

# SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • JANUARY 6, 2022 • VOL. 1 • NO. 2



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## HENNEPIN AVE DESIGN: HELPFUL OR HURTFUL?



Hennepin for People supports city's proposed plan for street

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

As woman of color, Wedge resident Chandra Lalla says she knows how “our streets don’t serve everyone well.”

“For generations, city streets were built solely with car travel in mind, at the expense of the Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities who experience the most traffic related fatalities (followed by seniors and children). I want a reconstructed Hennepin that ensures safe and comfortable passage for everyone who uses the street on a daily basis, no matter how they travel. And if you depend on your car, I care about your safety too. Nobody is served well by the high speeds and reckless behavior encouraged by the existing design of this street.”

She co-founded Hennepin for People in order to support a street that values people who walk, roll, bus, bike, and drive.

“Based on crash data, the city has designated Hennepin Avenue as a high injury street; the current layout doesn’t serve anyone well. I am excited about the recommended layout especially with the future E Line Bus Rapid Transit. During rush hour, 49% of the people in vehicles on Hennepin are in buses; this is why 24/7 bus lanes are absolutely essential – transit riders deserve priority. Our population is growing and we should use the limited space we have efficiently. We can’t compete with suburban shopping centers on parking availability. But we can and should embrace what makes this area special: the density of people and destinations, and the choices we have for how to travel.”

Proposal removes 92% of street parking, designates 24/7 bus-only lanes, adds median to restrict left turns, narrows vehicle lanes, and includes 2-way bike lanes

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

If the proposed reconstruction plan for Hennepin Ave. passes, Kristin Traynor says The Corner Balloon Shoppe will be moving

Amazing Thailand has struggled without street parking for customers in front of their building at 3024 Hennepin Ave. S., especially as they’ve shifted business to takeout, says general manager Korawan (Yin) Muangmode, second from left, shown with her brother and family, owners Dee and Kulsatreet Noree with Yindee and Sandee (age 4), and head chef Khamsouk Pathilath (left). (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

from 2455 Hennepin Ave.

“I have an extremely diverse group of customers who drive, and like the fact that they can usually find free parking right by my front door,” said Traynor. “This includes suburban moms who come in with three little ones in tow, elderly citizens who have trouble walking and first-time customers (who often become regulars) that say they were just driving by and decided to pull over and check out our Shoppe.”

Traynor is part of an organized effort

by the Uptown Association and Citizens Against South Hennepin Reconstruction Proposed Design coalition to see a different design. Like others, she questions putting bike lanes on Hennepin. “I’m not sure why we need bike lanes on every street in the city. There are side streets flanking Hennepin on both sides,” observed Traynor. “To make such a concession to a small population at the expense of small business just seems ridiculous to me.”

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## URBAN INDIGENOUS LEGACY INITIATIVE UNVEILED

16 nonprofits work together to transform Indigenous landscape

By **Margie O’Loughlin**

Many buildings that serve Native Americans across the Twin Cities are outdated and dilapidated, making it even tougher to help those in need, according to Dr. Joe Hobot, president and CEO of the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center (AIOIC) in Minneapolis.

“Our aging facilities are being held together by baling wire, duct tape, spit and grip,” he told the attendees at the recent #NativeRISE event in downtown St. Paul.

Hobot was speaking on behalf of a newly formed collaborative called the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative, a plan to transform the Indigenous landscape of the Twin Cities. The collaborative represents 16 nonprofit organi-

zations working on behalf of Native Americans metro-wide; the buildings that house these organizations are in need of repair and/or replacement.

These organizations have provided services and resources in the Twin Cities for more than four decades. The proposed culturally affirming buildings would allow the organizations to expand the services they offer, creating a safe, supportive, and empowering experience for Native Americans recipients.

At this moment, with historic levels of funding available for improving infrastructure and reducing racial disparities, the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative is looking forward.

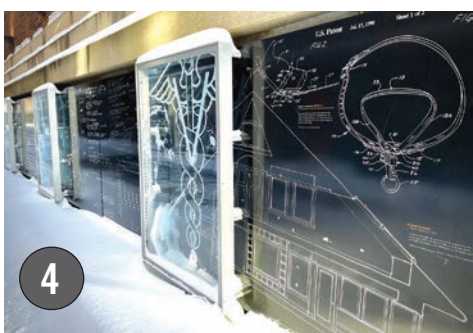
**THRIVING NONPROFITS = THRIVING COMMUNITIES**

The #NativeRISE event drew approximately 200 nonprofit leaders, legislators, foundation supporters, community partners, media and other guests. As the audience learned, six



Kevin Smoky Day, Ojibwe language instructor at Takoda Prep High School, led the evening prayer. He said, “When students ask me how to say a prayer in Ojibwe, I tell them it’s simple. You only need these words, “Thank you, Creator.” (Photo by Margie and Pat O’Loughlin)

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Take a public art walking tour along the University of Minnesota's East and West Bank campuses. (Photos by Susan Schaefer)

# AN EDUCATED TWIST TO WINTER FITNESS:

Take a local outdoor public art tour to enhance well-being



By Susan Schaefer

Much has been written about the benefits of exercise and being outdoors to beat the blues. According to a recent report from the American Psychological Association, "There is mounting evidence, from dozens and dozens of researchers, that nature has benefits for both physical and psychological human well-being."

The good news is that urban nature is a totally acceptable stand in. Twin Citians needn't feel compelled to own a cabin or make excursions to Minnesota's vast northern wilderness to enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors.

But what happens when the Polar Vortex is at our door?

Those who live here in the "True North" know that the expression, "Winter is Coming," didn't originate with the epic Game of Thrones television series. In fact, Minnesotans surely wrote many chapters in the book on wintering.

Urban denizens take on December through March in style, often embracing winter sports bedecked in Lycra, layers, long johns, fleece, down and wool, on skis, skates, sleds, snowshoes, and sneaks, defying

the elements to log miles on abundant city trails and parks.

But sometimes, icy paths, below zero temps, and Arctic blasts find many desiring ways to get steps in without the alfresco Olympic heroics.

Here's a way to multiply your winter fun: It is well-documented that enjoying cultural activity also contributes greatly to our personal and collective well-being. So, combining outdoor exercise with an artistic twist provides a wellness big bang!

Let me introduce you to one of my favorite metro area outdoor adventures: trekking the University of Minnesota's East and West Bank campuses. Throughout the seasons, I wander the many pathways of this urban treasure, not only charting my 10,000 steps, but experiencing museum quality art, as well.

Best of all, this exploration is free and open to the public. And it's perfect to do with family or friends. The campuses are easy to get to from anywhere in the metro area and boast multiple public parking and transportation options with the Green Line offering convenient stops on both campuses.

I'm fortunate to live in a high-rise condo building adjacent to the West Bank, and have made a three-to-four-mile walk-

ing loop a regular part of my exercise program. From my back door, which adjoins Bluff Street Park, I cross the convenient Dinkytown Greenway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge to explore the East Bank, completing my route by crossing back over the iconic, covered Washington Avenue Bridge. Both bridges offer amazing views of the Mississippi River high above the limestone bluffs.

### JOIN ME FOR A LITTLE TOUR.

Beginning at Bluff Street Park, cross the Dinkytown bridge, turning right at the steep hill by the back of by the Education Sciences Building. Here you encounter the "Garden of Iron Mirrors" installation by Andrea Stanislav. This arty rock outcropping consists of giant native taconite geodes, sliced in two, some highly polished, others sporting shiny stainless-steel plates. The work creates an "intersection between art, science, and history" and nature. These behemoth rocks "reflect" the surrounding building, the wooded riparian steep bank, the beholder, and the very core of Minnesota's geology - taconite. It's a fun place to pose for selfies in the cleverly polished rock mirrors - when they're not snow-covered! [Photo 1]

At the top of the hill, cross East River Road to take the bucolic



# SHOP LOCAL



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When you support your local newspaper, you support your community.

▶2 **EDUCATED TWIST**

pathway between Burton, Elliot, Scott, and Wulling Halls. These buildings are architecturally interesting, and coupled with the stunning ancient oak trees, comprise a magical part of this tour. [Photo 2]

Emerging from this nestled path near the side of Northrop Auditorium, cross Pleasant St. SE, then scoot between Johnson Hall and Walter Library (a marvel of art lies inside). With the front of Northrop on the left, turn right past the photogenic buildings of the quad. Great photo op here!

At Scholar's Walk, turn left, strolling a short block. Outside the Mechanical Engineering Building rises the "Platonic figure" by local favorite, Andrew Leicester. This installation is a soaring homage to the great Renaissance artist-engineer Leonardo da Vinci's drawing "Vitruvian Man." [Photo 3]

Continuing east is the enchanting, semi-covered arcade of Scholar's Walk, a corridor with depictions, drawings, diagrams and descriptions of famous University intellectuals and their works, etched and sandwiched behind lit glass. [Photo 4]

Continuing along Scholar's Walk, cross Church Street (the Graduate Hotel sits on the opposite side). A little way on, outside the Physics and Nanotechnology Building, are the mesmerizing sculptures, constructed of stainless steel and granite entitled "Spannungfeld," by German artist, Julian Voss-Andreae. Spannungfeld means, "tension field," which implies "a dynamic tension, often between polar opposites."

This exciting work consists of two 10-foot-tall figures in a basic kneeling pose, a male and a female, facing each other. "The two figures represent nature's omnipresent pairs of opposites. These dualities are a



"The Crucible" by Stuart Nielsen sits outside Amundson Hall. This piece was inspired by the 40-foot diameter geodesic globe of the world installed in May 1993 on Northrop Plaza with the help of 11,535 elementary students. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

fundamental facet of nature and are found in Western science as well as in Eastern traditions. They are critical to the emergence of new levels of meaning in science, and, in the case of the two human genders, critical to the emergence of life. Like the positive and negative electric charge in physics or the yin-yang in Chinese philosophy, neither woman nor man can exist without the other."

Standing to the side of each figure, you

perceive a solid mass, but move directly in front of each, and the artworks seem to disappear as you behold the buildings and landscaping behind each, a masterful optical illusion. The effect is marvelous. [Photo 5]

Heading south towards Washington Ave., make a right, where outside of Amundson Hall sits Stuart Nielsen's, "The Crucible," of cast bronze and stainless steel. Celebrating the beauty and strength of nat-

ural materials. This piece "was inspired by a 40-foot diameter geodesic globe of the world that was erected on Northrop Plaza in May 1993 with the help of 184 schools, 11,535 elementary students, and over 250 Institute of Technology alumni mentors - a technical, organizational, and inspirational triumph. [Photo 6]

These are but a few of the marvels along this route of world class architecture and sculptures. Not only can you get brisk exercise, but the many coffee shops and cafes that dot Washington Ave. provide respite. Heading towards the Washington Avenue Bridge, the colonial style Coffman Union building, next to the Weisman Art Museum (WAM), is open to the public with a lower level featuring food kiosks and the fantastic bookstore with a wonderful gift selection.

Speaking of gifts, when WAM reopens, its gift shop rivals that of any major museum.

Did you know that through WAM, you can book a guided tour of the public art on the campus?

Since its establishment in 1988, the Public Art on Campus Program has become an integral part of the campus environment. As I've partly described here, each piece of art has its own history and ties to campus life and academics. Public Art on Campus Tours last one hour and cover about 1.5-2 miles can be scheduled for groups of 3-15. Check the website for more information.

From Frogtown, to Longfellow, to Southwest - all roads easily lead to this urban excursion where art and exercise exist in splendid harmony. Maybe I'll see you on the trail!



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**THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>**

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# NEVER FORGET THE POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

A longtime reader and community activist reached out to me last month to say hello, and in the course of our catching up, she shared a snapshot of a column I had written 20 years ago which she had saved among her collection of newspaper clippings. While I was touched with the fact that she had considered my column to be worth saving all these years, it also struck me how the power of the written word can be, at times, so enduring.

