

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • APRIL 7, 2022 • VOL. 1 • NO. 7



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NO POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN NEW CONTRACT

By **Cam Gordon**

After years of negotiations, led by three different city labor relations directors, with strong community opposition, and a lengthy debate on March 24, the Minneapolis City Council voted 8 to 5 to approve a new contract with the Minneapolis Police Federation, that represents all Minneapolis police officers up to and including the rank of lieutenant.

The previous agreement expired in 2019. The new one ends this December and covers 2019-22. It includes \$7,000 bonuses for new officers and current officers who stay on the job until the end of the

Retroactive contract for 2019-2022 increases pay rate, offers bonuses, and allows officers to know who is requesting their data. Negotiation was all done in closed meetings.

year, as well as retroactive salary increases of 1% for 2020, 1.5% for 2021 and a 2.5% for this year. There is also an additional 2.5% "market adjustment" wage increase beginning Jan. 1, 2022, and another 1% starting Dec. 31, 2022.

This increases department expenses by \$9 million in 2022 to cover the retroactive pay increases and half of the bonuses.

The agreement also includes a new

mental health screening requirement following a critical incident, greater authority for the chief in making officer assignments, and a statement supporting race and gender equity, that were asked for by the city. The city agreed to the federation's proposal for a proactive email notification of data requests that would include the identity of the person making the request, unless it is done anonymously.

Once the details became public many felt the results fell short of expectations for something better.

That was the case for the community coalition called, Mpls For a Better Police Contract (MFBPC), that, in 2019, crafted a set of recommendations for the agreement and met with the mayor and council members to discuss them. These included limiting overtime, mandatory mental health screenings, and explicitly referencing the discipline matrix of the department's policy manual in order to strengthen management's ability to discipline officers and have such action supported by a state arbitrator.

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'I'M READY FOR THE CHALLENGE'

Tyeastia Green was born and raised in Minneapolis, and is looking forward to race and equity work in the city

By **Cam Gordon**

On March 28, Tyeastia Green officially started working as the Minneapolis Executive Director of Race & Equity.

The division of the city coordinator's office has been without a director since the departure of Joy Marsh Stephens in August of 2021, and Green's arrival brings new, welcomed energy to racial equity work in the city.

Green recently left her job as director of Racial Equity, Inclusion & Belonging for the Burlington, Vt.

"We are looking forward to having Tyeastia Green join our leadership team at the city of Minneapolis, and will work in partnership to advance the important goals of the city's Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan," said interim city coordinator Heather Johnston.

"I'm coming home to do this work for a city I love," she said. Green grew up in south Minneapolis in the Powderhorn and Phelps neighborhoods, and her mother and other family members still live here. She attended Northrop Montessori School, Folwell Middle School and Roosevelt High



Tyeastia Green is the new Minneapolis Executive Director of Race & Equity.

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CRAFT BEERS WITHOUT ALCOHOL



East Bde Maka Ska resident Paul Pirner is leading the local non-alcoholic beer movement with his brewing company, Hairless Dog. (Photo submitted)

Q&A with non-alcoholic beer founder, Paul Pirner, of Hairless Dog

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

The only true 0.0% non-alcoholic craft beer in America was birthed in East Bde Maka Ska. When Paul Pirner decided to give up alcohol and couldn't find an alternative he liked, he began brewing in his garage.

When he ran into an old neighbor at a holiday party, Hairless Dog Brewing Company was born.

PLEASE SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT YOU.

Pirner: I grew up in Linden Hills, and Uptown was where we went to hang out. We've been in our current home in East Bde Maka Ska for 21 years now. Our kids played all the youth sports at various parks and graduated from Southwest, and we were annoyingly active parents throughout their tenure – coaching, fundraising, organizing and all that good stuff that parents do.

We love this community.

TELL US YOUR ORIGIN STORY.

Pirner: My partner, Jeff Hollander, and I were neighbors and friends. They moved and we went our separate ways, then ran into each other at a holiday party and noticed we were the only two without a drink in our hands. That sparked a conversation, and

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COMBINING HEALTH CARE AND CULTURE

Native American Community Clinic combines medical care, classes and spiritual practices

By **Chloe Peter**

A patient who had an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine was having second

thoughts. They were anxious to receive the vaccine and did not know if they wanted to continue on the day that they were scheduled for. Anita Tapio, the traditional healing coordinator at the Native American Community Clinic, set up smudging with the patient. Smudging is a ceremony involving sacred herbs or resins that purifies or cleanses the soul of negative thoughts of a person or place. After smudging and having a conversation with Tapio about getting her own

booster, the patient felt less anxious about the vaccine and was ready to receive it.

"I think combining healthcare and culture is vitally important because without having culture, there will always be that piece missing," Tapio said.

The Native American Community Clinic (NACC), located at 1213 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, opened its doors in 2003 to address the health disparities with-

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▶ 1 'I'M READY'

School, before going to college at Mankato State and then Kaplan University.

Green earned a master of public affairs degree focusing on racial social justice, equity & inclusion at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She worked as an advisor for the Minneapolis-based Hylden Law & Advocacy lobbying firm and as an analyst for Bloomington, before taking her most recent position with the city of Burlington.

WORKING TO GIVE PEOPLE A VOICE

When Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger hired Green in February 2020, he described it as a milestone in the city's work to make a more equitable community. According to Green, she was the first Black department head, and the first Black person to ever serve on the mayor's cabinet. Two years later, *The Burlington Free Press* reported, "She created a department and grew her staff to 15 employees, including four managers. She and her staff created the first city-wide Juneteenth celebration, implemented anti-racism training for all city employees and wrote policy to increase Black homeownership."

In a recent interview, Green said that she is proudest of the work she did in Burlington to "make sure people had a voice, showing them that they can be powerful."

One way she did was by bringing the first Juneteenth celebration to the city and the state. "It was shocking to see how many people didn't even know what Juneteenth was," she stated. She also helped



"Coalition building makes me the most excited," said Tyeastia Green, the new Minneapolis Director of Race & Equity.

raise funds for small businesses and non-profits, improve wages for city employees and interns, and secure funding to compensate people who served on boards and commissions to increase the diversity on those groups.

Two weeks after she resigned, three of her four managers also resigned, and local press coverage revealed struggles within the city. The newspaper, *Seven Days*, reported that city council president Max Tracy blames budget problems. "Everything that she's tried to do since Juneteenth has been a battle, has been a fight," Tracy said. "For people who declared racism a public

health emergency, it seems like they've done everything they can to stall progress on racial justice."

Upon her resignation, one Burlington resident wrote, "Tyeastia was a sounding board and ally for the Black community and other communities of color in Burlington. ... Each step of the way, Mayor Weinberger, many of the Democratic city councilors, the interim chief of police, and others tried to undermine Tyeastia's work. But she pressed on, hiring multiple brilliant minds to join the REIB office, pushing for police accountability and reform, distributing grants to BIPOC small businesses in Burlington, and creating a space for us to lift up our Blackness by organizing a massive Juneteenth celebration."

