Round Players
245 Cedar Ave., Mpls.**

Theatre in the Round Players (TRP) is presenting "Legacy of Light" by Karen Zacarias as the fifth production of their 73rd Season. Quirky humor, joyful intellectualism, a fascinating true story, and poignant fiction all collide in this beautifully surreal comedy that asks, "What is the science of love?"

In this play, Zacarias highlights the unsung history of Émilie du Châtelet, a mathematician and scientist in 18th century France (and lover of the philosopher Voltaire). "Legacy of Light" juxtaposes the true story of Châtelet becoming unexpectedly pregnant at 42 and that of a fictional 21st-century physicist desperately trying to conceive a child. Tickets: \$20-29. Content Warning: Flashing lights. Sexual Situations and adult themes. Best for ages 14+

**Separate Not Equal:
Minnesota's Integration Story
Screening & Conversation
March 2, 1 to 3 p.m.**

Doors at noon

**The Parkway Theater
4814 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**

Seventy years ago, Brown vs. Board of Education declared that separating children in schools by race was unconstitutional. This

film unpacks Minnesota's efforts to integrate schools through the 1971 Hale-Field Pairing. The film was inspired by the Hennepin History Museum's Separate Not Equal Exhibit, a community based public history project that opened in 2023 and can now be found at both Hale and Field Schools.

Tickets for the film are free of charge but reservations are required. There will be a Q&A with filmmaker Derek Francis as well as an opportunity for attendees to meet some of the current and former students featured in the film. The film is 30 minutes, followed by community conversation. Popcorn will be provided for all attendees.

**International Women's
Day Trivia Night**

March 8, 5 to 7 p.m.

**Urban Growler Barrel Room
2325 Endicott St., St. Paul**

To celebrate International Women's Day, Global Rights for Women and Urban Growler Brewing Company are collaborating to host a trivia night event dedicated to the trailblazing women who have changed the world. Test your knowledge on the contributions of women around the globe, and join us for an evening of trivia, libations and celebration. Prizes will be awarded to winning teams with gifts from local woman-owned businesses. Special guest appearances by local women leaders. Registration is free at this link and teams will be randomly selected. Expand your network and show your support for gender equality. Full link: urbangrowlerbrewing.com/international-womens-day-at-urban-growler

Lent Procession Service of

Lessons and Hymns

March 9, 4 p.m.

**Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls.**

Join Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts for a contemplative service of lessons and carols — for Lent! Typically associated with Advent and Christmas, this service is designed especially for those caught up in preparations for the coming Easter and spring seasons. It provides an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life to pray, sing, listen, smell — an opportunity to fully enter into the season of Lent, a time to renew our lives as baptized children of God. This event is free and open to the public. It will also be live-streamed via the church's home page mountolivechurch.org and at youtube.com/c/MountOlive-Minneapolis

Aquarium EXPO 2025

March 22, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Augsburg University
Hagfors Center**

700 21st Ave. S., Mpls.

Minnesota Aquarium Society is holding its annual Aquarium EXPO 2025 on Saturday, March 22. Come to this free event to see hundreds of aquariums filled with fresh and saltwater fish, plants, shrimp, etc. Attend technical sessions by experts bringing you the latest trends in the aquarium hobby. Enjoy the massive swap meet with everything aquarium-related, collect discount coupons from local fish stores and participate in raffles, silent auctions, and the like. The entire event is free to the public. Augsburg scientists will conduct tours of the biology, chemistry and physics laboratories located in Hagfors Center.

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EVENTS

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
5760 Portland Ave. S.,
612-866-2579, dllc.org
Survivors, a Six Points Theater Performance
Feb. 5, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Kids Club runs concurrently with performance. Nursery available on request. Community meal at 5:30 p.m. Free. This play about the Holocaust and standing up to hate weaves together the true, inspirational stories of ten Holocaust survivors whose ordinary and joyful young lives were transformed by the Nazi regime.
Six Weeks on Money
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., Except Feb. 5
An ELCA initiative designed to help participants understand the role money plays in our lives. Open to everyone. Gain the tools and support to make better financial decisions while staying grounded in your faith. No personal details required.
The Bible: Part Deux, the Annual Youth Musical
Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
Feb. 22, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
A group of moviemakers looking for wholesome entertainment turn to the Bible. But the writers find more than they bargained for. An original musical written and directed by Graydon Royce.
Dinner prior to the evening show at 5:30 p.m.
Suggested donations: Tickets: adults: \$8, seniors and under 18: \$6
Dinner: adults: \$20, seniors and under 18: \$15

Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th St., 612-721-6231

minnehaha.org
The Minnehaha Players Present: James and the Giant Peach, Jr.
Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. and Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.
In the Fellowship Hall.
A musical based on the book.
Adults: \$10.
Ages 4 to 12: \$6
Children under 4: free.
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 live-stream our services, so you can catch Taizé from wherever you are in real time, or anytime you want.

Fitzgerald Theater
10 E Exchange St, St Paul,
651-370-2953
first-avenue.com/venue/the-fitzgerald-theater/
The Sound of Gospel
Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.
Highlighting Gospel music's historical aspects and how it has been an integral part of the African American experience. Featuring work and freedom songs, ring shouts, Negro spirituals, choirs and quartets, up to today's contemporary and urban gospel. Elements of drama and joy resonate throughout.

Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Community
4537 3rd Ave. S., 612-823-8205
stjoan.com
LGBTQ+ January Book Club
Feb. 11, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
We are discussing "The House in the Cerulean Sea" by TJ Klune. We meet

at Gabe's Bar & Kitchen, 991 Lexington Pkwy. N., St Paul
All are welcome.
St. Joan of Arc Book Club
Feb. 12, 6 to 8 p.m.
We are discussing "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett. We meet in the Arc (north side of 45th Street across from the parking lot). Books chosen by surveying the group. We recommend joining our email group. Contact Lucy Petermeier: 612-823-8205 to join.
I Am, He Said Concert Series
Feb. 16, 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Enjoy the music of Neil Diamond, presented by Matt Vee, Jeff Vee, Tommy Lee and George Maurer.
From Fork to Forest
Feb. 23, noon to 1:30 p.m.
Sponsored by our Health Home Campaign. Learn actions you can take at your next meal to change the impact.

Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave. S., 612-871-7400
Plymouth.org
Book Club
Feb. 15, 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
Over 3,000 books, which may be checked out for up to a month. Open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sundays 6 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays during program year.

Wintergenerational Revival
Feb. 19, 5:45 to 6:40 p.m.
With Sandy Spieler as our guide, par-

ticipants explore the topic of being a neighbor through the preparation of a special liturgy shared on Transfiguration Sunday, 3/2/25. All ages. Please consider inviting someone from another generation to attend with you! Register on our website.

St. Albert The Great
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.
612-724-3643
saintalbertthegreat.org
Cribbage Tournament
Feb. 16 at 1 p.m.
Call for more info
Donut Sale
March 1 and 2, before and after mass
Cash and check only. \$10/dozen \$5/half dozen, \$1/each
Sign up to place pre-orders
For full dozens!
Sign up to volunteer!

Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar St., St Paul.
651-224-4728,
centralforgood.org/
Saint Paul Capitol JRLC Day on the Hill
Feb. 27, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
We are so excited to gather with you to advocate for women, children, and families living in poverty. Morning session held at the church, followed by a rally in the Capitol rotunda. Register at jrlc.org/

Inside Senior Living
A docuseries that tackles aging and the choices we face as we age. Creator and host Melissa Fritz is a Senior Living industry professional and the daughter of a father who had dementia. She demystifies the process around choosing the right senior living solution for families in

or near crisis.
Watch here: pbsnorth.org/show/inside-senior-living/
Learn more: insideseniorlivingtv

Central Lutheran Church
Free Store Needs Donations!
333 S. 12th St., 612-870-4416
centralmpls.org
Sunday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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 call button and someone will come 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.
MCC has welcomed hundreds of 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 donations off at our offices

See Sharing, page 18

The Southside Religious Community Welcomes You

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.
All are welcome, we practice Bhakti Yoga, devotional service to God, stop by and see what it's all about.

Bahá'í
BAHÁ'Í 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, dllc.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Followed by Congregational Fellowship Hour 10:45 a.m.
Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf
Vibrant, progressive, multigenerational congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The congregation is one focused on justice and joy, in relationship and connection to the wider community.