In my own family, we have a host of written treasures that my siblings and I have saved as tributes to our parents and relatives and the life and times that they experienced. My Mom was a longtime member of the Eastside Writers Club and loved to write poetry. We once published a seasonal poem she wrote under the byline "Sue Donym" (for pseudonym), a byline which she sometimes used in a show of modesty to not call attention to herself. She would often write poetry featuring the people in her life and she would also write poetry as an outlet for stress relief from life's daily challenges.

Another cherished piece of writing was the typewritten letter that my Uncle Bob from Milwaukee wrote to my Dad when my Dad was being inducted into the Korean War. My Dad was the baby of his family, with his three half-brothers much older than him as my grandfather's first wife, who had given birth to the three half-brothers, had passed away. Uncle Bob, the closest to my Dad in age, was still 15 years older than my Dad and very much of a father figure to him.

Uncle Bob's letter was just a page long. Short, poignant, and to the heart. He wrote about my father's faith, his dedication to family and country, and how he knew that my Dad would emerge from this challenging time with his principles and integrity intact. It was such a moving and well-written letter that still brings an emotional response decades later, that it is one of the pieces of



By Denis Woulfe

my family's history that has been preserved over time. Each time I have read Uncle Bob's letter to my Dad I have always thought that my only wish was that I would be able to find just the right words of inspiration to impart to my own kids when they needed support, encouragement, or perhaps just a few words of praise for a job well done.

A good friend from high school that I've known since third grade called me a few months ago after his father had passed away as he was sorting through some of his personal effects and keepsakes. He was reading a few lines from postcards that I had sent to him when he was away at Carleton College at Northfield and I was at Hamline University in St. Paul. I was a little embarrassed, as I had completely forgotten that I had even sent him postcards during our college years, but again, also amazed that he found them worth keeping.

I've also saved a few letters and cards over the years myself. English professor Quay Grigg was my English advisor at Hamline University while I was a student there back in the 70s. He also led an interim trip to the Rio Grande Valley back in May 1977 of which I was a part. Upon my return, I wrote a freelance piece for the Saint Paul *Pioneer Press* on our trip to the Rio Grande and Georgia O'Keefe country. Grigg was kind enough to provide a photograph that I could submit, along my manuscript, to the *Pioneer Press*. He also sent along a short, typewritten note which read, in part: "Congratulations on your *Pioneer Press* budding career. I hope it does indeed bud."

I never pursued a full-time job with the *Pioneer Press* after that other than writing

a freelance theatre review on assignment, but shortly after our trip I became the editor of our student newspaper at Hamline and eventually became editor of our sister newspaper, the *Midway Como Frogtown Monitor* in 1979 with Grigg's encouragement. I've saved that short note from Grigg ever since.

I think it's true today that fewer and fewer of us are writing letters and postcards as we did years ago. We are more likely to send a text or write something on Facebook than send a letter to a friend or family member. I know that I'm as guilty of this as anyone. I'm much more likely to send off a text or write an email to someone than to spend the time to write an actual letter or postcard, put a stamp on it, and send it off in the mail.

I know that times have changed. That it's a different world than it was 10 or 20 years ago. But my wish for all of us is to not abandon the seemingly outdated notions of handwritten or typed letters and postcards. Not everything can be expressed adequately in emojis and cryptic text messages. Sometimes the best felt emotions and thoughts can best be expressed in old-fashioned written communications.

In short, don't forget to write!

And in addition to writing to your friends, family and other people in your life, don't forget to write to your favorite community newspaper, the *Southwest Connector*. Just like your friends and family we would like to hear what's on your mind. We know it's worth sharing.



**TMC Publications sales** representative Denis Woulfe has worked on both the editorial and advertising sides of newspapers, and relishes the opportunity to work with area businesses on developing marketing plans and finding solutions to reaching their audience.

## THANKS! AND CONGRATS!



### LETTERS

Your newspaper was delivered today and I'm surprised at how much I liked it - mostly because we're new(ish, 7 years) to MSP, and I've never felt a huge

connection to a news outlet or newspaper here. We've been warmly welcomed, and we've settled in really well, but I've had a hard time feeling civically connected.

Something about your paper instantly made me feel like this is for me, and I feel a responsibility to read it, react, and act. The articles feel tangible, and your introduction made me feel like we were really partnering together in this community.

My dad publishes a home and lifestyle magazine in St. Louis, so I know how much work goes into projects like this - you've done an awesome job. Congratulations!

**Anna Abrams**

**43rd and Dupont**

## ANALYSIS OF 2021 RCV ELECTIONS IN MINNESOTA SHOW GROWING SUCCESS

I'm excited to share our analysis of the RCV elections in Minnesota this past November. 2021 has been a historic year for Ranked Choice Voting here and across the country. Bloomington, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, and St. Paul all used RCV for their municipal elections. Never before have we had five Minnesota cities - representing 16 percent of Minnesota voters - conducting ranked-choice elections at the same time. These elections were among the more than 30 cities across the country using RCV for local elections this year.

The 2021 municipal elections in the five metro cities greatly exceeded expectations. The elections showed the power of RCV to create a more inclusive, participatory and representative democracy. With stronger than expected voter participation due to large and diverse competitive campaigns, high levels of ranking among voters of all ages, ethnicities, income and education levels, and a nearly 100 percent valid ballot rate, voters demonstrated that they understood RCV, they liked it and - based on consistent exit polling interviews - they want to continue using it.

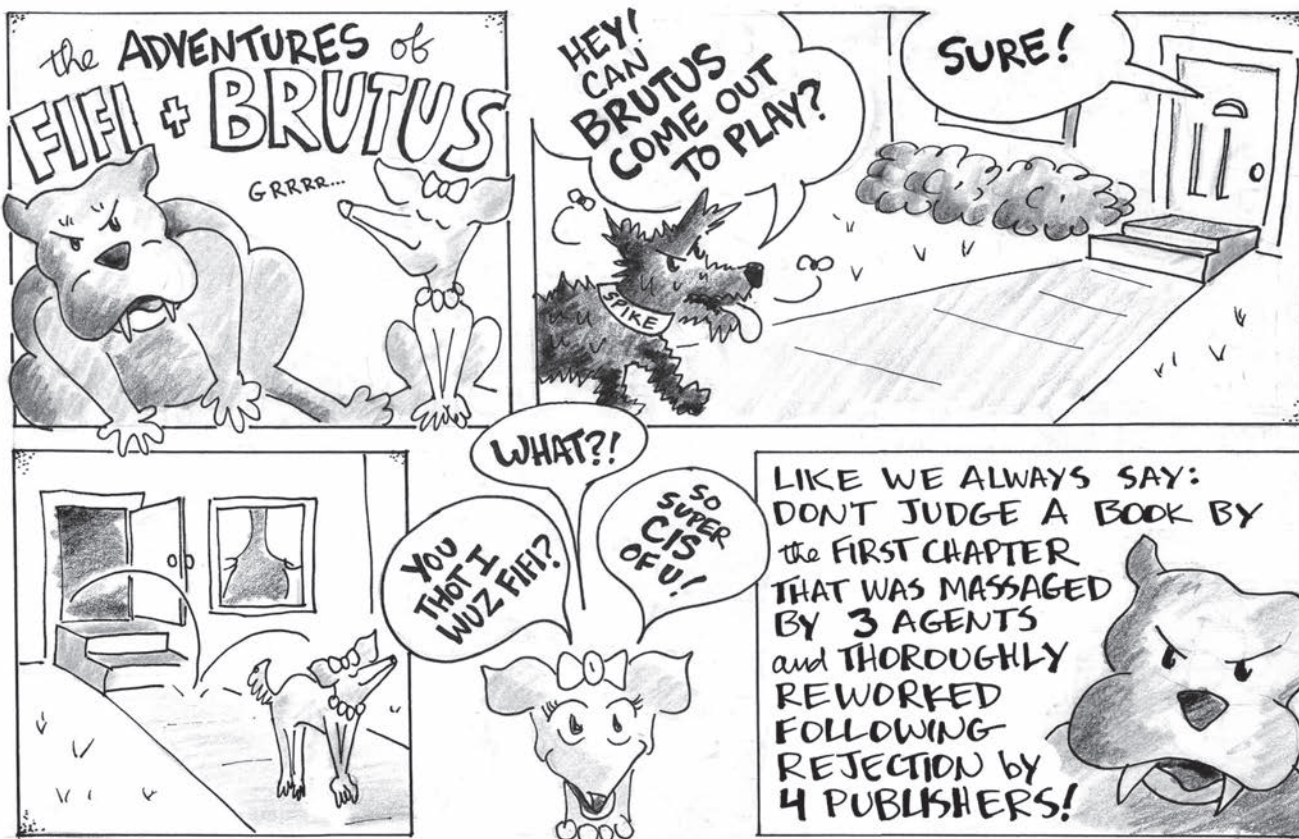
These trends have become more pronounced with each consecutive election in which RCV is used. In addition, we saw RCV mitigate the kind of polarization we see in traditional elections. In particular, despite rancor from the ballot measure campaigns in Minneapolis, most candidates ran issue-oriented campaigns and focused on building coalitions. Those with the largest coalitions won and by and large, negative campaigning didn't work. In sum, the RCV elections this cycle continue to build the momentum for expanding RCV in more communities and in state and federal elections.

Read our full analysis, including a summary breakdown of data in Minneapolis and Bloomington in our RCV By The Numbers. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

With gratitude and well wishes for the holidays,

**Jeanne Massey,**  
Executive Director  
FairVote Minnesota

## Anthropoidea



By Stewart Huntington

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The *Connector* is for profit and for a purpose - and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white, both/and. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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# TRUE PROGRESS ON HENNEPIN REQUIRES A BUSINESS PLAN

The Hennepin South reconstruction project won't work for anyone without a local economy

Small businesses are the lifeblood of any community. They provide distinctive character to a neighborhood and are the engine that drives a local economy. Without local businesses, there is no local economy. And without a local economy, there is no community.



By Eric Ortiz

Is this the future of Minneapolis?

That's the road the city will be on if the Hennepin Avenue South reconstruction project moves forward with its current design.

To see how Minneapolis could have a future with no local economy, it's important to understand the proposed Hennepin plan that runs from West Lake Street to Douglas Avenue. The Minneapolis Public Works Department, which has been working on the project since 2018, released its final plan on Dec. 7. The recommended design includes 24/7 bus lanes, protected bike lanes, pedestrian improvements and two vehicle lanes (instead of four).

We are 100 percent in favor of improving the walkability and bikability of a city, making public transportation better and reducing the effects of climate change. But an important part of the community is missing in this Hennepin plan — the small business community. Their needs have not been addressed.

For months, business owners have been calling for the plan to include parking for customers and loading zones for deliveries. Their voices have mostly not been heard. This proposal offers about 20 spaces for on-street parking and loading on Hennepin Ave., while eliminating 92 percent of the on-street parking along this key business and residential corridor.

The Uptown Association launched a campaign to support businesses. They organized



Corner of Lagoon and Hennepin, looking south, in 1938. (Minnesota Historical Society)

a petition to ensure Hennepin Avenue works for everyone, and more than 1,000 community members (many businesses and residents) signed it. They also collected testimonials from businesses on Hennepin sharing their concerns. Instead of listening, the proposed design recast Hennepin as a corridor to be "passed through," rather than a commercial node where people come to work, shop, dine, and spend money.

Supporters of the plan have not just dismissed the concerns of business owners. They have openly mocked them at times. While advocates call the plan an "inclusive design," it doesn't acknowledge that this plan won't work for businesses, the elderly, disabled, suburbanites, out-of-towners or families with small kids. Moms and dads don't always have time to load up the bike cart or take a leisurely stroll.

Minneapolis prides itself on being a bicycle-friendly city, but we're a long way from becoming Amsterdam or Copenhagen, where

half of commuters cycle. The reality is that only about 5 percent of residents in Minneapolis use bikes to get around. That's around 22,000 people (of the 435,000 population), and that number is even smaller in the winter.