BOLD WORK NEEDED

Green said, "I'm looking forward to taking on this role and making sure that equity is built into the fabric of the city's operations. We need to ensure that race isn't a determining factor in any measurable outcome."

The Division of Race & Equity was established by ordinance in 2017. It is charged with developing and adapting a racial equity framework to guide departments in incorporating racial equity principles into their services and policies, and supporting efforts by every department to increase racial equity in all the city does. Areas of work include implementation of the city's Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan, and supporting the recently established truth and reconciliation initiative.

"Coalition building makes me the most excited," Green said. "I want to build a

strong coalition of community leaders, activists and others so we can decide together how to build a more racial just and equitable city."

She remarked that she "will need support from the administration and from city leadership. If you don't have support from the highest levels of government, you can't be successful."

So far, it looks like she has it. "I'm very excited to welcome Tyeastia Green to the city," said Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins. "As we develop our Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we must be bold and act decisively as we address the longstanding racial inequities in our city."

"Advancing race equity is a fundamental cornerstone of our work as an enterprise, and Tyeastia Green has the experience to drive us forward," said Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey. "We are thrilled to welcome her back to Minneapolis as she takes on this role."

"The racial equity work in Minneapolis deserves bold and unapologetic leadership with clarity of vision and the skills to bring that vision to life," said former director Joy Marsh. "I believe Tyeastia Green is exactly the sort of leader the people of Minneapolis and co-conspirators inside the organization need. Beyond the strength of her lived experience, Tyeastia brings a wealth of professional experience in cities large and small building equity and anti-racism infrastructure. She takes on this work with eyes wide open and a readiness for the challenges ahead."

"This is going to be a hard job," said Green. "I'm ready for the challenge."

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NO POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN NEW CONTRACT

1 That was just before the federation requested, and the city agreed to closing future meetings to the public.

RAISED EXPECTATIONS

Mpls For a Better Police Contract (MFBPC) includes representation from the Racial Justice Network, Our Revolution Twin Cities, and Communities United Against Police Brutality. The coalition filed a lawsuit in June of 2021.

Micala Tessman, attorney of record for MFBPC, said, "There are clear violations of Minnesota law that exists for the benefit of the public's right to know. The city failed in its obligation both under the Data Practices Act and laws governing public employee collective bargaining to provide timely notice of negotiation sessions when they were occurring. MFBPC and the public had every right to attend these sessions."

MFBPC member Ryan Rantanen stated, "The enthusiasm by a vast majority of the city council for our recommendations was gratifying after all the hard work to present common sense advice. But it has been incredibly frustrating that the mayor and city have completely obstructed our right to view what they are doing."

In June 2020, following the murder of George Floyd, then police chief Medaria Arradondo held a press conference to announce that he was ending his involvement in contract negotiations with the federation. He said that he wanted a contract that makes it easier to fire problematic officers, after multiple instances in recent years where officers terminated for misconduct had been reinstated after union appeals and arbitration decisions.

That same month Mayor Frey appeared on national television in an interview on Good Morning America. "I am for massive, structural and transformation reform to an entire system," he said. Frey added, "Let me be very clear, we're going after the police union, the police union contract."

COMMUNITY FRUSTRATED

In March of 2022, details of the negotiation were finally made known when a tentative agreement emerged.

In response, Communities United

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Perpetuating this flawed system would be unconscionable in wake of universal calls for reform.”

Abigail Cerra



Against Police Brutality put out an action alert, declaring, "Not a single recommendation by the community was incorporated but a new provision (Section 12.03, paragraph 3) requires the city to report the name of anyone who requests data on an officer to that officer – an invitation to harass data requesters."

The chair of the city's own Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Abigail Cerra, along with coauthor and former council member Paul Ostrow, wrote in a letter to the mayor and all council members, "We have reviewed the language.... and have grave concerns that it does not address serious flaws in the city's disciplinary process. Perpetuating this flawed system would be unconscionable in the wake of universal calls for reform."

A group of 23 nonprofit organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, Black Lives Matter Minnesota, Black Lives Matter Twin Cities, Black Visions, CAIR Minnesota, Center for Victims of Torture, Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence, ISAIH, Jewish Community Action, Legal Rights Center, Minneapolis NAACP, Minnesota Youth Collective, Racial Justice Network, Reclaim the Block, Safety Not Surveillance, SWOP Mpls, TakeAction MN, Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar and Voices for Racial Justice and more, sent a letter urging the council to delay its vote.

"We are troubled by the lack of any

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Many of the items that led to this impasse, that put us into mediation, were the recommendations, desires and hopes and dreams that we heard from the community.”

Andrea Jenkins



changes around discipline in this contract," they wrote. "The city shouldn't sign off on a contract until it contains a mechanism to escape the cycle of being tied to past disciplinary practices."

The also expressed concerns, shared by others, about why "the city is focused on paying officers more, rather than putting money into public safety for all."

According to the staff report, following "years of bargaining sessions beginning in 2019" and months of mediation, in December of 2021, negotiations stalled. At that time the decision was made to go to "interest arbitration." Staff, under the leadership of labor relations director Holland Atkinson, recommended approval of the contract and warned that relations with the federation "would be damaged severely by a city council unwilling to accept a new labor agreement that has been expired since 2019."

In defense of the pay increases, city staff stated in a supplemental report, "In order to attract and retain police officers, the city must maintain a competitive compensation package." They noted that several nearby police departments offer hiring bonuses, including the University of Minnesota at \$5,000, Brooklyn Park at \$5,000, Brooklyn Center at \$6,000, Hopkins at \$2,500 and Roseville at \$10,000.

COUNCIL DIVIDED BUT APPROVES CONTRACT

Minneapolis City Council President

Andrea Jenkins (Ward 8) said she preferred to accept this now and prepare for more changes next time. "We've been at this table negotiating with this union for over two and one-half years. Many of the items that led to the impasse, that put us into mediations, were the recommendations, desires, and hopes and dreams that we heard from community," said Jenkins. "If this goes to arbitration, we absolutely know we won't gain anything from it."

Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley Worlobah disagreed. "We were told by many, including some of you who ran on police reform and by the mayor, that this contract would be an area to create new standards of accountability," she said. Her motion in committee to table the vote to allow time for taking public comment was defeated on a 3-3 tie vote.

Wonsley Worlobah disagreed. She said, "I'm seeing shifting goal posts. In 2020, Mayor Frey went on Good Morning America and said, 'We have a hard time terminating and disciplining officers... the elephant in the room is the collective bargaining agreement.' Now we're saying, no, it's the opposite. This also does not set us up to attract qualified candidates. We're telling potential officers, we'll pay you more and you will not have to face any discipline," she said.

Those voting against approval on March 24 were council members Payne, Wonsley Worlobah, Ellison, Chavez, and Chughtai.

"The lack of community input and transparency, a requirement to email officers who made a public data request about them, and the shortfall of accountability and discipline was enough for me to vote no," explained Ward 9 council member Chavez in his latest e-newsletter.