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/felcimpls
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
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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.

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612-724-3643
saintalbertthegreat.org
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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
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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

 All directory churches are wheelchair accessible

Looking for Really Low-priced but Quality Grocery Food? Here are some great options

BY STEPHANIE FOX

If you hadn't noticed, grocery prices have risen lately. Since 2021, costs have risen 25 percent, a little more or less depending on the type of food product. Estimates are that in the U.S., 30 to 40 percent of food is wasted.

Part of the problem is that many stores and many consumers throw away food that is perfectly good but is past the sell-by date. But a sell-by date is simply a loose recommendation about when the food will taste and look best. It has nothing to do with food safety. And yet, many people think that these dates are gospel.

However, there are some grocery stores that, instead of tossing food, they buy at steep discounts and then pass the steep savings on to their customers. These grocery thrift stores are not just for people on a budget. They can be an answer for anyone who wants to eat well without breaking the bank.

So Low Grocery in North Minneapolis at the corner of Lowery and Emerson may, from



the outside, look like just another neighborhood market. But the store, which just celebrated its 50th year, is anything but ordinary.

This is not just the place to get high quality but inexpensive meat, fish, seafood and other grocery products. There's a knowledgeable staff at the butcher and fish departments, (ribeye steaks for \$9.99 lb., frozen snow crab clusters for \$12.99 a lb., whole turkeys for less than a dollar a lb., packages of Hebrew National franks for \$6.99) but since the store caters to an international clientele, they also carry foods not easily found elsewhere.

Check the fresh meat department and order exactly what you want from a crew of experienced butchers. Or, look into the yards of frozen meats, fish and

seafood to find chicken wings, rabbit, goat, beef tongue, beef shanks, various seafood and fish, frog legs and leg of lamb selling at bargain prices.

A trip down any of the narrow aisles is like an international gastronomic vacation. Much of the store is organized by country. You'll find foods from various South American, African, and Asian countries. Some aisles even have the flags of that country flying overhead for easy shopping. There's a section for Cajun foods, herbs from around the culinary world, soft drinks, and frozen dinners. You can find jars of dried palm butter leaves and jars of ready-to-use roux, most at discounted prices.

Looking for traditional foods of the American South and the Gulf Coast? Looking for baby back ribs, chitterlings or hog maws? It's here.

There is also a large section devoted to fresh produce choices, selling at good prices. And keep an eye out for the buy one, get one discounts. Red Potatoes, a 3 lb. bag, two for \$3. Popcorn Chicken, Patties or Strips, at \$5.99 - buy one, get one free.

These deals and product choices change frequently. What you found last week might not be there the next week. Or maybe it will. You never know what you'll find, which is part of the adventure.

The Good Grocer started as a co-op, once located in a now-demolished Lake Street building. The founder was a pastor who created the store as way to help people find affordable food. He found that when he operated a food shelf, people would offer to pay something, even a little. It was a matter of pride for many.

When the store moved to Eat Street, it transformed into a neighborhood store, open to all, one of the few non-ethnic supermarkets on Eat Street. The store carries national brands found at many less expensive grocery chains and the manag-



The Good Grocer selling soon-to-expire produce

ers work to find affordable local products to support the community and local businesses. The food is high quality and reasonably priced.

The prices remain low because the store keeps the profit margin as low as possible. It's part of the store's philosophy of letting people help themselves, the idea that came from their earlier experience of helping shoppers keep their self-esteem while combatting food insecurity.

People who put in only two and a half hours a month as volunteers - stocking shelves, running cash registers, bagging groceries and other responsibilities - get a 20 percent discount whenever they shop. If a volunteer has a disability that might keep them from performing certain grocery store tasks, the store's managers will help them find them a task that fits their abilities.

For deep, deep discounts, shoppers head for 'the bunker.' There, foods soon to go out of date are available at huge discounts of 75 to 90 percent off regular prices. There, you can find dry and canned goods, frozen meat, poultry, fish and fresh produce. There are even grab and go meals and snacks, in the cooler. The store and the bunker, located at 2650 Nicollet Ave., are open to everyone.

Mike's Discount Foods is a chain of six local grocery outlet stores that buy what higher end grocers call salvage.