Don't get us wrong. We realize climate change is an existential crisis. We are all for reducing our carbon footprint and preventing severe injuries and deaths from traffic crashes. We love the concept of a 15-minute city — the idea that residents can meet their basic needs with 15-minute walk or bike ride — and appreciate the aspirational idea of Minneapolis becoming a smaller-scale Chicago or New York City.

The trouble is, pushing a plan out that fails to consider the full needs of our community gives us the illusion of progress. And it's clear that businesses are an afterthought in the Hennepin reconstruction.

But why does it have to be either/or? Why can't the Hennepin plan be both/and? We can promote long-term environmental sus-

tainability and support local businesses at the same time. The two ideas are not mutually exclusive. Why can't the Hennepin plan support walkers, bike riders, public transportation, the environment, and initiatives for businesses in our community?

Hennepin was last reconstructed in 1957, and some people are making plans on what a great corridor Hennepin will be for the next 50 years. But what happens in the next few years when small businesses leave Hennepin or don't survive the reconstruction?

We've already lost businesses in Uptown. There are no guarantees businesses will take their place, or the city will recoup lost revenue. Active streets are safer streets when it comes to public safety. You don't have to worry about crime as much when there is a thriving business corridor. Blocks of empty storefronts and boarded-up businesses don't help. Parts of Hennepin look like a ghost town now. It could get worse.

We need to find balance. True progress requires both/and leadership. That is how we can produce true win/win outcomes. Everyone might not get everything they want. But all sides get what they need.

This would be good for business. For everyone.

**The public comment period for the Hennepin reconstruction plan is open until Jan. 28.** Public Works is scheduled to present the plan to the city council in March/April 2022, and street construction is planned to begin in 2024. No matter what your opinion is on the future of Hennepin, we recommend you make your voice heard.



**Eric Ortiz** lives in the Wedge with his family. When he's not community building, he's the director of media for Granite Media and writes bilingual children's books with his kids. Their first book was "How the Zookalex Saved the Village," available in English and Spanish on Amazon.

## Breaking schools' rules: school-to-prison pipeline explained

Why everyone should care and work to help stop the funnel and negative effects on society

Schools and prisons should never be in the same sentence; however, the school-to-prison pipeline is real.

For far too many students of color, entering the gateway to incarceration begins with a referral from the classroom to the courtroom. This phenomenon is referred to as the school-to-prison pipeline. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund described this pipeline as "funneling of students out of school and into the streets and the juvenile correction system perpetuates a cycle known as the 'School-to-Prison-Pipeline,' depriving children and youth of meaningful opportunities for education, future employment, and participation in our democracy."

The emergence of the school-to-prison pipeline has been impacted by trends in school disciplinary practices and zero tolerance policies. It is our challenge to dismantle this pipeline and create new pipelines to success for all children. In order to undertake in this endeavor, we must first become knowledgeable on this contemporary civil rights issue.

Students enter into the juvenile justice system through an interaction with a police officer in the community or through a referral from schools.

There are two main contributing factors that have led to the expansion of the school-to-prison pipeline:



By Dr. Artika Tyner

1) School disciplinary practices. Nationally, a public student is suspended every second and a half. This equates to 3.3 million children being suspended each year. One study found that 95 percent of out-of-school suspensions were for nonviolent, minor disruptions such as tardiness or disrespect. Previous studies have shown that even a single suspension can double the odds of that student later dropping out. A simple math equation emerges: missed days in the classroom plus missed learning opportunity equals a decreased likelihood of a student's ability to successfully complete high school and enter the pipeline to future success through higher education and vocational pursuits.

2) Zero tolerance policies. Zero tolerance policies can also serve as a gateway into the school-to-prison pipeline. Schools are increasingly reliant on zero tolerance as a tool to curb misbehaviors. However, their use may be too drastic. Violence is down at public schools since 1990 — down by 30 percent. Further, less than one percent of all violent crimes happen on school grounds. Therefore, in some instances the enforcement of zero tolerance policies can

be far-reaching, therefore increasing the likelihood of interaction with law enforcement and future incarceration.

This pipeline must be dismantled and strategic action is required. Changes in three main categories must be enacted.

First, positive climates must be created that focus on prevention rather than punishment. Students would be better served through interventions informed by restorative practices from school administrators to handle disciplinary actions rather than relying on resource officers and the court system.

Educational programs and counseling services should be increased and made available, along with training and tools for teachers to effectively deal with misbehavior. This holistic approach will aid in ministering to the needs of children while supporting learning goals.

Secondly, the development of clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations is critical, along with consequences to prevent, de-escalate, and address disruptive behaviors. As an adjunct to this, we must improve behavior, increase engagement, and boost achievement. Students must be made aware of what's expected of them and learn key tools for managing these expectations as a part of life skills development.

Lastly, we need to ensure fairness, equity, and continuous improvement to pre-

vent a reversion to the methods and policies that made the school-to-prison pipeline possible. Disciplinary policies and practices will need continual examination and analysis.

The emergence of the school-to-prison pipeline is detrimental to the success of thousands of children across the United States. Entering the pipeline creates a gateway into the "tangled web of mass incarceration." Now more than ever we need a vision for dismantling this pipeline in order to support student engagement, learning, and academic success. The wisdom of Sitting Bull offers a new pathway to the future: "Let us put our minds together and see what kind of life we can make for our children." This is a call to action for educators, school administrators, elected officials, parents, and community leaders.

You can learn how you can help to prevent, challenge, and change the school-to-prison pipeline by watching my lecture in the Comcast/NBC Universal Social Justice Series on the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

You can also participate and be part of the solution by visiting #SJSSEBeyondTheHashtag, #SchoolToPrisonPipeline, and #RacialJustice.



**Through her organization**, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, Dr. Artika Tyner seeks to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach. Reach her at [dr.artikatyner@gmail.com](mailto:dr.artikatyner@gmail.com).

## NEW SCULPTURE COMING

The Lake Street Council has unveiled sneak peek images of a new outdoor art installation coming to Lake Street. A heart-shaped “We Love Lake Street” sculpture designed by the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center will be completed and displayed along the Lake Street corridor in early 2022.

“This new sculpture will celebrate all the special people and places that make Lake Street a wonderful neighborhood – especially the hundreds of small businesses that call it home,” said Allison Sharkey, executive director of the Lake Street Council. “We are excited to bring this locally designed sculpture to Lake Street as we rebuild, recover and look to the future.”

Once completed, the eight-foot-tall sculpture will be placed outside at the corner of Lake Street and Chicago Avenue, travelling to other locations along Lake Street over the seasons. The art piece is made possible by Wells Fargo and its Hope USA campaign, a nationwide effort focused on supporting small businesses and neighborhood beautification in communi-



ties across the country. Drawings of the sculpture were revealed at the Lake Street Council’s Winter Block Party on Thursday, Dec. 2. The free event focused on celebrating Lake Street’s

small businesses and featured live music, bonfires and an ice sculpture inspired by the new art installation. (Photo submitted)

## BRIEFS

### ARRESTS MADE IN BRYN MAWR ROBBERY

Four teens have been arrested in a robbery that occurred on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 11:31 a.m. at Bryn Mawr Market (412 Cedar Lake Road S.). According to the Minneapolis Police Department, four suspects entered the convenience store and attempted to rob the business at gunpoint. When the 20-year-old female cashier was not able to open the register, one of the suspects shot her in the foot. While leaving the business, one suspect punched the cashier in the face and another suspect shot her in the torso. She was transported to the hospital and listed in serious condition. The suspects fled the scene in a vehicle that had been previously taken in a carjacking in St. Paul. Within eight hours from the initial incident, investigators arrested three of the suspects, located the vehicle, and recovered a handgun in Minneapolis. The fourth suspect was arrested on Dec. 30. All four suspects are being investigated for involvement in multiple robberies and carjackings in Minneapolis.

A comment from the family: “We would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of support and love for the wellbeing of our daughter. We wanted to pass along that our daughter is on the mend and she along with our family have been uplifted by the thoughts, prayers and well wishes from this community. We would appreciate our privacy during this difficult time.”

### GREEN LINE EXTENSION UPDATE

Highlights of 2021:

- Excavation progressed and crews began to pour concrete for the structure of the LRT tunnel in the Kenilworth corridor.
- Freight rail work to update tracks was completed. Tie work to be done next year.
- The deck for LRT bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel was completed.
- All the drilled shafts that support the Corridor Protection Wall between Bryn Mawr Station and Glenwood Avenue were completed.

Upcoming in 2022:

- Cedar Lake Parkway will close in early 2022 in order to construct the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel through that segment of the corridor. More details to follow in January.
  - Construction will advance on all five Minneapolis stations.
  - Construction is slated to begin on the third and final bridge structure over the Cedar Lake Channel, to establish the regional trail bridge.
  - Work will continue to advance on the Glenwood Avenue roadway and LRT bridge structures.
  - Holden Street and Border Avenue will be reconstructed near the Royalston Avenue/Farmers Market Station.
- Minneapolis Roadway Detours: Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue

# WHAT’S IN A NAME?

## TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

My first assignment, when offered this opportunity to write for the *Southwest Connector*, was to come up with a **Name for the Column**. And as I started to write, I realized that without a name for it, it would be hard to write for it.



By Larry LaVercombe

friend Suzie Marty, who not only owns the supercool art gallery Everett & Charlie, *she is a connector of people, too*.

Two summers ago, when COVID-19 was raging and we all needed a safe, outdoor place to connect, Suzie created a weekly outdoor Fall Sidewalk Music Series. She partnered with the neighboring Harriet Brasserie restaurant, and presto: we had musicians entertaining both passers-by and diners. People connect, and everybody wins.

But my favorite part of this story is that there is a driveway between Everett & Charlie and The Harriet Brasserie. The driveway is owned by Felicity Britton, who many of you may know as one of the founders of Linden Hills Power and Light, the organization highly responsible for starting the organic recycling movement in Minnesota. Felicity owns the building that houses both the gallery and the Wild Rumpus Bookstore. During COVID-19, when no one could eat inside, Felicity donated her driveway for free to The Harriet Brasserie so that the Brasserie could have enough outdoor seating to serve all of the people who wanted to come together for community and food.

I’ve always believed in the concept of a *team*. I loved it when Title IX was passed: it gave girls the same chance as boys to *be on a team*. I coached little league, and more than anything else, I stressed that *we were a team*. We tucked our shirts in, and we all rooted for each other; that’s what my *team* was about. Years later, I named my real estate business Team Larry. It’s who I am.

And yet, I believe in cooperation more than competition. Competition is great when it makes you work harder, but as Paul Wellstone said, “We all do better when we all do better.”

I not only believe this, but I work consciously to make it true. My faith is important. No one can change the world, and yet, we change the world with everything we do. I’ve been writing my whole adult life, hoping for it to have some effect. I’ve recently learned how to play guitar, and I’ve finally begun to feel that I can affect people with music, as I team with other musicians. *Bingo! Dang! I just got it! I just this instant*, as you are with me here... I just this instant came up with the title: *Teaming Up for Good*. {he writes the title at the top of the page.}

Hah! I love it when this happens. My personal artistic writing is heavily influenced by art that incorporates a meta-consciousness: TV shows that break the fourth wall, and fiction that implicates the reader into the story. I like to talk to you as you watch my characters talk to each other.

So – thanks for helping me title this column! I couldn’t have done it without you!

Look for articles here about the community, about opportunities to do good in the community, and yes, also occasionally about real estate. I have carefully followed the writing and passing of Minneapolis 2040 plan, and I have lots of opinions about how it will affect our culture and your property values.

Stay tuned. And thanks for coming with me this far.



**Larry LaVercombe** is a writer, filmmaker, and activist, born in Detroit and arrived in Minneapolis in 1975. He lived in a treehouse in San Diego before getting an MFA from the USC Film School. He writes every day, and he has been selling residential real estate in Minneapolis for 26 years.