"With this now settled," wrote council member Linea Palmisano in her e-newsletter, "we can begin negotiations for a forward-facing contract that will cover a broader range of negotiations and cover years 2023-25." She added, "Negotiating a contract that allows for more discretion by the chief – to impart discipline and build out additional, mandated, training and expectations around de-escalation, cultural competency and anti-racism – would be one positive outcome."

BRIEFS

AFTER ACTION REVIEW OF CITY'S RESPONSE TO UNREST

In March, the city received a report from the Hillard Heintze security risk management firm concerning the city's response to civil unrest from May 25 to June 3, 2020 following the murder of George Floyd. The report found that, the city "did not use its emergency operations plan effectively to guide its response." Additionally, it found that there was poor communication, an absence of planning, a failure to follow city plans and policies, and that "the city did not capitalize on its training and experience from previous large-scale events to establish a framework for crisis response and guide its actions."

Interim Police Chief Amelia Huffman said in a statement published after the report was released, "This after action review forces us to revisit one of the most traumatic chapters of our city's history, but it's a necessary step to make sure we are prepared to effectively protect our community the next time we face a significant crisis. Moving forward, we are committed to examining our policies and training to ensure they reflect best practices and our commitment to care for our community. MPD will work collaboratively with other city departments to enact the city's emergency response protocols during times of crisis." Read the full report at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCAV2/26623/2020-Civil-Unrest-After-Action-Review-Report.pdf> and watch the

March 8 presentation to the city council on YouTube.

PROPOSED DEMOLITION AT LAKE OF ISLE PARKWAY PROPERTY

At their March 1 meeting, the Heritage Preservation Commission denied the demolition of historic resource application for 2424 W. Lake of the Isle Parkway, and put in place interim protection so the city could complete a historic designation study to see if it should be preserved as an historic landmark. The owners, Robert and Becky Pohlrad (of Pohlrad Companies), who bought the property in May of 2021, want to demolish more than 60% of the home while preserving the front. They appealed the commission's decision to city council and the council committee, where the appeal was heard and they voted unanimously to recommend to the full council at their April 14 meet that the appeal be granted and the demolition be allowed.

FREE PARK PROGRAMS THIS SUMMER

Registration fees have been eliminated for all youth programs, activities and sports leagues based at Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) parks, recreation centers and facilities located within census-designated areas of concentrated poverty (ACP). This new policy applies to any Minneapolis resident ages 17 and under signing up for any activity at one of 17 MRPB sites located within areas of concentrated poverty. It applies now for the recently opened summer youth program registration and will continue through at least the end of 2022. See minneapolis-parks.org/register to learn more.

minneapolis-parks.org/register to learn more.

POLICE CHIEF SEARCH

The city has hired Public Sector Search & Consulting Inc. (PSSC), from Rocklin, CA, to lead the search for a new Minneapolis Police Chief. Mayor Frey has also formed a committee to help review, interview and recommend candidates for consideration. Interim Civil Rights Director Alberder Gillespie, the mayor's chief of staff Mychal Vlatkovich and the mayor's policy aide Jared Jeffries will support the committee. The city issued a statement that said the search process will include engagement with internal and external stakeholders and is anticipated to be completed this summer. Learn more about the search committee at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2022/march/community-stakeholders-convened-for-police-chief-search/>

PUBLIC SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The city started a "Reimagine Public Safety" campaign in March, to build awareness about new unarmed response teams and community-based programs that are now providing public safety services in Minneapolis. They have created information videos on the city's Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts. Led by the Office of Performance & Innovation, this campaign features programs from the Office of Violence Prevention, Behavioral Crisis Response, 311, Regulatory Services-Traffic Control, and 911.

Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.

PLAN IT

'WE'RE BACK' HOME TOUR

Homeowners in southwest Minneapolis have made "small" tweaks to make their old homes work better for them while blending in with the neighborhood. Their ideas will be on display during the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The tour is free and self-guided. More at www.msphometour.com.

Ken and Sarah Balogh at 5036 Russell Ave. S. worked with AMEK Design + Build to refresh and open up the kitchen and living room in their 1961 Cape Cod, plus add a bedroom and bath upstairs. Melanie Beck and T.J. Gaffney at 4638 Garfield Ave. added just 40 square feet to the outer footprint of their kitchen and dining room with New Spaces. In the process of opening it up, they moved a vintage buffet to a new prominent spot in their 1920s bungalow.

Bob and Keri Diem at 5100 Garfield Ave., where the street takes a jog, have a new covered landing area at the side which is not only functional, but gives visual interest in keeping with the neighborhood rhythm. That 2020 renovation was part of a kitchen remodel. During the pandemic Bluestem Remodeling came back to refinish the basement with an entertainment area, plus laundry room and basement bath refresh.

There are two new builds on the southwest tour as well: 4201 Washburn Ave. S, an American FourSquare by Anchor Builders, and the Linden Row townhome at 3123 West 43rd St. by Sustainable Nine Design + Build.

LET'S BUILD A BETTER MINNEAPOLIS TOGETHER

Ward 11 community – for those of you who I haven't had the opportunity to connect with yet, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Emily Koski, and I am your new council member. I am honored to serve our community – and I look forward to representing your values and voices on the Minneapolis City Council.



By **Emily Koski**

This new Minneapolis City Council is historic in a multitude of ways – we are a female majority city council and we are the most diverse city council yet. We are being led by council president Andrea Jenkins – the first Black and transgender council president in the city of Minneapolis, and council vice president Linea Palmisano, the council member for our neighboring ward.

I am incredibly proud to be a part of this city council – I am proud to be a part of a body that embodies diversity in age, gender, race, and ideology. This city council is a step forward in creating a more representative government – one that exemplifies unique experiences, differing opinions, and diverse perspectives. Already, I have learned so much from my fellow council members and have been developing meaningful relationships with them.

I am also proud to be a part of a body that embodies diversity, because we as council members and as the city council, are role models to children throughout the city of Minneapolis; and, it's so important that they see role models that they can

Corinne Horowitz – Policy Associate

Corinne Horowitz, originally from Homewood, Ill. has been a resident of Minneapolis for eight years. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and religious studies from Arizona State University, and a master's degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago. Horowitz's previous work experience includes serving as a research director for Central Arizonans for a Sustainable Economy, an organizer for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 99, an organizer for Main Street Alliance in N.J., a political organizer for SEIU Local 284, and the Founder & State Director of Main Street Alliance MN. She helped start a nonprofit food truck serving free halal meals to South Minneapolis families during the pandemic.



Melissa Hill – Policy Aide

Melissa Hill, originally from Aurora, Ill. has been a resident of Minneapolis for seven years. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and global studies from the University of Minnesota, where she graduated with Cum Laude Latin honors. Hill's previous work experience includes serving as a research assistant for the University's Political Science Department, a legal assistant working on pro-bono asylum cases, a political coordinator for a city council campaign, a field organizer for a congressional campaign and attorney general campaign, a community relations executive for a non-profit organization, a Deputy Political and Candidate Services Director for the DFL Senate Caucus, and campaign manager for Council Member Emily Koski, who's office she currently works in.



late to in leadership positions, in positions they might aspire to have one day.