Your local higher end store will find a few moldy or bruised pieces of fruit in a delivered load and will toss the entire lot into the pig bucket (to sell to farmers) or the trash. But Mike's will buy it at very low prices and then pass the savings on to their customers. The family-run business has expanded, beginning in 1989 from when the founder drove around the city, picking up grocery items from local stores, to buying nationally to stock six Mike's stores scattered around the metro and beyond.

Take a drive up Central Ave. to the Central Shopping Center in Hilltop to find their small Mike's grocery store, or drive down University Ave. to Osborn Rd NE to find one of the large-

er supermarket-sized Mike's Foods.

Mike's doesn't just carry the leftovers. The stores carry a number of premium items, not just what you'd expect from a store with deep discounts. You can find fancy Wisconsin Amish butter or Organic Valley eggs



Mike's cheese selling at a huge discount

at around \$2 a dozen. Recently, they carried a whole smoked brisket at \$6 a pound, and a 7-oz package of sliced roast beef for \$1. Looking for pickled herring cutlets? A party pail, 2-pounds, is only \$10.

Check the cooler to discover items like the roast beef and an 8oz packager of honey ham luncheon meat, four packages for \$5.

Shoppers can also find mainstream brands of dry cereal at dollar a box, Kraft Mac 'n' Cheese selling three for \$2, lots of canned soup and canned bean choices, salad dressing, dips and cooking sauces. And it's the place to go to find snack chips from exotic places like Texas.

The produce section features salads and organic fruits in perfect condition. Don't pay full supermarket prices - Honey Crisp

Apples at \$1.49 for a pound or organic strawberries selling a pound for \$2.99 (or two 1-lb packages for \$5.)

Prices are posted on the shelves so it's easy to find what you need and know how much you'll pay. The store doesn't offer paper bags to carry your groceries, so bring your own bag or load them into the free cardboard boxes offered. You might need a big box to carry everything you find.

But wait! There's more!

There are other ways to save money on groceries. Shop any of the various dollar stores. Sometimes, the merchandise you might buy there are sold in smaller packages than the same products at regular grocery stores, but if you're buying for only one or two people, this might be all you need. There's nothing fancy but when you

need a box of spaghetti, why pay more?

Stores like Home Goods or Marshalls have small sections with good quality food at cheaper prices. These places carry holiday seasonal products, pasta, snack chips, cookies, cooking oil, coffee, tea, spices, sauces and more.

And, if you are looking to buy exotic mushrooms, Asian grocery stores carry them at prices substantially lower than regular grocery stores. The quality of these is also very good.

There are large mainstream grocery stores such as CUB and Aldi that will continue to offer lower-priced food to customers. But the discount stores will thrive even if prices stabilize. They offer low prices, quality foods and even a bit of a fun experience for shoppers.

Looking for 'Sanctuary City' — A Frank Theater Production at Open Eye Theater

BY KAY SCHROVEN

If you've not seen a Frank Theater production, or been to Open Eye Theater, I cannot think of a better time or reason



Sanctuary City actors (bottom to top) Clay Man Soo (as B), Stephanie Anne Bertumen (as G), Keivin Vang (as Henry). (Photo/Tony Nelson)

than to see "Sanctuary City", directed by Wendy Knox. She and her talented team are the essence of what makes the Twin Cities a rich, theatrical climate. And Open Eye Theater is the perfect space for this powerful,

intimate story.

Internationally successful Playwright Martyna Majok - awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for "Cost of Living" and nominated for a Tony - has penned a story for the times and the ages. Knox said of "Sanctuary City", it "seems eerily prescient about things that are happening in the world around us. Watching the deportation raids on the evening news as we are getting ready to open this play has cast a sobering pall over the work that we've been doing."

The story is a portrait of a friendship and centers on the relationship between B, played by Clay Man Soo and G, played by Stephanie Anne Bertumen, - Dreamers, who are now teens living in post 9/11 Newark, N.J. Having grown up together under harsh circumstances with immigrant parents, they have become each other's "sanctuary", sharing food, homework, birthdays, the prom, secrets and sometimes even a bed. B speaks of his mother who "Doesn't know what to be afraid of, but she is." In spite of their bond,

tensions build when G becomes naturalized and goes off to college in Boston, while B remains in Newark working long hours in a bar. Frustrated with his situation, B rants "I've been hiding and lying for 13 years!" The two hatch a plan to marry in order for B to remain in the country and pursue his dreams, such as getting an education beyond high school. He swoons with thoughts of books, a green campus, fellow students.