# WEDDINGS

Coming in February

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**▶ 1 URBAN INDIGENOUS LEGACY INITIATIVE**

of the proposed Legacy Initiative projects are shovel-ready, five are investment-ready, and the rest are still being planned.



The estimated cost for the project is \$94 million, which will be raised through public and private sources.

The Legacy Initiative addresses disparities highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent civil unrest, as well as persistent shortfalls in funding for capital improvements in Native American organizations that focus resources on client services.

“Now is the time to commit to funding state-of-the-art facilities with robust programming for the Native American community,” Hobot said. “The challenges of the last 20 months have been unprecedented. It’s time to build the future we want to see for our people.”

**POWER OF COMMUNITY**

Annessia Swann was 22 years old in 1994. Speaking from the podium at #NativeRISE, she said, “I was a single mom in an abusive relationship and needed career assistance to raise my son. A family member suggested I go to the American Indian OIC.”

“I signed up for a one-year training program. The OIC had an on-site child care center, which made it possible for me to complete my program. I found work after I graduated, first with a marketing firm and then in a corporate setting. After a few years, I got a job at OIC, and I’ve been there ever since. I grew up there. My kids would say they grew up there.”

Swann, now the director of Adult Basic Education/GED at AIOIC, is grateful for the support and services she received from the organization. It has made a difference in her life, she said.

The Legacy Initiative will make it possible for AIOIC, located at 1845 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis, to expand and improve its facilities. Funding will ensure that students at the on-site high school have an enriched learning environment with up-to-date technology and resources. Students in the job training program will receive career counseling and skills that help them enter, reenter or advance in the workforce with living wage jobs.

The Legacy Initiative will make it possible for the OIC, located at 1824 Franklin Ave. East in Minneapolis, to expand and improve its facilities. Those facilities include the on-site high school Takoda Prep, and the job training program Takoda Institute. Takoda is a Dakota word meaning “friend to all.”



Lieutenant Gov. Peggy Flanagan said, “As we come up on the 2022 legislative session, we will fight for the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative. Our communities do better when we work collaboratively. The state of Minnesota has been headed in one direction for 133 years. Now we have the vision to do things differently.” (Photos by Margie and Pat O’Loughlin)



Sean Sherman, chef and cookbook author, was the evening’s keynote speaker. His work focuses on rebuilding Indigenous food pathways broken by colonization.

**IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL SPACES**

Attorney Patrice Kunesh is board chair of the Wakan Tipi Center and Lower Phalen Creek Project on the east side of St. Paul.

From the podium, she explained, “We’re trying to restore land to its original habitat. We’ve transformed 27 acres desecrated by the railroad and by industry at the Bruce Vento



American Indian OIC President Dr. Joe Hobot, shown with emcee Deanna Standing Cloud (right), said, “Our buildings have deteriorated, and it is time to add to the legacy of what we inherited. Welcome to the moment – as we move forward from this critical crossroad.”

Nature Sanctuary.”

The organization’s goal is to honor and bring connection to the sacred site. The building – deemed “shovel ready” – will feature a community gathering area, classrooms, and gallery space to showcase the value of sanctuary as a place for cultural healing, life-long learning, and inspiration.

Once built, the organization will operate the interpretive center rent-free for 30 years, as part of a public/private partnership with the city of Saint Paul.

“We’re very grateful,” Kunesh said, “to the city, the legislature, the state, the Met Council, local philanthropists and foundations for supporting a gathering place that will benefit Native Americans and the whole community.”

**RECLAIMING INDIGENOUS FOOD PATHWAYS**

Indigenous chef Sean Sherman has spent more than 30 years perfecting his craft. Co-founder (with his partner Dana Thompson) and CEO of the Sioux Chief, the Indigenous Food Lab, and Owamni, the new Indigenous restaurant in downtown Minneapolis, he was the keynote speaker for #NativeRISE.

“North America’s history begins with Indigenous history. Now is the time to step up all together. Now is the time for evolution and revolution,” Sherman said. “We are reclaiming Indigenous narratives, Indigenous spaces, and Indigenous food pathways that were broken with colonization. We will be the answer to our ancestor’s prayers, but we can’t do it by ourselves. We will rise together.”

For further information about the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative, contact Ann Merrill at the American Indian OIC: [annm@aioc.org](mailto:annm@aioc.org).

Funding for #NativeRISE was provided by the Bush Foundation and Bremer Bank. Singing and drumming was provided by the West End Singers.

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# DOUGHERTY FAMILY COLLEGE OFFERS STUDENTS A GREAT START

By Margie O'Loughlin



A two-year college through the University of St. Thomas is tailored to motivated, underrepresented students who have encountered barriers in pursuing a college degree.

Founded in 2017, the Dougherty Family College (DFC) provide its students, whom they call scholars, with financial, academic, and personal supports.

Dougherty scholars demonstrate financial need, solid academic achievement (2.5 GPA or above) and a strong desire to succeed. The average, annual out-of-pocket cost for a FAFSA filer is \$2,970. However, almost half of DFC scholars paid \$1,030 this academic year. In addition, DFC provides each student with a laptop, textbooks, meals while on campus, and a Metro pass.

Scholars are automatically enrolled in courses that will prepare them to move into their bachelor's degree program at St. Thomas or another university or college, once they've completed their associate degree.

DFC provides their students with a path forward.

## MEET THE DEAN

Dr. Buffy Smith has been the interim dean of DFC since October 2020. She has been a faculty member at the University of St. Thomas since 2004, and was appointed DFC founding associate dean of academics in 2016.

She said, "I see myself through the experiences of our scholars, over 70% of whom are first generation college students. I was the first person in my family to go to college. I was raised by my phenomenal mother and grandmother; we were rich in faith – but not rich in resources.

"We received public assistance and lived in public housing in my hometown of Mil-



waukee. Neither my mother nor grandmother was able to pursue their college degree, but they always emphasized the value of me pursuing mine."

## COHORT-LEARNING FOSTERS COMMUNITY

According to Dr. Smith, "DFC scholars are part of a smaller cohort that functions like extended family: sharing meals and recreational activities, fostering a sense of connection and belonging. The cohort model provides a level of peer support that is essential for academic success."

## MENTORING FOSTERS SUCCESS

Dr. Smith continued, "Mentoring is another crucial component of our college experience. Mentoring is what helps our scholars persevere. We've had more than 200 graduates to date, and 75% of our grads are currently enrolled in bachelor's degree programs.

"Every scholar is assigned a faculty or staff mentor, and they meet at least once a month. Their conversations focus on issues that might impact learning: pressures that are work related, family related, or related to other social relationships.

"Mentors also help scholars navigate the hidden curriculum of higher education. The hidden curriculum refers to social and cultural norms of higher education that impact scholars' success, such as establishing positive relationships with faculty and staff.

"At DFC, we encourage scholars to ask a lot of questions and seek support early and often. We empower scholars to bring their authentic selves, cultural backgrounds, social backgrounds, and unique perspectives to college."

9



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▶ 2 DOUGHERTY

CULTURALLY RESPONSIBLE TEACHING



We believe in high standards, high expectations, high supports, and high educational outcomes. Having high expectations for our scholars will help them reach their fullest potential, but there must be appropriate supports. I have learned that our scholars often exceed our expectations.”

Dr. Buffy Smith

DFC scholars take the same courses as all other University of St. Thomas students, and those courses are taught with the same academic rigor. Within DFC however, professors select textbooks and readings that reflect the rich and diverse cultural backgrounds of the scholars. Dr. Smith said, “We know that college is not only possible – but that with structured, culturally affirming supports – graduation is inevitable.

“We want our scholars to see themselves as being future public intellectuals. Almost 50% of DFC staff and faculty identify as being members of the BIPOC community, as do 90% of our scholars. Young people must be able to see themselves not just as consumers of knowledge, but as soon-

to-be authors and producers of knowledge.

“AT DFC, we help scholars develop the academic confidence they may not have gotten in grades K-12.”

DOUGHERTY FAMILY COLLEGE

DFC is named after the founding co-benefactors Mike and Kathy Dougherty and their family. Mike Dougherty is a St. Thomas alumnus and trustee, and a Twin Cities businessman. The Dougherty family supports the college because they believe in the value of a college education, and want to give motivated, hardworking students the opportunity to succeed in college and beyond.

Dr. Smith said, “Many scholars start their bachelor’s degree program with relatively little debt. We encourage them to complete their four-year degree in five years. It’s more common to matriculate in six years. The first DFC class just graduated with their bachelor’s degrees from the University of St. Thomas. In the past, at least 10 DFC students each year have been awarded a full tuition scholarship to complete their bachelor’s degree. Our scholars are helping to level the playing field of higher education.”

PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

At DFC, opportunity is about more than just providing students a pathway to a degree – it’s about providing them a pathway to using it. Through the Professional Internship Program, scholars develop real-life, professional experience in paid internships across the Twin Cities.

Scholars are required to take a profes-

sional development course in the spring semester of their first year, where they learn about navigating workplace culture, leadership skills, communication, and more. They work fulltime in a paid internship during the summer and continue in their internship one day per week during their second school year.

Approximately 38 local corporations, non-profits and schools are currently partnered with DFC, giving them access to a pool of diverse, highly motivated students earlier than most other internship programs. If interested in partnering with DFC to offer a new internship opportunity, email kris.donnely@stthomas.edu.

DFC is located on the university’s downtown Minneapolis campus. For more information, visit the Dougherty Family College website at <https://dfc.stthomas.edu>.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only one-third of adults in the U.S. are able to get a four-year college degree.

The Dougherty Family College wants to help that number grow, by assisting students from diverse and under-resourced backgrounds. To be eligible for admission, students must demonstrate financial need, solid academic achievement (2.5 GPA or above) and a strong desire to succeed.

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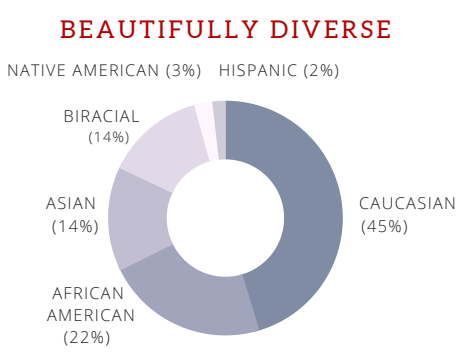
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## ▶1 HENNEPIN AVE. PROJECT

### 'AGGRESSIVELY INDIFFERENT' TO BUSINESSES

"The new plan is aggressively indifferent to the needs of businesses," said Amazing Thailand (3024 Hennepin Ave.) general manager Korawan Muangmode. "We've already seen dozens of businesses leave our block, and the new plan will continue to drive away business from Uptown and Minneapolis."

She pointed to the loss of Dogwood Coffee Bar, Francesca's, North Face, Columbia, Apple, Timberland and Victoria's Secret on the block of Hennepin between W. Lake St. and W. 31st St. Their section of Hennepin Ave. was part of the first phase of the reconstruction project between Lake and 36th streets that was completed in November 2018. The \$7.5 million construction project included widening the sidewalks by about six feet, and installing bike lanes on each side of the street. On-street parking between Lake and 31st and the west side of Hennepin between 31st and 36th was eliminated.

"The Hennepin reconstruction has been extremely inconvenient for us," stated Muangmode. "By removing parking from both sides, it creates a challenge for elderly customers, disabled customers, and families with young children. It's also been difficult for access for pickup and deliveries, a sizable part of our revenue."

"We have had to reroute deliveries to come to the back alley, which is crowded with apartments and can be unsafe for customers. We have fewer customers coming to dine-in from out of town."

Amazing Thailand was opened 15 years ago by a Thai immigrant family. "We are proud to serve our community and host Thai cultural events, but it's difficult to remain devoted to the city when our needs are continuously ignored," said Muangmode, who is also the president of the Thai Cultural Council of Minnesota and director of the Wat Promwachirayan temple.