Our community, and the city of Minneapolis as a whole, has been through so much these past several years – a global pandemic that upended our lives, the murder of George Floyd and the unrest that followed, and our city has been the epicenter of a global reckoning on race. When put together these events have left many in our community feeling divided and disconnected. I believe that it is incredibly important for us to find ways to come together and create connections.

During the first 100 days of my term as your council member, I have been holding a multitude of meetings throughout our community; each of these meetings provides opportunities for you to engage with me directly about what's important to you. I will be holding Neighborhood Meetings, Ward 11 Monthly Meetings, and Ward 11 Triannual Public Safety Meetings.

As your council member, I will be working hard to communicate with Ward 11 through as many platforms as possible – through the Ward 11 Newsletter, through social media channels, through commu-

A REAL WAY TO STOP THE VIOLENCE

A Twin Cities entrepreneur is creating an economy that works for everyone with a unique pop-up market.

In Minneapolis, public safety remains an open wound. There has been no slowdown to the shootings, carjackings, robberies and other criminal acts that plagued the city in 2021. Minneapolis now ranks among the most dangerous cities in America after being considered one of the best places to live for years.



By **Eric Ortiz**

Crime is only one part of the equation. Many residents also have concerns with the Minneapolis Police Department and a criminal justice system that breeds injustice.

Leaders admit there is a problem. They acknowledge a racial disparity in public safety. Residents are tired of being told, "Sorry."

That response to public safety is not good enough. The people of Minneapolis deserve better.

But how can we expect the people

who created the mess to know how to clean it up? The system is broken. We need a new way forward that works for every person.

As famous engineer, architect and inventor Buckminster Fuller said in the mid-20th century, "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

Fuller was most famous for popularizing geodesic domes in the United States in the 1950s. These domes are the most efficient structures in the world, and Fuller wanted to use them to make shelter available to 100 percent of humanity. He wanted to "make the world work" for everyone, "in the shortest possible time, through spontaneous cooperation, without ecological offense or the disadvantage of anyone."

The clock is ticking for "Spaceship Earth," a term Fuller, an early environmental activist, coined. Everyone has a role to play to stop the violence that permeates our culture. We all need to work together to do this and create communities that work for everyone.

Marsha Magdalene, an entrepreneur in the Twin Cities, is doing just that. Magdalene is the founder and CEO of Bread, a unique pop-up market for retail businesses. Bread is home to many Black-owned brands and businesses from traditionally

underrepresented communities. She gives businesses a space to sell their goods and gives business owners more control of their businesses. This way, they can keep their profits, get retail experience and grow their brands.

Her entrepreneur spirit came from her roots as a child of Hmong immigrants. Her family's expertise in farming helped create income during their early years. The exposure to serving the vegetable needs of others set up the foundation for Magdalene's entrepreneur drive.

The turning point for Magdalene came in 2019. She was laid off from her job, and the thought of not being able to provide for her son and losing everything drove her. Magdalene promised to never again be put in a helpless situation.

Bread started when Magdalene's son, Aniki Allen, was starting to develop his own bow tie business as an 11-year-old. A third-party seller had to be used, but the profit cuts were discouraging after he put so much time and effort into each handmade bow tie.

Magdalene wanted to be able to control their own destiny. She looked for a retail space she could operate on her own terms. Community spaces were full or denied access. The mall gave her a place to maximize benefits and empower communities.

Today, Bread has two permanent locations, at the Maplewood Mall in St. Paul and the Northtown Mall in Blaine, with pop-up events across Minnesota. They

nity groups and neighborhood organizations. In my communications, I will keep you updated on my work, and the happenings of city hall, but I will also highlight local businesses, and let you know about activities and events in our neighborhoods. And I encourage each and every one of you to stay connected.

So far, I've had the opportunity to meet with constituents, neighborhood associations, organizations, city staff, department heads, and experts on a variety of issues. From affordable housing, to public safety, and from infrastructure to basic city services – I am working hard to get the job done.

Over this term, I will be serving as the Chair of the Budget Committee, the Vice Chair of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, as a member of the Policy and Government Oversight Committee, and as a member of the Audit Committee, in addition to serving as a member of the committees which all council members serve on.

Lastly, the tragic police shooting of Amir Locke is weighing on all our hearts and minds. This is a painful time for the community – and we must do everything within our power to prevent future loss of life and keep everyone in our community safe. That is why I am collaborating with my colleagues on the city council and our city staff to take action to increase transparency and create long-lasting solutions. I appreciate those who have reached out to me to voice your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. I encourage you to continue to hold myself, the city council, and the mayor accountable.

I look forward to working with you, and to working for you, so that together we can create solutions and build a better city of Minneapolis for all of us.

have had more than 22 businesses go through Bread. Some of them have become their own retail stores.

Magdalene has a five-year plan to be in over 100 malls and give small businesses around the world a retail platform.

Bread's pop-up market is coming to Uptown this summer. As part of a community building initiative, Bread and the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association are planning to host four monthly Twin Cities Community Building Pop-Up Markets at Mueller Park in the Wedge. The pop-up markets will bring together local business vendors, restorative practice leaders, and community members for a vibrant marketplace of goods, ideas, and services.

Now business owners with unique products not typically given a chance get a chance in the marketplace. They can thrive in their own economy. Bread is growing communities one business at a time. Marsha Magdalene is creating a fair environment that provides economic opportunities for all.

This type of economic empowerment and opportunity can play a key part in driving change and creating a world free of violence that works for everyone.



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.

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'SEPARATE NOT EQUAL' EXHIBIT MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALE-FIELD PAIRING PROJECT

By **Cara Letofsky**

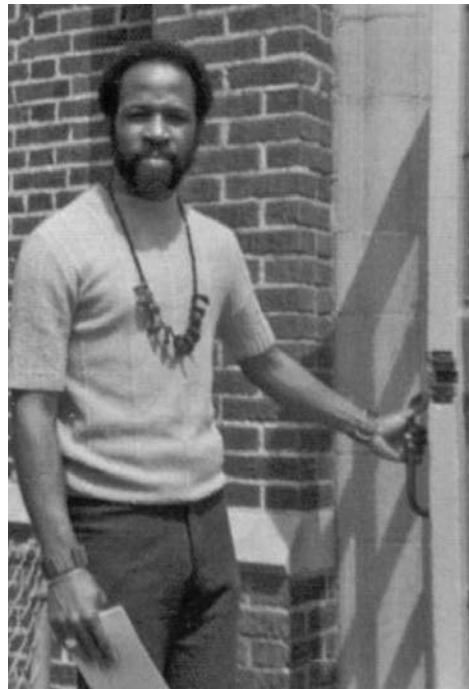


Of all my identities, being a Field-Hale-Field kid is one of the most formative.

Let me explain. I grew up on First Avenue in south Minneapolis, a stable block of Tudor and Craftsman-style homes that housed Black and White families right next to each other. Our local public school was Field Elementary, which is where I followed my older siblings when it was time for me to start kindergarten in 1969.