The play moves swiftly as the two actors move about the stage, spotlighted as they interact upstage, downstage, on a bed, in a window, etc. The dialogue is compelling as they prepare to face the anticipated questioning of authorities who have the power to enable or not enable their marriage. They practice their answers to the anticipated questions throughout the play, "Where did you meet? When did you meet? What's his favorite food? Is there anything unique about her body?" Repetition of dialogue is used to underscore the important issues and ques-

tions, and silence lingers once they are spoken leaving the audience to "soak" in them. The combination of using spotlights (Tony Stoeri, lighting), repetitive dialogue and music (Dan Dukich, sound design) creates a unique and immersive atmosphere for the audience.

While serious in subject matter, "Sanctuary City" is not without lightness and humor. B and G are teens after all. They climb through windows, cuss and dance. B's dance performance to the Backstreet Boys, "I Want it That Way" is a delight. He is tall and graceful, and the teen can dance.

The height of the play's tension comes when a third character Henry is introduced, played by Keivin Vang; alliances, intentions, loyalties and future plans go askew. B must now make the most important decision of his life, which will impact his entire future.

Purposefully, the two main characters have letters (B & G) rather than full names, reflecting the author's intention to not

specify ethnic background. B & G could be immigrants from Somali, Korea, Venezuela, Mexico, etc. Knox says that Majok was going for a universal experience here where "The impact that the official paperwork has on all aspects of their lives and their socioeconomic well-being cannot be underestimated." TheaterMania writes of "Sanctuary City", "An effort to tell the truth about experiences that the largely upper-middle-class audiences wouldn't otherwise have."

Once again (as in "Iron-bound") Majok bravely tackles themes of class, gender, sexuality, friendship, trust and the concept of belonging and home. Talent and impressive theatrical teamwork make "Sanctuary City" another Frank Theater gem. Specifically, a gem for our times.

A Frank Theater Production at Open Eye Theater:
506 E. 24th St. Mpls.
On stage through Feb. 23, 2025.
franktheatre.org
612-724-3760

Sharing Food from page 16

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cesmn.org/info@cesmn.org
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and emergency hours.
joyceuptownfoodshelf.org/
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Wednesday noon to 4:45 p.m.
Thursday 11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Church of the Incarnation
3817 Pleasant Ave. S., 612-822-2101,
Espanol: 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
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noon to 1 p.m.
Groceries: Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m.
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Facebook page or our website

Calvary Lutheran Church
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clchurch.org
Calvary Emergency Food Shelf
612-827-2504, ext. 3.
clchurch.org/foodshelf
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New Creation Baptist Church
1414 E. 48th St., 612-825-6933
newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org
facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf.
(Grey door on the corner of
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Saturday (except 5th Saturdays)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
5300 10th Ave. S., 612-825-6846
nokomisheights.org
Loaves & Fishes
loavesandfishesmn.org
Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m.
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walk up to the church.

All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission
3044 Longfellow Ave., 612-791-1253
allsaintsindianmission.org
First Nations Kitchen
firstnationskitchen.org
Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.
Weekly To Go meals and Produce Give
Away. We cook fresh, organic, indigenous
meals and give away organic produce.
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
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We have changed many things to protect
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guideline. Please be patient as we continue
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greatfriend.org
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Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave. S., 612-871-7400
Plymouth.org
Groveland Emergency Food Shelf
612-871-0277
grovelandfoodshelf.org
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The Dish – Winter Markets, a Chef Making Edibles, NA Drink Terms, and two Mini-reviews

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Openings and closings

The Cabana Club has opened in St. Anthony Main as of Jan. 3; this was covered by Racket's Em Cassel on Jan. 9. Catzen Cof-



Coffee Class at Catzen Coffee

fee, a cat cafe and coffee lab, has opened on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. In early January, Travail acquired the Graze Food Hall in Minneapolis's North Loop, simply adding "by Travail" to the name, and promising some new food spots. By Jan. 20, they had added Umami by Travail to the choices.