"The construction doesn't meet community and business needs. We need some parking and access for customers to sustain our business in Uptown."

"The first phase from 36th to Lake is a complete disaster," agreed Uptown Association Executive Director Jill Osiecki. The business association has collected 1,500 signatures on a petition against the proposed extension of the changes to Hennepin Ave. north of Lagoon.

"It will decimate Uptown," stated Osiecki. "It will take away every single parking space on Hennepin from 31st to Franklin."

### 'CASE AGAINST IS STRONGER'

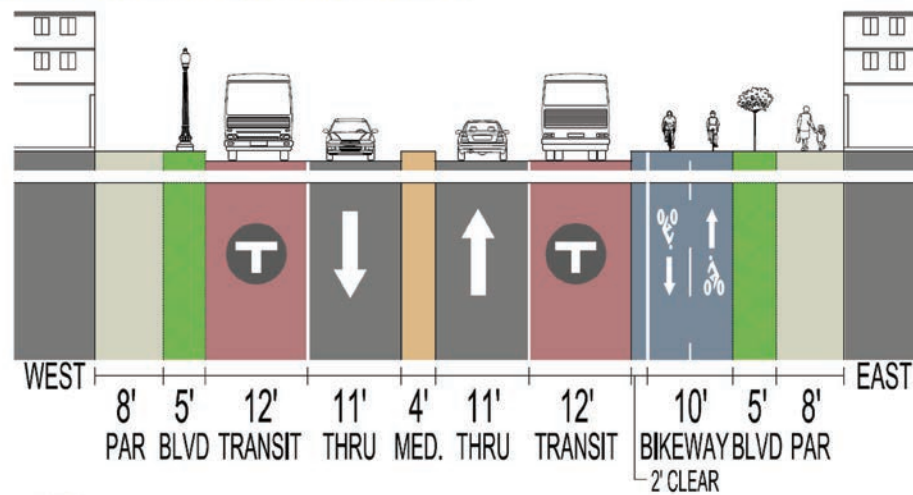
The Uptown Association has a detailed page on its website listing why it is against the proposed design. From there:

- City staff has gone on record saying that the Phase One it implemented on Hennepin south of Lake "didn't work well," but the proposed alignment looks remarkably similar to that one and will likely repeat the same failures. Pure and simple, it's terrible urban design.

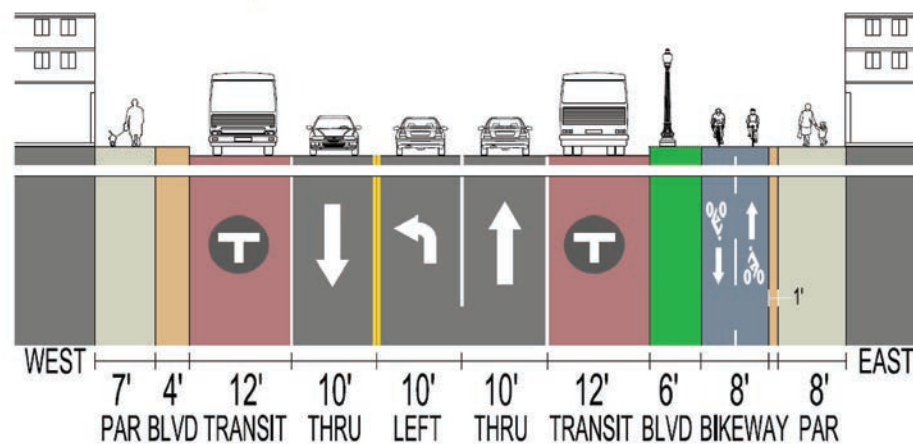
- Since it's unclear at this time how the impact of the pandemic is going to impact transit use and commuting patterns, we feel that committing to permanent bus lanes in this plan could be a mistake. More time and consideration must be allocated to study what commuting will be in the "new normal."

- This design also doesn't acknowledge how the pandemic has also changed how many retailers work. Many of them have embraced online channels, resulting

### Recommended Design: Base Section



### Recommended Design with Left Turn Lane



in more need for FedEx pickup/dropoff, DoorDash, etc. This design completely ignores the newly emerging importance of logistics to making small retail work in a world where a retailer has to have as many revenue channels as possible to compete against corporations like Amazon, Target, Wal-mart, etc to survive. And, of course, it doesn't acknowledge the importance of parking in the customer experience and how customers perceive and ultimately decide where to shop.

- We can accommodate any increased cycling by putting more bike racks down and perhaps other more lean/modular options than full-on bike lanes on both sides of the street. Cyclists are important, but it is critical that their demands are proportionate to other needs, such as accessibility and green space.

- MNDOT just complete a multi-year project to improve the Hennepin access to I-94 and I-35W. As such, Hennepin will continue to be necessary thoroughfare for vehicle traffic going to and from the freeway system. It would be both foolish and wasteful to have capital projects that seem to be at such odds with each other, as the Hennepin and MNDOT plans appear to be. Common sense must prevail.

- While Uptown businesses pay some of the highest property taxes in Minneapolis, there are other areas in the last decade that have replaced it as the "hot" commercial district (North Loop, 50th/France, Northeast to some extent), and the city has enacted many policies in Uptown (the "red carpet" temporary bus lanes, abruptly increased metered parking costs, the failed South Hennepin redesign, to name a few) without accounting for how these changes have affected small businesses, visitor patterns, and more. Uptown needs to be more thoughtfully engaged, rather than just being a playground for planner trends.

- Today, Hennepin serves as not only a corridor for travel, but also a node for over 150 businesses along the street. Many of these businesses utilize the on-street parking to load and unload important deliveries (including DoorDash, Lyft, Uber, etc.), perform curbside interactions with customers and other business-related tasks, easily ac-

commodate people with disabilities and elderly visitors, and of course, are utilized by customers.

The city conducted a parking study in March of 2018, which was historically a very quiet time in Uptown, according to the Uptown Association.

"Off-street parking was counted in this study. The reality is that off street parking is rarely available to all, typically being limited to private business or apartment-specific parking. The only true public parking available is within several public lots and ramps all located in one block. For some businesses to access those lots and ramps are over a mile away, and the hourly costs are significant. ...

"Your voice matters! Independent businesses are the backbone of a vibrant Uptown community where residents want to live, work and play, and your support is needed for the success of the community. We need businesses and residents to speak up, and all concerns to be heard."

### 'END OF OUR BUSINESS'

"After a pandemic, I don't know how the city expects businesses to make it through the construction, only to be left with a street that does not make stopping at the businesses easy, practical or even possible for some people," remarked Jessica Burge of The Cafe Meow (2323 Hennepin Ave. S.).

"The new plan deems Hennepin a 'pass through' and that is how I would describe their plan. Those are the same words that public works has to describe the project."

She added, "I worry about other women, like myself, feeling safe driving in to visit only to park blocks away on the residential streets, especially at night. I worry about the groups we get in from group homes to come visit the cats will not be able to visit anymore. I worry my delivery people who already have trouble will no longer be able to make their deliveries. I am worried about the people arriving via bus as they get dropped off and have to cross the bike lane, which seems a challenge for them and bikers. I worry this will cause some accidents. I worry that the removal of the cute light posts that get decorated each year for large highway type lighting only encourag-

### SPEAK UP

#### Virtual Open House

Jan. 13, 4:30 p.m.

Go to Minneapolis project page to join the open house via Microsoft Teams. There is a pre-recorded presentation to view now.

#### Comment online

Share input via an online survey open through Jan. 28. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HNKHY7S>

### EXPLORE THE ISSUES

#### Proposed Design

<https://bit.ly/3eHzJ6q>

#### Uptown Association/Citizens

#### Against South Hennepin Reconstruction Proposed Design

<http://www.uptownminneapolis.com/south-hennepin-reconstruction-campaign-for-businesses/>

#### Hennepin for People

<https://hennepinforpeople.org>

### OTHER HENNEPIN AVE. PROJECTS

#### Hennepin Downtown

The city of Minneapolis is reconstructing Hennepin Avenue between Washington Ave. and 12th St. in the downtown area, including underground utilities and some construction on the cross streets at each intersection. The street was last rebuilt in 1986. Construction began in 2019 and will be complete by 2022.

<https://www.hennepindowntown.com/project-info/>

#### Hennepin and First:

Hennepin County is developing a design plan for roadway improvements on Hennepin and First avenues (County Road 52) between Main Street and 8th Street in Northeast Minneapolis. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

<https://www.hennepin.us/hennepin-and-first>

es this 'pass through' feel."

She appreciates the pedestrian bump-outs at the corners and thinks that will help with pedestrian safety.

Overall, she believes the current plan will hurt Uptown. Instead, she would like to see "a concept that truly considers the businesses and their needs as well as public safety. Downtown there are street parking, bike lanes, and car lanes. I have to believe it is possible to do that as well on Hennepin."

According to Burge, "We do not have a back door with parking nearby for deliveries and many customers utilize the parking out front for many reasons. With more than half our customers coming from outside of Minneapolis that parking is needed. Many of the locals within Minneapolis also drive and stop in on their way elsewhere, some need to drive and have close parking to their destination for accessibility or safety reasons. ...

"The loss of parking both across the street, going south on Hennepin and in front of our business going north on Hennepin will be the end of our business on Hennepin."

**FEATURES OF THE PLAN**

**Pedestrians:**

- 8-foot sidewalks south of Franklin Ave., 6-foot sidewalks north
- Curb bumpouts to shorter crossings
- 5-foot boulevards along the sidewalks in most areas

**Transit:**

- 2 full-time (24-hour) dedicated transit lanes from Douglas Ave. to Uptown Transit Station
- BRT E-Line/B-Line stations at Franklin Ave., 25th St., and Uptown Transit Station
- Local bus stops at: 24th St. (southbound), 24th St. at Dupont (relocated from northbound Hennepin), 27th St., Lagoon Ave. and Lake St.

**Bicycles:**

- 2-way protected bikeways at sidewalk level on east side of street between bus lane and boulevard/sidewalk
- Connection to Loring Greenway

**Vehicles:**

- 4-lane roadway dropped to 2 lanes from Franklin to Uptown Transit Station
- 92% of on-street parking spots removed; 20 spots left
- Additional vehicle lanes near Franklin Ave. and Lagoon/Lake due to greater traffic demands
- Fremont Ave. S. converted from 1-way to 2-way traffic south of 24th St.
- 6-foot-wide center median added along most of route that drops to 2-4-foot wide at intersections
- Left turns restricted except where there are turn lanes at 22nd St. (northbound), 24th St., 26th St. (northbound) and 28th St.



Hennepin for People has drawn people together at various events to inform and educate on the project. (Photo submitted)

**▶ 1 HENNEPIN FOR PEOPLE**

Lalla has lived in the Wedge area for 10 years. “I choose to live here because it’s walkable to grocery stores, shops and other destinations. It’s also served well by transit and has good biking infrastructure. I mainly experience Hennepin on foot or transit to access all our local businesses and to get to Lake of the Isles, Bde Maka Ska, Loring Park and the Sculpture Garden,” she said.

“My preference was for a more ambitious design for Hennepin south of Lake Street, but it was implemented before the Transportation Action Plan was adopted. I appreciate the pedestrian improvements and the inclusion of bike lanes. It would have been better for the bike lanes to have been concrete protected or at sidewalk level to deter drivers from parking in the bike lanes. I would like to see more greenery, public seating, and dedicated bus lanes.”

Lalla supports the proposed design for Hennepin north of Lagoon, in part because she believes it will create a street where she can walk, bike or bus to businesses without fearing for her safety. Her friends and neighbors don’t park on Hennepin the way it is now because they worry about stepping out in fast-moving traffic, she said.