A few years later, Field became part of a ground-breaking school integration program. The program was conceived and promoted by area parents who wanted to see Minneapolis Public Schools take meaningful steps towards racially integrating the schools that their children attended. At the time, Field's student body was over 50 percent Black, whereas the adjacent Hale School was 98 percent white. The parents' advocacy resulted in the pairing of Field School and Hale School in an inventive yet cautious approach: the two schools' attendance areas would combine, with the K-3 students attending Hale, and the 4th-6th grade students attending Field. The resulting racial make-up of both schools was 30 percent students of color, 70 percent White. The plan also brought innovative educational programming, including multi-grade and open classrooms, Black and White teachers, and additional resources to meet students' needs.

The plan had its opponents, including Hale neighbors that filed a lawsuit alleging the pairing deprived them of an inherent property right to decide where their chil-



Mr. Andrew welcomes students to Hale School in 1973, where he taught a multi-grade classroom in the Green Unit. One of his students was Cara Letofsky. (Photo submitted)

dren went to school based on their choice of where they bought their home. The lawsuit was dismissed. The pairing plan went into effect in the fall of 1971.

In the middle of a flurry of media coverage, I started second grade at Hale School. In 1973, I reentered Field, this time in Mr. Andrew's multi-grade classroom in the Green Unit, where I spent the next three years. I don't remember any of

the adult chatter at the time about concerns or worries about White and Black kids going to school together, and only later did I realize how unique, and lucky, it was for me to have a Black male teacher for three years.

Fifty years have passed since the school pairing experiment began. Its story is now the topic of "Separate Not Equal: The Hale-Field Pairing," a new exhibit opening at the Hennepin History Museum on Thursday, April 28, 2022. An opening celebration event will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The exhibit – which is part of a multi-faceted collaboration among the museum, the University of Minnesota, Augsburg, TPT Executive Producer Daniel Bergin, and Hale-Field pairing alumni Heidi Adelsman and Cindy Booker – covers the legal precedents and landmark rulings that led up to the 1971 pairing, community support and opposition to the plan, and what it means for today. It is based on material that comes straight from the lived experiences of students, parents, and teachers, and is paired with programs and activities that focus on the themes of school segregation past and present. There will be opportunities for community members and Hale-Field graduates to share their stories and artifacts, to help build out the historical record of the time.

For the Hennepin History Museum, "Separate Not Equal" represents part three of the story of how exclusionary public policies impacted how our cities were built, and how the legacy of those decisions continue to impact our communities today. In 2018, the museum hosted "Owning Up: Racism and Housing" in Minneapolis, the award winning student-curated exhibit

on how racial covenants, red-lining, and White violence created a racially segregated Minneapolis. The museum continued its partnership with the University of Minnesota's Heritage Studies and Public History Program on "Human Toll: A Public History of 35W." Currently on display until Oct. 1, 2022, "Human Toll" tells the story of how the construction of 35W through south Minneapolis uprooted and divided neighborhoods – mirroring the experience of Black communities across the country, and amplifying the effects of systemic racism that are still felt today.

"Separate Not Equal" continues the storyline. It makes the connection between the racial housing patterns in Minneapolis at the time, and how it led to "separate not equal" racial segregation in schools, and how the community fought to address it.

I consider it a gift to have been raised in a community with parent-supported public schools that embraced multiculturalism. Being exposed to people of races and religions different than mine has enriched my life. Telling this story now, as our communities' schools and housing patterns continue to struggle with the legacy of systemic racism, is an important step in learning how to address it.

Hennepin History Museum is located at 2303 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Phone: 612-870-1329, email: info@hennepinhistory.org, website: www.hennepinhistory.org HHM's building is not fully accessible and does require climbing stairs.



Cara Letofsky is The Fair Economy Project Director.



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PASSIONATE ABOUT BUNGALOWS



Q&A with Twin Cities Bungalow Club President Tim Counts

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE BUNGALOW CLUB?

Longtime Bungalow Club President Tim Counts: The Twin Cities Bungalow Club was started in 1995 by Kristi Johnson, who lived with her husband in a Longfellow neighborhood bungalow. (They now live in a bungalow in Duluth). The Longfellow neighborhood association hired a contractor to survey the neighborhood's housing stock. The contractor reported that a majority of houses were bungalows, and labeled them as a liability – small and outmoded, “starter houses” or “grandma’s houses.”

Kristi was livid. Contrary to the prevailing view at the time, Kristi saw bungalows as high-quality housing stock built with sturdy, old-growth wood. Many were stucco-sided (the original maintenance-free siding) and boasted real plaster-and-lath walls. They were also loaded with character – rich oak woodwork, windows with divided lights, built-in bookcases and dining room buffets, and sometimes a brick fireplace or a breakfast nook. You simply couldn't afford to build houses with such high quality materials and workmanship at today's prices. Bungalows also had manageable front and back yards, with plenty of room for flower and vegetable gardens. In an era where suburban house and lot sizes were growing exponentially, bungalows were compact, charming and affordable.

Kristi started the Twin Cities Bungalow Club singlehandedly, and ran it largely by herself for about five years. By that

time, the Longfellow neighborhood was putting up metal street signs that read: Longfellow – A Traditional Bungalow Community. The birth of the Twin Cities Bungalow Club coincided with a nationwide revival of the Arts & Crafts style and movement (which originally ran during the first decades of the 20th century), and a renewed appreciation of bungalows. For example, American Bungalow magazine (www.americanbungalow.com) began publication in the early 1990s.

Mission statement: The Twin Cities Bungalow Club is dedicated to fostering an appreciation for these charming and livable early 20th century homes. We are committed to preserving bungalows and other Arts & Crafts style homes of the era along with the neighborhoods they occupy; to learning their history; and to exploring the furnishings and decorative objects that filled them.

HOW CAN PEOPLE BECOME MEMBERS?

Counts: Memberships start at \$15 per year for an individual membership, or \$25 for a household (two people). Discounts are available if signing up for two years. Members receive an information-packed newsletter four times a year, plus free access to quarterly events on Arts & Crafts and bungalow topics, including our annual house tour. Website: www.bungalowclub.org.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE CLUB?

Counts: In 1994, I was looking to purchase a house. I didn't have much money, so my primary criteria was “cheap.” I looked at quite a few houses in my price range, but they were all disappointing. Then my Realtor and I pulled up in front of the bungalow I would end up purchasing. We both said, “Oooh.” Inside, it just felt right. Even though the walls were painted a harsh white that clashed with the dark woodwork, and the floors were covered with orange and green shag carpeting, the house spoke to me.

After my purchase bid was accepted,

I took the home's real estate flyer to work. A coworker looked at the photo on the flyer and said, “That's a bungalow.” I said, “What's a bungalow?” She said, “I'm not sure, but I think there's a magazine about them.” I asked her to pick up a copy for me if she ran across it. A few days later she brought in a copy of American Bungalow magazine (www.americanbungalow.com), and I fell down the bungalow rabbit hole.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUNGALOW.