There have been a lot of food and drink businesses reporting extreme financial distress in the past few months. Close to home, Kruse Markit, a popular, quirky cafe and market, closed abruptly.



Sean Sherman at the former Co-op Creamery

ly. About a month later, with just a little notice (none), the entire Revival group, consisting of four Twin Cities eateries with its renowned fried chicken, closed down.

Changes and other news in the food and drink industry

Big local news: the Co-op Creamery Building, which has not been open to the public for several years, was sold by Seward Co-op to NATIFS, Sean Sherman's nonprofit that also operates the Indigenous Food

Lab. NATIFS reports: Located at 2601 Franklin Avenue, NATIFS Wóyute Thipi (the building's new name) will house a new counter-service restaurant, ŠHOTÁ Indigenous BBQ by Owamni; a large-scale commissary kitchen to produce Indigenous foods for public institutions; NATIFS' operational headquarters; and a coworking space designed to support Indigenous and other BIPOC businesses. "We are thrilled to expand in this new direction as we continue to uplift Indigenous food systems and support our community," said Sean Sherman, executive director of NATIFS. "This will be the first space we own, and it will truly be the heart of everything we do."

In related news, Owamni, Sean Sherman's restaurant in downtown Minneapolis, started a brunch service in the new year.

A new bar space is being built out at Midtown Global Market and will open soon. Called Game Time, the bar will combine sports viewing on state-of-the-art large screens and arcade and interactive games with sports themes.

If you want to consume your THC and CBD by eating rather than smoking or vaping, and have been disappointed with the taste of some of the "treats," both liquid and gummy, I have news you can use. Nathel Anderson, a local chef, is behind the recipes and production of some truly gourmet edibles produced by Hemp House for its No Coast cannabis line. Racket's Em Cassel has the details in a Jan. 17 article.

Also, Racket has introduced a new column called Weedeaters, and it's all about cooking with cannabis. Written by Joel Swenson, it debuted Jan. 20 with a kickass Chicken Schnitzel recipe incorporating a product called Dr. Dab's Nashville Hot Chicken Seasoning. Which of course led me to Google Dr. Dab's and wow! They have some very interesting



Mill City Farmers Market

looking edibles too.

January always brings a bunch of Dry January articles about non-alcoholic adult drinks to the press. Punch, the drinks equivalent of Eater.com, has a great comprehensive guide to all the terminology spawned by the burgeoning NA drink industry. Read it here - tinyurl.com/DK-TatSSP-PunchNA.

Winter Farmers Market at Mill City Market

You know there's an indoor winter farmer's market from November to April in the Mill City Museum building? Well, now you do, and it's a pretty big deal. It's on the first and third Saturdays, and the remaining dates are Feb. 15, March 1 and 15, and April 5 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (No dogs allowed.) The market has a dazzling array of vendors to check before you

go: millcityfarmersmarket.org/weekly-vendor-list.

Mini-review 1: Lagniappe

On the last Saturday in December, I visited Twin Cities DSA's new office in the Coliseum Building at Lake and 27th in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis. And then I met a comrade, Sam Doten, for an early dinner at Lagniappe, in the same building.

I had Jazz Fest Crawfish Monica, a comfort dish of crawfish tails and rotini in a creamy Creole sauce with basil pesto, while Sam opted for the Catfish des Allemands, which featured a dish of rice and crawfish etouffee topped with a breaded fried catfish filet. I showed off my French by relating that Allemands means German. But I didn't know the actual significance. Sam later related that "Des Al-



Farina Rossa Pizza at Fair State

lemands" refers to a community, bayou and lake called Des Allemands in Louisiana, also called "the Catfish Capital of the Universe," according to Wikipedia.

Mini-review 2: Farina Rossa pizza at Fair State Brewing Cooperative

As chance would have it, my friend Sam was on hand, along with a dozen or so other comrades, for my second review meal, more of a snack really. Saturday, Jan. 4 we had the annual meeting of the Democratic Socialist Caucus, and our post-convention social was down Central Avenue from the meeting place at Fair State taproom. I wrote about Farina Rossa last month and was eager to try their pizza. It did not disappoint! On every scale - the crust, the topping, even the price, it was phenomenal and is highly recommended.



Lagniappe Catfish des Allemands

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