“It’s important to begin by noting that the current design of Hennepin Avenue reflects generations of prioritizing fast car travel over the needs of people and neighborhoods. The recommended layout is an inclusive design that redistributes space in a way that considers the needs of everyone who uses the street,” she said. “The current design of Hennepin Avenue is a pass-through street that encourages speeding. The recommended design will bring more people to the area. It can become a place to gather, linger, shop, and dine at our

great local businesses. The most important change brought by this design is that no matter how people get around, they can do so safely.”

**SMALL BUSINESS EXCITED ABOUT CHANGES**

Mike Norton is the founder of Railbox Consulting, a small technology company focused on the logistics industry. Its office has been on Hennepin Ave since 2018, and in the Uptown area since 2016. “Being in a hip and walkable area is a huge plus for our company as we try to attract and retain the right employees to help us continue to grow,” he said. Norton commutes to the office from his home in the Lynnhurst neighborhood by car most days, but says he avoids Hennepin because it is so chaotic.

He is part of Hennepin for People. “We’re a small business and we’re excited about the proposed changes,” he said. “Businesses will benefit from the recommended design; they’ll see an uptick in foot traffic from wider sidewalks, dedicated transit lanes, and bike paths. They’ll also benefit from the improved curb appeal, with less asphalt and more green space. Ask anyone who has ever parallel parked on Hennepin if it was a fun experience. While I can appreciate that a few businesses are concerned with losing some of their city-subsidized on-street parking, the reality is we’re talking about roughly 10% of available parking spots being removed.”

According to Norton, “A bigger focus on street safety will make a big difference for people who are regularly in and around Uptown. Narrower street crossings, truly protected bike lanes, and a median to better regulate the flow of car traffic will make it safer for those of us who are out and about in Uptown on a regular basis. The recommended redesign is a comprehensive plan that considers multiple modes of travel in a thoughtful way.”

Norton is disappointed in the first phase of the Hennepin Ave. South project “because the bike lanes weren’t safe and separated enough. The painted bike lanes between Lake and 36th have essentially been a joke to this point. Cars are constantly parked in them, forcing cyclists out into traffic. I travel to the Netherlands for business regularly, and the Dutch philosophy on bike lanes is that it should be safe for everyone between eight and 80 years old. The current recommended design has truly protected bike lanes, separated from traffic and safe enough for me to feel confident about our 14-year-old daughter riding her bike in them. We tell her to avoid the new painted bike lanes and use side streets instead because it’s less dangerous,” he observed.

**BETTER FOR BIKERS AND PEDESTRIANS**

Businesses who have signed on to support option one include: Sencha Tea Bar, Brazil Law Group, Railbox Consulting, Greenspoon Family Daycare, Pizza Hut (2313 Hennepin Ave.), Shingle Creek Capital, Hennepin Grocery Store, and Chipotle. Local organizations who support option one include: Midtown Greenway Coalition, 30 Days of Biking, Our Streets Mpls, Bike MN, Sierra Club - North Star Chapter, Move Minneapolis, Nice Ride Minnesota, Move Minnesota, City of Skate, Bike Lane Uprising and Joyful Riders Club.

“The Hennepin redesign takes businesses, residents, walkers, cyclists, and transit into account by facilitating a place for them to safely coexist on Hennepin,” said Norton. “Right now, Hennepin Ave is designed to accommodate as many cars on it as possible to minimize the inconvenience of traffic during peak traffic periods; everyone else is an afterthought. We can’t treat Hennepin like a highway and then expect people to enjoy their meal on a restaurant patio or feel comfortable walking from shop to shop. The recommended redesign gives a more equitable share of the space to people who are here every day, and not just to those driving through.”

Lalla said, “In the plan I see that the city of Minneapolis takes seriously their adopted climate and transportation policies like Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and the Transportation Action Plan. It’s easy to say what your values are – much harder to act. By following through on implementing these policies it helps build public trust. Also reflected in the plan is a city that takes climate change and racial equity seriously.”



**Online public meeting Jan. 13**  
A virtual open house will be held at 4:30 on Thursday, Jan. 13. Go to the city project page for more information.



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**Seana Daley, Broker/Realtor**  
18 years experience  
Licensed in MN & WI

# I'm taking the plunge – will you join me?



Imagine that we are standing on the banks of the Mississippi River. It is in fact a few blocks east of where I live in south Minneapolis. Imagine with the writing of this column, I am leaving the rather secure banks of the river and jumping into the water. The water is life experience. With this column I am jumping in. It's scary! I don't know where the water is taking me. It's a fear of the unknown. All I can really do now is go with the flow of the river's energy. My ask of you is that you consider jumping into the river with me to see where Stories and Journeys leads us. You can do this by becoming a reader or even subscribing to or advertising in the *Messenger*, *Monitor* or *Connector*.

Now for me personally, at age 77, I have some sense of where the river is taking me. I call it from adulthood to elderhood and beyond. But I can't really limit myself so I am calling the column Stories and Journeys. Now the focus of this particular column is me describing my journey and telling the stories of how I went from being hit by a car while crossing the street at the intersection of 38th Street and 42nd Ave. in south Minneapolis to becoming a column writer and discovering gratitude for all that is as we flow with the river of life experience.

The year 2019 grew my awareness of my gratitude for all the people who helped me survive and recover from two events related to my health that caused me to be hospitalized, including getting hit by a car. February of 2019 I missed a scheduled opportunity to meet, Tesha M. Christensen, the new owner of the *Longfellow-Nokomis Messenger* at a gathering of Elder Voices, a small group that had been meeting monthly at Turtle Bread Restaurant. On my way I was hit by a car as I was crossing the street at the intersection of 38th Street and 42nd Ave. As I lay on the ground surrounded by people wanting to help, not realizing that my getting hit by a car is a traumatic event, I requested that someone make their way to Turtle Bread. My request was that they inform the Elder Voices gathering that I was going to be a no show along with the reason why. That announcement alone made the meeting memorable for me, Tesha and oth-

## STORIES & JOURNEYS

ers in attendance.

In early 2020 through a variety of media outlets the following words started grabbing my attention: novel, global, COVID-19, pandemic. Out of sheer curiosity and my desire to see a big picture, I read "Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs" by Michael T. Osterholm and Mark Olshaker. This broadened my context for what was happening. However, it took a question asked of me by Tesha, during a phone conversation, that the pandemic started to become real for me. I had called TMC Publications CO/the *Messenger* to place a notification regarding the next gathering of Elder Voices. Tesha asked me if Elder Voices would be able to social distance. At the time my answer was yes and the notification was published. But her question continued to haunt me. Elder Voices would shut down not long after this conversation along with most of the rest of my life.

There was a period of about 10 days in March when I found myself in a state of shock overwhelmed by what seemed to be happening globally and close to home. As I began to regain my awareness the following themes emerged: 1) The world and my country is not pandemic ready, not even close. 2) People are going to die needlessly. 3) Health care systems and other systems that service us daily are going to be overwhelmed. 4) People's lives are going to be disrupted in some cases severely disrupted. 5) My daily life will never be the same. 6) In the end who will benefit? Who gains? Who loses? Who gets to decide?

My pandemic life and bubble unfolded along two lines. 1) Discovery that writing is how I process my life. 2) Realizing that the digital/technology world is not my natural habitat. In this regard I found out that I am not alone. I was totally lost and disconnected from what had been my in-person life and people whose connection to my life I had taken for granted were disappearing. The experience of grief and loss became part of my life. For a period of time anxiety and depression were all too real for me. Once again, I found out I was not alone.



By Donald L. Hammen

Today, thanks in large part to Julia at Longfellow-Seward Healthy Seniors and her IT volunteers, I got the support I needed along with technology changes. While there is still much for me to learn about the digital and tech world, my comfort level has grown. I have what I call an online life whereby I can participate by way of Zoom in meetings and events I was missing or did not know about, as well as webinars.

Then there was the discovery that writing is how I process my life by expanding my awareness. This observation was made by Amy, certified healing touch practitioner and chief administrative officer at Everspring Health (2201 Hennepin Ave.). I became aware that I am always writing in my head, on paper or online. It was Amy's willingness to be the email recipient of my most recent emergence as a writer that enabled me to connect with parts of my life that had gone dormant or disappeared from my awareness. Her website, Delightful Healing Arts, at the time I discovered it played a huge role in my awakening. And Everspring Health, where I go for acupuncture on a regular basis, gave me a reason to get out of my house and became a critical part of my pandemic bubble.

More recently Tesha has come back into my life even though we have yet to meet in person. During an email exchange about an entirely different topic having to do with the launching of the *Southwest Connector* I mentioned that I was unsure about the next step for my writing. She proposed to me that I become a column writer for TMC Publications, writing about what I am learning from and reflecting upon my unfolding experiences.

So here I am with my Stories and Journeys column. I have taken the plunge. I invite you to join me. Everybody's story can be a unique expression of the universal experience of risk taking. What Stories and Journeys are happening or have happened in your life because you left the relative security of the river bank and jumped into the river of life experience? If you choose tell it to your self, some one else in your life or maybe me.

In gratitude. Stay tuned.

**Donald L. Hammen** is a longtime south Minneapolis resident, and serves on the All Elders United for Justice steering committee.

## PLAN IT

### DAY OF SERVICE



Mark your calendar and join TRUST Inc as they honor Dr. King's life and legacy with a free "Day of Service" Event packing cold weather kits for neighbors in need on Jan 15, 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon at Richfield Lutheran Church (8 West 60th Street Minneapolis MN). This is an all ages, all abilities event. For questions or to register, call Trust, Inc at 612-827-6159.



### ART SHANTIES

After a pandemic pause to public programming in 2021, Art Shanty Projects is returning to the ice in 2022 with an adapted program that responds to both COVID-19 and climate change. The festival will be exterior-only for visitors, and shanty artists were asked to propose projects that audiences could engage with in the open air. Artistic Director Erin Lavelle said, "Artists are innovators, and when presented with a design challenge they adapt in impressive, enthusiastic ways. The array of selected shanties is so enticing!"

The Art Shanty Projects On-Ice program will take place on Bde Unma / Lake Harriet from Jan. 15 through Feb. 6, 2022. Public hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Kicksleds are available for accessible transport from shore to village and throughout. While the festival is outside only this year, masks will be strongly encouraged. There will be a suggested donation of \$10-20 at the gate again this season and funds will help ensure a viable future. The newly instituted entry gate and on-ice fundraising plan at the 2020 collected over \$60,000 from 27,000 visitors.

## MARCH FOR HOMELESS WHO HAVE DIED



A memorial march for the homeless who have died took place Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021 at 4 p.m. Braving the cold, about 200 marchers bearing signs with the ages and names of the deceased started from Plymouth Congregational Church (19th and Nicollet Ave.) and looped north, returning to the church.



Steve Horsfield, Executive Director of Simpson Housing Services, addressed the crowd beforehand.



Ivan Ludmer and his son, Lewis, felt compelled to march in support of efforts to house the homeless.

## SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

The Twin Cities is full of fun for kids. Find it here in our popular guide coming in February.



AD TIP: What sets your camp apart? Feature that in a photo.