Counts: My bungalow is modest – just over 1,000 square feet of living space on one level (two bedrooms and one bathroom), plus a full unfinished basement. But I love it. It doesn't have a fireplace, but it does have a beautiful, useful breakfast nook in the kitchen and a handsome built-in buffet in the dining room.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT BUNGALOWS?

Counts: Bungalows have loads of charm and coziness. They're small enough to be manageable, yet are fully functional. They can be small, but with a few minor tweaks they still work well for modern living.

WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHERS?

Counts: Don't work against your bungalow's aesthetic by painting its interior white, especially the oak woodwork. Today's fashion is bright, white and airy, but painting your bungalow's interior white will not make it cheery, it will just make it look tired. Work with the bungalow's character, using a warm color for the walls, which will bring out the red and gold tones in the woodwork.

PLEASE GIVE US DETAILS ON THE UPCOMING BUNGALOW HOME TOUR.

Counts: The 2022 Twin Cities Bungalow Club tour will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2022. It will last from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. We're still putting the details in place, so watch www.bungalowclub.org for updates.



These two Twin Cities bungalows offer unique amenities in the kitchen, a feature bungalows are known for.

BUNGALOW BOOK COLLECTION

Several years ago, Kristi Johnson, the Bungalow Club's founder, established a collection of bungalow, mission, and Arts & Crafts books and journals at the Merriam Park branch of the Saint Paul Public Library (1831 Marshall Avenue). Club members donated many of the first books. Over the years, the Bungalow Club has provided the library with funds for additional purchases. The collection numbers over 160 books.



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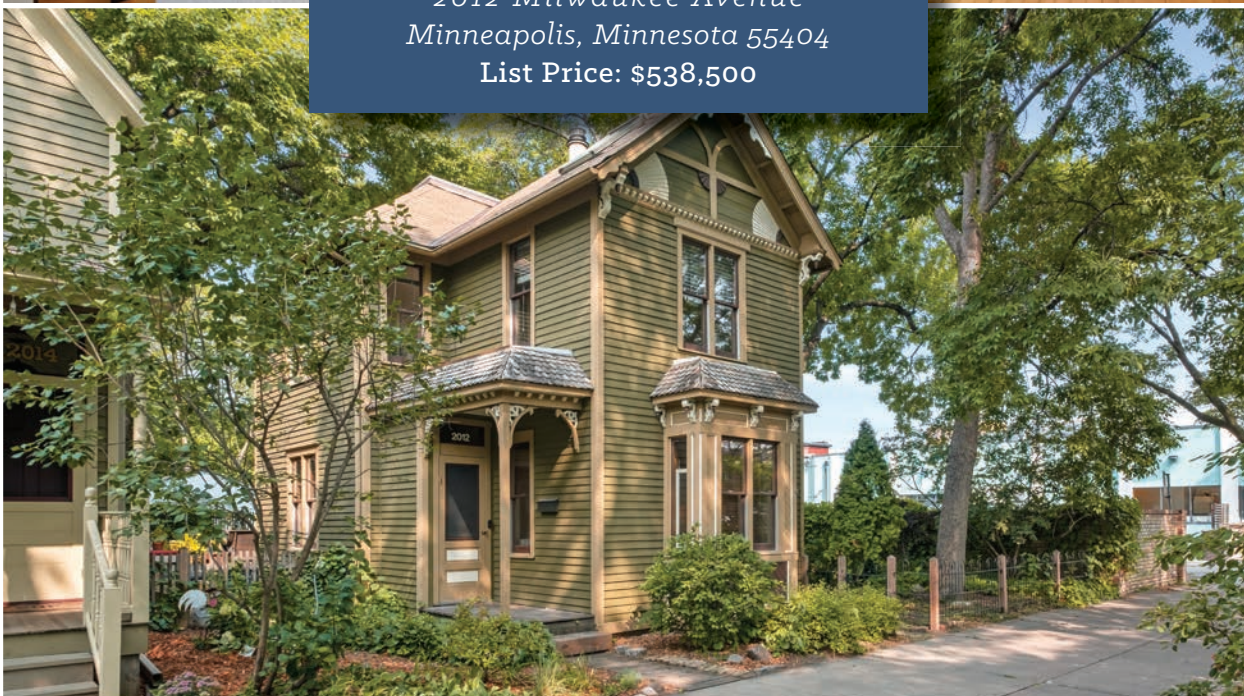
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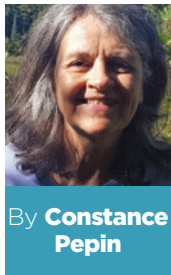
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Despite the roller-coaster temperatures and freeze-thaw hazards in Minneapolis this month, after all it is March and the familiar flowers of spring will soon emerge. But as many people anticipate and celebrate the familiar blooms of crocuses, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, irises and lilacs, a growing gardening movement shows that these strictly ornamental plants, however beautiful, contribute nothing to our environment and are actually a desert for birds and other wildlife.



By **Constance Pepin**

Conventional landscaping techniques that further colonize and diminish the landscape with non-native species of trees and other plants are degrading and reducing habitat for pollinators and birds. Native plant gardening can restore the ecosystems of our own yards and in the process create habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Why should gardeners care, and begin to see their yards as habitat? Because as habitat declines, populations of insects and birds are rapidly declining, with ultimately dire consequences for our own species, too. The current decline in biodiversity is threatening not only birds and wildlife, but humans and our own ability to maintain our quality of life, and even to survive.

North America has lost more than 3 billion birds over the past 50 years, an "astounding result" even to researchers. Since 1970, more than one in four birds have disappeared from the landscape. Declines were far-reaching across many species, including common backyard birds. Substantial declines in insect populations throughout the world are contributing to the loss of birds, since 96 percent of birds feed insects to their young.

Simply put, native plants are those species that occur naturally in a region



GO NATIVE IN YOUR YARD

FOR BUGS, BIRDS, BEAUTY AND BIODIVERSITY

in which they evolved. Non-native species include trees and plants from other regions or continents, as well as cultivars including "nativars" that are bred to alter specific characteristics to suit human criteria, such as aesthetics or disease resistance.

Native plants developed over thou-

sands of years and are adapted to local weather, local soil and to the other plants and animals indigenous to the area in which they evolved. Most importantly, native plants provide food for wildlife, including insects, birds and other species. Having evolved with native wildlife, na-



"Go native" to sustain songbirds and other wildlife in your garden

A guide to identifying native plants for Central Minnesota

tive plants are the ecological basis upon which life depends for all animals, including people.

With so much habitat lost and many native plants replaced with exotic plants, some wildlife species have become endangered and their chance of survival depends on us. By creating bird-friendly gardens and landscapes with native plants, people can provide habitat and help sustain biodiversity in our neighborhoods.