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# A BOWL OF GRATITUDE TO START A NEW YEAR

## THE ART OF...

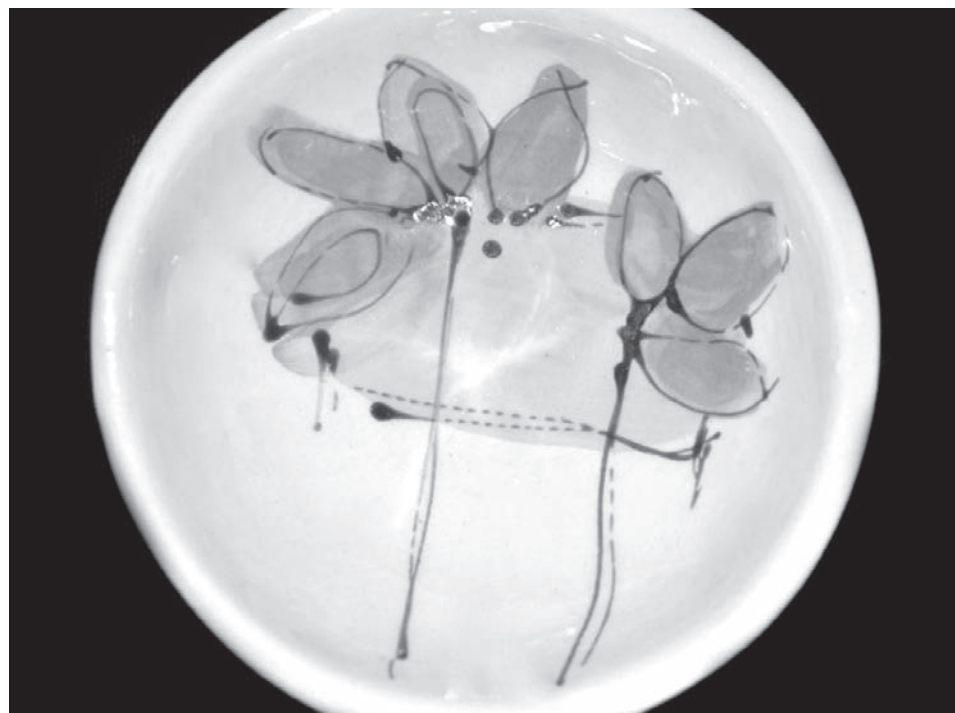
Minneapolis artist Lynn Sarnoff-Christensen has been a potter for over 30 years. She is continuously reinventing her focuses with new creative directions. The path of growth, if you will. Her perpetual focus is on texture and colors, and most of her work reflects nature and her gardens that she nurtures so passionately. Lynn is a contemporary artist whose work has been shown in galleries and juried shows throughout the country. Over the years, her work in clay has had a consistent focus on organic surface design. The better part of her focus is hand-built ceramics. She says getting to know the personality of the clay body and what it is capable of doing is paramount. With the process of hand building, she knows the characteristics of the clay and how she can manipulate and alter the imperfections and textures she creates.

Lynn keeps the shape simple and lets the surface design speak for each piece.

"A Bowl of Gratitude" is a series Lynn created to give people a means to express their appreciation for others. It's an opportunity to give gratitude and embrace it, as well. She feels it is the absolute gift you can give anyone. Lynn is proud to say she lives in a place of gratitude. It is an ongoing prac-



By Suzie Marty



tice. She believes we are pulled into so many directions we sometimes forget to be still in the moment and if we all chose to see life through the lens of gratitude, we could be a calmer culture – a culture made up of people who support one another with appreciation and recognition.

Lynn creates bowls so you can fill them with gratitude... both physically and metaphorically. It is a healthy exercise to allow yourself the time to reflect on the people and events that contribute to your life. It's

a fabulous feeling to express gratitude and receive it, as well. She invites businesses to think about what their appreciation initiatives look like and how they can become more personal and genuine with work that is hand made.

Careful thought, process and distinctiveness go into each of her pieces. She seeks to make each as unique as the recipient. Whether you gift Lynn's work to foster you personally or your business relationships, the practice of sharing art is individual and



Minneapolis artist Lynn Sarnoff-Christensen creates bowls you can fill with gratitude, both physically and metaphorically. She says she lives in a place of gratitude. (\*Note: no relation to Southwest Connector owner Tesha M. Christensen).

genuine.

Gratitude Bowls can be purchased at the Everett & Charlie gallery in Linden Hills or thru Lynn's website and Etsy.

<http://www.abowlofgratitude.com>

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/ABowlOfGratitude>



**Suzie Marty** is an artist and curator at Everett & Charlie art gallery in Linden Hills. She is also an avid supporter of buying local, and a sales representative for the Southwest Connector. Contact her at [ads@swconnector.com](mailto:ads@swconnector.com).

# LIVING IN GRATITUDE

As we begin 2022 many of us take time to reflect on the ups and downs, disappointments and joys, beginnings and endings of the previous year. We set intentions for the new year. How can you make empowered choices in your life to support your thriving, health, and well-being no matter what lies ahead? One practice that cultivates our resilience and strengthens social ties and self-worth is gratitude.

Gratitude is a feeling of being grateful and wanting to express your thanks. As graduate faculty in the Integrative Health and Wellbeing Coaching Program in the Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality & Healing at the University of Minnesota, I regularly keep up on studies that impact the health of our mind and body. Research indicates being grateful can:

- lower blood pressure
- improve immune function
- reduce cardiac inflammation
- increase happiness
- improve relationships
- decrease depression and anxiety
- enhance optimism
- improve sleep
- enhance stress regulation

We all could use a boost in our physical, mental, and emotional health. This one simple, free, and always available practice can have tremendous benefits. As a transformational coach supporting and guiding others through a holistic health and wellness lens, my clients report as they commit to a gratitude practice, the positive impacts often ripple out to family, friends, coworkers and their communities.

## FROM YOUR CENTER WITHIN

How do you practice gratitude? Here are a few suggestions:

- Jot down blessings in a notebook.
- Thank a friend, caregiver or stranger face-to-face.
- Sit in quiet reflection and contemplate what you appreciate about your life.
- Spend time in nature.
- Offer thanks before eating.
- Walk mindfully noticing the positive through sight, sound, smell, and touch.

Grateful people have a particular linguistic style that uses the language of gifts, givers, blessings, blessed, fortune, fortunate, and abundance. Add words of gratitude to your thoughts and speech throughout your day.

Have questions you consider daily. Ideas include:

- What touched me today?
- Who or what inspired me today?
- What made me smile today?
- What's the best thing that happened today?
- What act of kindness did I offer or observe today?

Experts recommend adding variety to your gratitude practice by expressing your thanks in different ways each day. Practice noticing

both big and small events. This will assist you in keeping your practice meaningful and fresh. Remember, what you focus on grows.

Practicing gratitude impacts you on a cellular level. When you express or receive gratitude, at the neurochemical level, gratitude acts as a catalyst for neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine – the ones that manage your emotions, anxiety, immediate stress responses and make you 'feel good'.

Have you ever had an intense and sudden emotional reaction, and when you reflect on it later, you often wonder why you overreacted? This is referred to as an amygdala hijack and it can leave you feeling embarrassed and exhausted as epinephrine, adrenaline, and cortisol are dumped into your system.

This is an optimal time to practice gratitude. In that moment, you can take a deep breath, focus on your heart, and remember one person in your life you are grateful for. This activates your parasympathetic nervous system and slows your heart and breathing rates and lowers your blood pressure. Your body enters a state of relaxation and recovery. When you engage in gratitude practices, you spend less time in fight and flight, protect and defend, and FEAR (false evidence appearing real). You can choose to respond rather than react out of automatic conditioning.

As you become more centered, balanced, resilient, and confident, your relationships can improve. According to social psychologists, gratitude is an emotion that directly targets building and sustaining social bonding and reinforces positive relationships in the future. Your ability to be empathetic, tolerant, and

build trust expands your connections to others. You will likely find yourself more open to new ways of thinking and knowing. This increases your ability to invite and understand another's point of view that may be different than yours.

*"What separates privilege from entitlement is gratitude."* -Brene Brown

Relationships can be enhanced at home, work and in your community. Research has linked gratitude and related traits like engagement to positively impacting the workplace in all these areas: Productivity, profitability, quality, loyalty, safety, absenteeism, cost, and performance.

Grateful organizational citizens are more likely to volunteer for extra work assignments, take time to mentor coworkers, be compassionate when someone has a problem, and encourage and praise others.

So, as you begin the new year, consider adding gratitude to your daily routine. It is a gift you can give yourself, your family, your coworkers, and your community.

Have comments, feedback, interested in more details on the research? Is there a holistic mind-body health or wellness topic you would like to see in this column?

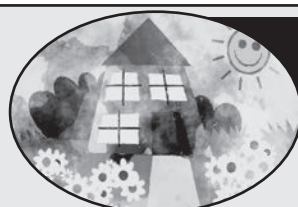
Be in touch.



**Michele Rae**, RPh, MA, NBC-HWC is the founder of The Center Within, LLC and author of "Living From the Center Within: Co-Creating Who You Are Becoming." She provides holistic coaching designed to accelerate and support personal, professional, and organizational transformation.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

Invest in an ad presence to keep your business strong.  
Section coming in March.



AD TIP: What do folks say about you after a job?  
Feature those reviews in your ad.

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# RESOLUTION: REDUCE WASTE?

Did you know that the average American family wastes \$1500 worth of food each year? Fifty-three million tons of food waste is sent to landfills each year. These statistics only scratch the surface of our country's waste problem. This winter and spring, you're invited to be a part of the solution by participating in the Tangletown Neighborhood Association Low Waste Lifestyle events. Our events are all free, virtual, open to all, and offer concrete steps and tools to make an immediate impact. Even better, each event is paired with a giveaway of items that will help you reduce your waste! Registration is required for events and can be found at [tangletown.org/lowwaste](http://tangletown.org/lowwaste).

Our next event, Plan, Shop, Store: Creative Ways to Reduce Your Food Waste, will take place on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 10:30 a.m. This session will focus on how to modify your shopping habits and food storage to create less waste. You will leave this session with techniques for reducing your waste through better planning, shopping with a different lens, and modifying how you store and utilize food throughout the week. As a bonus, twenty attendees will win reusable produce bags.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m., we'll have a cooking class focused on reducing food waste. The executive chef of Chowgirls Catering will be sharing recipes for using up foods before they go to waste. There will also be a

## TANGLETOWN

### NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY  
SALLY BAUER,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



live Q&A where you can ask about your food waste challenges in the kitchen. If you're a fan of Lynne Rossetto Kasper's Turkey Confidential, think of this as our version of Sustainability Confidential! Chowgirls was the first green caterer in Minnesota and is a leader in sustainable food and events in Minnesota. Twenty attendees will win a set of compostable bags for attending.

To wrap up our series, we'll be presenting a session on Organics Recycling Made Easy. On Thursday, March 31 at 7 p.m., join us as we share all the tips and tricks for simplifying organics recycling in your home. Whether you've already got your green bin, are considering getting one, or utilize drop sites, we've got you covered. To help you get started or increase your use, 20 attendees will win countertop or freezer compost bins. Don't forget to register for our events at [tangletown.org/lowwaste](http://tangletown.org/lowwaste).

As this is the season of New Year's Resolu-

tions, we're encouraging you to make a commitment to reduce your waste. You can submit our commitment form online at [tangletown.org/commit](http://tangletown.org/commit). We have a long list of suggestions for first steps you can take or ways to further your current efforts. Better yet, you'll be entered to win one of two \$50 gift cards to the winner's choice: Tare Market, Zero-ish, or any Forever Ware participating restaurants.

These programs are the result of the hard work of the Tangletown Environmental Committee and the financial support of the Hennepin County Green Partners Grant. Our fall 2021 events focused on packaging waste addressing the problems with plastic, how to reduce your packaging waste, how to shop in bulk, and how to advocate for systems level change. In 2020-2021, we hosted a series of educational events focused on textile waste reduction. All past event recordings can be found at [facebook.com/tangletown](https://facebook.com/tangletown).

Finally, we invite you to subscribe to our Sustainability Sam monthly email newsletter where you can find out all about our environmental programs. To sign up, visit: [tangletown.org/sam](http://tangletown.org/sam). The newsletter features our monthly blog answering submitted sustainability questions and features environmental information, events, programs, and more throughout the Twin Cities. We hope to engage with you on environmental education and action this winter and spring!

Reach out by emailing [info@tangletown.org](mailto:info@tangletown.org).

## BRIEFS

### SERVE ON EAST BDE MAKE SKA BOARD

The East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association is looking for applicants to fill several vacancies on the board of directors. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and live in East Bde Maka Ska. Responsibilities include attendance at monthly Board meetings, participation in at least one committee, and oversight and fiduciary duties. Interested? More at <http://eastbdemakaska.org/>.