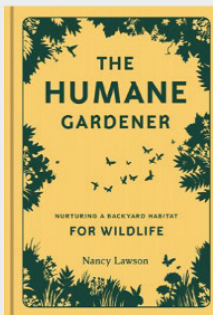
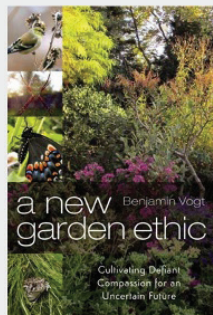
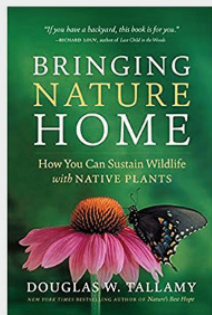
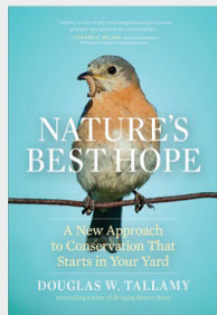
Simple actions to restore the ecology of our own yards and green spaces in our community include reducing or eliminating lawns, eradicating invasive species, and planting keystone species of native plants, including trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges and flowers. Both the National Audubon Society and National Wildlife Federation offer databases to search for plants native to our region. A free booklet from the Saint Paul Audubon Society is also available online.

Humans enjoy many positive effects when we prioritize native species in our yards. Native plants are just as beautiful as non-native plants, and less work to maintain. Once established, they seldom need watering, mulching or protection from the weather. The deep roots of many native plants can help prevent erosion and manage stormwater by infiltrating rain that might otherwise drain into streets and pollute our lakes and rivers.

Native plants are healthier for people because artificial fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are not necessary. Landscaping with native plants can also help address climate change, as research shows that native trees and shrubs sequester carbon in a more stable manner than exotic ones. By providing wildlife with essential foods (including nectar, caterpillars, nuts, seeds, and fruits), native plants support the life cycles of pollinators, birds and other wildlife, which increase humans' experience and enjoyment of Nature around us.

Constance Pepin is co-chair of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Advocacy Committee, co-founder of Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary, and co-leader of the Linden Hills Naturescape project.

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IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SAVE A GUITAR PROGRAM

TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

NEWSFLASH! It was touch and go for a few days, but the one-of-a-kind Southwest High School guitar program is NOT being eliminated. Yay!! Chalk this one up to "Parental Involvement" meets a "National Outcry of Support" for Ruth LeMay and the Southwest guitar program. It was just enough to block the axe that was falling on one of the most inventive music programs in the country.



By Larry LaVercombe

The first time I walked into the newly constructed Southwest guitar classroom was also the first time I met Ruth LeMay. This was spring of 2016. I was managing and producing the music stage for the Linden Hills Festival, and I was out recruiting teenage musicians to fill the program. I had drawn from the SW jazz program in years past, but I had just recently become aware of the new guitar program at the Southwest. No one prepared me for what I found there...

A wall of guitars. Thirty, 40, maybe 50 guitars hanging on the wall. AND – a newly hired teacher who was not only passionate about teaching guitar, she was also developing a brand new, inventive approach for teaching music instrumentation to students with developmental disabilities.

Ms. LeMay's "3 Strings Method" was born of her desire to help these students "get the same music ensemble experience that their neurotypical peers receive." Using color coding and modified instruments, she invented an entirely new methodology, using adapted guitars, bass guitars, keyboards, drums, and musical notation. Her newly formed 501(c)3 is getting national recognition, and she is now teaching music teachers across the country how to adapt their instruments and use this approach with students of all levels of ability.

As she says on her website, www.3strings.org, "With 3 Strings, students with special needs can make music, be proud of it, sound good, and take it anywhere they want to go – just like anybody else."

But that's just one of her passions. "This is about equity, and equal access,"



Southwest High School students Vanessa Hanson (left) and Brynn Sexton learn to play the guitar in Ruth LeMay's class. "Students deserve a guitar education," said LeMay. "It is a lifelong instrument."

AT RIGHT

Enrique Vivas-Vaquero sings while D'Avian Cyrus plays electric guitar and Usupha Darboe is on bass guitar.



she say. "In the Southwest guitar program, you can start beginning guitar in high school, and graduate at the National Honor Ensemble level."

But isn't guitar just all about rock & roll? Ruth laughs. "These kids learn how to read in my class. We read music. And then, sure, we play all styles."

Including rock & roll. Last summer, several of Ruth's students performed on the outdoor stage at the annual Linden Hills Woodstock Party-for-Dogs, including a classic-rock cover band called The Disappointments. Five 14-and-15-year-old boys pounded out the electric jams of The Allman Brothers, Elvis Costello, and Lynyrd Skynyrd, while their parents and fans cheered and danced in the streets. Ruth was there, too, of course.

So, how could all this good stuff suddenly disappear? Well... Have you ever heard of "budget cuts?" Have you, umm, heard the news, that our schools are un-

derfunded? Yep.

"My kid couldn't wait to get to high school, because he couldn't wait to get into that guitar program," said Mark Lanie, father to one of the teenage Disappointments. "And then out of the blue came the gut punch that the guitar program was being cut."

"Literally within minutes of getting that email," he said, "all the boys in the band were writing emails of their own; to the school, to the superintendent, to the governor."

And it was not just a local outpouring... As a member of the National Guitar Council, Ruth had contacts and admirers all over the country, and they stepped up to the plate, too.

The school got a deluge of emails. And four days after the program was cut, it got reinstated.

"Clearly what happens in the guitar classroom is necessary and valued," Ruth



Ilan Shidla, Michael Grace, Wyatt Speck, and Mikey Sullivan practice.

said. "Students deserve a guitar education - it is a lifelong instrument."

And there is nothing like being in a band. (This is me speaking.) I LOVE being in a band, something that's totally new for me, for I didn't learn how to play music until I was past 50. What I do know, and always have known, is how cool it is to be part of a team. That's what Ruth gives to these kids.

Quoting from the website again: "Our mission is to train musicians how to adapt instruments and music to create 3 Strings ensembles worldwide."

Wouldn't that be nice? Feel free to donate, if you'd like. And one other way to Team Up For Good... If you happen to have a space that you could share, The Three Strings Band, separate from Southwest High School and made up of recent high school graduates, is looking for a practice space. Feel free to contact her directly at Ruth@3strings.org.

And keep teaming up for good!



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 most days, and as Team Larry he has been selling residential real estate in Minneapolis for 26 years.

▶ 1 CRAFT BEERS

quickly afterwards, Hairless Dog Brewing. It's been a long, amazing journey since; we started hand-applying labels and driving cases to our friends' liquor stores – like Dan Campo at South Lyndale Liquors, Phil Colich at Henn-Lake, and Ted Farrell at Haskells – and restaurants like Murray's. It took a community to get it going and we're really grateful for that. We built it up over time, and now we're available pretty much nation-wide through a network of distributors and chains.

WHY THE NAME, HAIRLESS DOG?

Pirner: It's a play on the "hair of the dog" hangover cure. We don't put alcohol in there in the first place, so you can drink as many as you want without the worries. It was one of the "of course that's what the name should be" moments.

WHAT CHALLENGES AND JOYS HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED WHILE STARTING A NEW BUSINESS?