### KFNA 'SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY' FEB. 13, EMPTY BOWLS KICK-OFF



PLAN IT

Kingfield Neighborhood Association is looking for a volunteer with storytelling and event branding experience to assist with the event. KFNA

supports a fun, dynamic, volunteer community planning who could use some help raising visibility of this project. If you are interested in helping support a small local nonprofit raise awareness and funds for affordable housing in our community and you have 10 hours in the next three weeks to volunteer, please contact [sarah@kingfield.org](mailto:sarah@kingfield.org).

### KMART/NEW NICOLLET PROJECT

The Minneapolis City Council has approved project expectations and a public engagement framework for the Former Kmart and New Nicollet Project. The city of Minneapolis owns roughly 10 acres of land formerly home to the Kmart store in south Minneapolis. It plans to construct a new Nicollet Avenue, which will connect Nicollet Avenue South of Lake Street to Nicollet north of the Midtown Greenway, and develop the remaining acreage into a high-density, mixed-use walkable district. The public engagement framework includes three phases. The first phase will start in early 2022 and focus on creating open dialogues with community members who live, work, shop and visit the area. The second phase will focus on a public space plan and Nicollet Avenue layout plan, which will require city council approval. The third phase of engagement will discuss the future development of buildings.

### ARTIST APPLICATIONS OPEN

The award-winning 57th annual Uptown Art Fair is excited to invite artists to apply for the fair Aug. 5-7, 2022 in the heart of Uptown Minneapolis. The event footprint is located at the intersection of Lake and Hennepin, the center of a lively, upbeat business district and is the busiest intersection in the state of Minnesota. Over \$2.1 million of art is sold during the festival with some artists sharing that the Uptown Art Fair is the most successful show of the season, and in some cases, of their career. Attendance was reported in 2019 of 375,000 over the three-day event. The deadline is March 15.

### LYNDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL WINTER CLOSURE

Lyndale Neighborhood Association's annual organizational closure is active from Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021-Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. Staff is accessing email and entering the office less frequently, and regular neighborhood meetings and programming will be paused during this period. However, Lyndale E-News will continue to come to your inboxes each Wednesday morning.

Community members with an immediate need to contact LNA staff during this closure should email us at [info@lyndale.org](mailto:info@lyndale.org).

# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2021

Greetings and well wishes from the Whittier Alliance Neighborhood Organization, an independent non-profit supporting residents, businesses, and property owners in our much beloved neighborhood. This year brought new challenges and opportunities to our work in the neighborhood, and we are reaching out to share some highlights and ask for your support. With your help, we can continue providing critical resources, meaningful community building opportunities, and grassroots organizing as we head into the new year. Read on to learn more about our work in 2021.

### 2116 NICOLLET AVENUE

This year we purchased 2116 Nicollet Avenue, the last remaining vacant lot on Whittier's stretch of this important commercial corridor. It brings an opportunity for an inclusive, community-led, innovative real estate development which could have a resounding impact on the neighborhood for years to come. In October, the Board of Directors convened a project steering committee to guide the process, develop an RFP (Request for Proposals), and identify a development partner for us to bring it to life.

### EAT STREET FALL ARTS FEST

Whittier Alliance brought community together at 2116 Nicollet Ave for the Eat Street Fall Arts Fest. Hundreds of neighbors enjoyed a local artists and makers market, live music and dance performances, mural painting with Juxtaposition Arts, and activities from Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and Mia on a beautiful fall afternoon.

### LAKE STREET COUNCIL

A few highlights from Lake Street Council:

- Awarding \$300,000 in grants to local artists and community groups to produce murals and host events. This newly launched creative placemaking program has brought the community together and focused efforts on crime hotspots to reduce violent crime and improve community safety.

## WHITTIER

### NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

BY  
CYNDI HOVEY  
(AT RIGHT)  
& KALEY BROWN



### TENANT SUPPORT & OUTREACH

This year we brought on a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA Tenant Organizer in collaboration with HOME Line to combat displacement and jumpstart our volunteer engagement. We worked closely with tenants to help them navigate assistance programs such as the Energy Assistance Program, RentHelpMN, Zero Balance Project, and more. Our staff has also been working to help immigrant and refugee families navigate the rental housing process and find new homes in the neighborhood that meet their needs.

### LAKE STREET REBUILD AND NICOLLET AVE

Whittier Alliance supported the Cultural Wellness Center and neighboring organizations to open community engagement on the future of the Wells Fargo site at Blaisdell and 31st. This partnership has grown to set the stage for a broader process backed by the McKnight Foundation to re-imagine and rebuild Lake Street with racial, economic and environmental justice at its core. Teams of organizations led by Cultural Wellness Center are providing a framework and support for a 6 month process focused on centering the voices of his-

- Giving out over \$1.5 million in predevelopment and business support funds in 2021, helping ensure that new construction projects include affordable spaces for new entrepreneurs to start businesses and thrive. As buildings are rehabbed and rebuilt, we're ensuring that they stay locally owned and benefit our community.

torically marginalized people and communities; creating an aligned vision for the future of Lake Street; rallying and coordinating local and national financial support to help ensure there are resources to implement the community's aligned vision. Whittier Alliance's team is serving on the Project Team for Lake & Nicollet, one of four identified nodes in the corridor.

### VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Whittier Alliance promoted voter education efforts, including assistance with first-time registrations, polling place research, compiling information on our digital election guide, and other key pieces to getting out the vote. We organized a Ward 10 City Council candidate forum in partnership with Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza and Latino Media in addition to co-hosting a mayoral candidate forum with other neighborhoods. We hosted speakers on the public safety and rent stabilization ballot measures at our committee meetings and made space for neighbors to ask questions of their current elected officials.

With your help, we can continue to advocate for our neighbors and small businesses, creating opportunity for our community to grow and flourish. You and your tax-deductible contribution of any amount are essential to our work! Donate via PayPal or read on below for other ways to give. We hope to count you in as a donor, as well as a community volunteer; fill out the form here to let us know how you'd like to get involved in 2022 and beyond! Thank you for making the choice to invest in your community and the many people who make Whittier the wonderful place that it is.

Contact Whittier Neighborhood Alliance at [info@whittieralliance.org](mailto:info@whittieralliance.org).

- Launching the Be Well Lake Street program to provide small business owners with access to mental health services to support them as they navigate the challenges of 2020 and 2021. These services are provided by a number of culturally-competent providers along Lake Street, and are free to access for Lake Street businesses.

HOME

CRISIS HOTLINE

Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a dangerous relationship or needs to create a safety plan.

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# FAMILIES OF LOST LOVED ONES, SUPPORTERS RALLY BEHIND WRIGHT FAMILY

By **Jill Boogren**

Families from Minnesota and around the country who have lost loved ones to police violence stood together outside the Hennepin County Courthouse on Dec. 8, 2021 in support of the Wright family.

It was the first day of the trial of former police officer Kim Potter, who was charged with first and second-degree manslaughter in the April 11, 2021 shooting death of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Center. The first witness testifying was Daunte's mother, Katie Wright.

"Today I had a chance to witness the most emotional, intense, breathtaking thing that you ever wanna have to go through. And I would like y'all to just pray a little harder for this family," said Bianca Austin to the crowd assembled outside after the day's proceedings. Austin is the aunt of Breonna Taylor, who was killed by officers in her apartment in a botched police raid in Louisville, KY in March 2020. "It's not easy. And they have to sit here and re-live Daunte's murder all over and be able to stand tall and tell his story. So prayers go to the Daunte Wright family. We stand in solidarity with you, and we will be rockin' with y'all until this is over."

Present were family members and close friends of Black men killed at the hands of law enforcement – Hardel Sherrell, George Floyd, Emmett Till, Philando Castile, Justin Teigen, and Leneal Frazier – as well as family of Jacob Blake, who was shot and paralyzed by a Kenosha, Wis. police officer in August 2020.

"Daunte Wright was a son, but he was also a father, and what you see here today is... Black fathers and uncles and brothers out here demanding justice for Daunte Wright and all stolen lives," said Trahern Crews, of Black Lives Matter Minnesota.

George Floyd's significant other, Courtney Ross, also spoke to the crowd.

"Kim Potter stole Daunte Wright's life, she ripped his future away in one move," she said. "Kim Potter left the Wright family with a lifetime of grief, trauma and sadness. She left his friends with emptiness and mistrust."

Introducing Emmett Till's cousin, Deborah Watts, Toshira Garraway Allen of Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence, said, "We know that these are racially motivated murders, and if you're wearing a Ku Klux Klan outfit, if you're wearing a police uniform, or whether you



Bianca Austin (at center, holding microphone), aunt of Breonna Taylor, stands with families who have lost loved ones to police violence in support of Daunte Wright's family on the first day of Kim Potter's trial at the Hennepin County courthouse. Demonstrators rallied outside the government center and marched through downtown streets calling for Justice for Daunte Wright. (Photos by Jill Boogren)



wearin' regular clothes, we know a racially motivated murder when we see one." On Dec. 6, 2021 just two days prior, the U.S. Department of Justice closed a re-investigation into Emmett Till's murder. Till was lynched in 1955 for allegedly flirting with a white woman. Watts is calling for his accuser, who is still alive, to be brought to justice.

Temperatures were in the teens as people gathered at Government Center Park. Demonstrators held up signs as a record-

ing of "Justice for Daunte Wright" played on a speaker, and supporters lit luminaries as a show of solidarity. A brief march through downtown streets took place, with volunteer marshals in high visibility vests helping to maintain safety along the route. Street medics, supported by Justice Frontline Aid, pulled carts with water, snacks, handwarmers, face masks and hand sanitizer.

Rebecca Shumard said she flew in for a

second time from Phoenix, Ariz. – the first being in April when she learned Mr. Wright was killed.

"He's a year younger than my son, and it just broke my heart," she said.

Carrying a Black Lives Matter flag, Minneapolis resident Keith McCarron said he was there to support the family. He also expressed frustration over Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson's involvement in a car crash and DWI near Alexandria, Minn., reported the same day.

"[It's] ironic that the Hennepin County sheriff is arrested for DWI, but nobody shot him to death. So, if you're Black and you're in the Metro area the smallest of offenses can lead to fatal consequences," said McCarron. "And it's horrible when you think about the original reasons for pulling [Daunte Wright] over was a dangling mirror ornament and expired tabs. I mean... seriously, there's no way that, in a reasonable world, that escalates to gunfire."

From a Dec. 8, 2021 statement posted on his Facebook page, Hutchinson wrote: "I made the inexcusable decision to drive after drinking alcohol and I am deeply sorry. As the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in Hennepin County, I am held to a higher standard. I regret the choice I made and apologize to the citizens I serve, the staff I work with, and the friends and family who support me."

According to news reports, Hutchinson pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated and on Dec. 20, 2021 was sentenced to two years probation.

As the rally drew to a close, Minnesota Justice Coalition President Johnathon McClellan called to uplift the family of Daunte Wright and continue to demand justice.

"We stand with the community. We stand with all those who came out demanding accountability and justice," he said. "Because an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us. And we cannot be silent."

Kim Potter was found guilty of both counts of manslaughter she was facing on Dec. 23. She will be sentenced on Feb. 18.



Kim Potter stole Daunte Wright's life, she ripped his future away in one move. Kim Potter left the Wright family with a lifetime of grief, trauma and sadness. She left his friends with emptiness and mistrust."

Courtney Ross

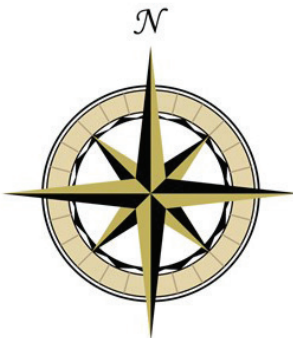


**Support network**

Connect with Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence online at [www.fsfapv.org](http://www.fsfapv.org).

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