Pirner: Neither my partner nor I had ever worked in consumer products or beer before, and starting a small business in a pandemic could be a book all by itself. All the problems we've had echo all the problems everyone else has had in that regard.

That does, in fact, make the successes that much sweeter. A good part of our audience has never had a product that fits their lifestyle like ours does, and we get some really moving, personal notes from our customers that are incredible. That's the greatest joy of the whole thing: knowing you're making a difference.

WHAT ARE YOUR ROLES WITH THE BUSINESS?

Pirner: I'm the Chief of Operations and Founding Partner, but the titles don't mean a whole ton around here. We all wear a lot of hats and I pretty much oversee day-to-day operations, but we have an incredible team that operates pretty self-sufficiently.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT NA BEER?

Pirner: Everything I used to enjoy about full-strength beer, but I'm more conscious of the social aspects of it now. So much of our collective history is made around celebrations, and alcohol is normally part of that. When you don't drink, you can feel like an "other" in that situation, and that's really limiting. Having a really good craft beer that I can nerd out about the flavor nuances – or just sit around and be a normal part of happy hour – in a bar with my friends is what it's all about.

WHAT SETS YOUR NA BEER APART?

Pirner: We're the only true 0.0% ABV (alcohol by volume) craft brewer in America. Most other NA beers have some alcohol in them; if you look at the label on other NA beers it says "does not contain more than .5% alcohol by volume." That's the legal definition of a non-alcoholic beer (from prohibition, which was why NA beers were so bad for so long). We don't create alcohol in the first place, so we don't have to remove it or temper it. Hairless Dog beers deliver a full bodied, hoppy, craft-beer beer experience. They're quite different in that regard.

HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT CREATING YOUR OWN BEER?

Pirner: I was a home brewer, so when I quit drinking and couldn't find an NA beer that wasn't a watery badge of dishonor in social settings, I started experimenting in my garage. Lots of trial and error (and very understanding friends) got us here.

CAN YOU DEFINE 'SOBER CURIOUS'?

Pirner: That means a lot of different things to different people, which is great. I think it gives people a convenient label to coalesce around that's positive, instead of "I'm thinking about quitting booze" or something less optimistic like that. The stigma of quitting drinking was much

worse even five years ago. Now sober curious people have dry January parties on Instagram. It's fantastic.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT WITH OUR READERS ABOUT THE NA BEER MOVEMENT?

Pirner: It comes out of a health trend that stretches back to the 1970s. Over the decades, people have become more aware of what they're putting into their bodies and the effects, and this is one of the ways it's taking shape these days. NA beer in America came about because of prohibition. Once alcohol was legal again, NA beer languished and became something that you didn't really want to be seen with, so nobody put any effort into it. We were on the leading edge of a craft NA boom about six years ago that's really still growing. It probably had something to do with folks my age getting to point in their lives where alcohol wasn't holding up its end of the bargain so much any more, but we all still wanted the craft beer experience we've internalized.

WHAT LOCAL SHOPS CARRY HAIRLESS DOG?

Pirner: South Lyndale Liquors, Haskells, Hennepin Lake Liquors, and France 44, to name a few. It's also available in some Cub and Kowalski's stores, and cool joints like Bryant Lake Bowl.

BOCCE BALL COURTS



In 2018, a group of Linden Hill residents who were fans of the splendid Italian game of bocce decided that Linden Hills Park at 42nd and Xerxes Ave. in southwest Minneapolis would be an ideal site for official courts. The courts are along a major walking path to the neighborhood center so many folks drop by to chat and watch from the benches. Also, the children's play area is next to the courts and the sound of exuberant children is a great backdrop.

With the help of local businesses (Bremer Bank, Sticks and Stones, and Settergren's Hardware) and enthusiastic volunteers, two regulation-size courts were constructed and donated to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. "Bocce ball is a welcoming sport," said Steve Benson. "It is easy to get com-

fortable with the rolling balls, and is perfect for summer afternoons and evenings in this beautiful park. The oldest member of one of the teams is 81, and younger folks love to try their skills on the same team!"

Free sets of bocce balls are available in the park building and other enthusiasts are invited to bring their own sets. On Saturday, April 23 from 1-3 p.m., members of the Linden Hills Bocce Club will be playing and guiding interested folks in developing their skills.

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board President Meg Forney has been an enthusiastic supporter of bocce in Linden Hills Park since the very beginning. A long standing Bocce court in Beltrami Park in North East Minneapolis provided a great model. "Bocce ball is a unique sport that not only is attractive to our elders, but also to our youth," said Forney. "Because of its low impact nature, as well as less physically challenging, young people can succeed and our elders can remain engaged. It is a great socializing game. One doesn't need to be an expert to win. There aren't too many sports that could boast their true intergenerational nature."

Evening league are now forming. For information, contact Marc Burgett at marcburgett@msn.com. "We look forward to seeing you soon at the Linden Hills Bocce Ball courts!" said Benson.

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

NEW E-LINE PLAN TWEAKS

Metro Transit has released its latest draft of the METRO E Line plan for an arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) line that will run through Linden Hills from the University of Minnesota to Edina's Southdale Transit Center. In the fall of 2021, Metro Transit collected public feedback on the initial draft of this line. Project staff compiled and reviewed the feedback and have now released the Recommended Corridor Plan. Check it out and comment here: metrotransit.org/e-line-corridor-plan.

For more information about the stations, their locations in Linden Hills and the E Line presentation by Metro Transit to the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council on March 5, visit: linden hills.org/eline-update.

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY PLANT SALE

This year marks the 24th year of benefiting Whittier International Elementary PTA through its annual plant sale. Hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, veggies and herbs, and the ever-popular pollinator packs will be available for pre-order online from now through Wednesday, May 11. Plant pick-up at the school (or delivery within a five-mile radius for a \$15 fee) will be the afternoons of May 12-14, 2022. Any unsold plants will be available for purchase during the pick-up event May 12-14.

LHENA ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 20

Save the date for LHENA's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 P.M. For the third year in a row the annual celebration will held via Zoom, but there will be a social at the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association office right after the meeting for those who want to connect with neighbors over snacks and drinks. The LHENA annual meeting is where neighbors get together to learn about the work done in the community and what's to come this year, vote for LHENA board members, hear updates from your council member, and present the Project and Neighbor of the Year awards.

POP-UP SKATE PARK AT BDE MAKKA SKA

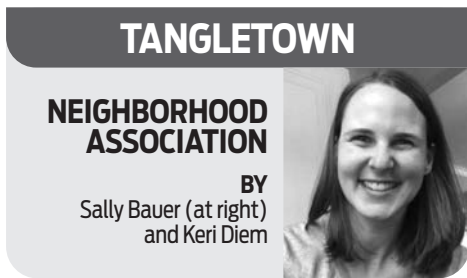
A new temporary skate park is coming to Bde Maka Ska this summer. The 'pop-up' skate park will be installed in May or June in the eastern third of the north parking lot along Lake Street. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Trades staff will fabricate and install skate features using salvaged parts from old park equipment, along with new potential precast concrete ramps and quarter pipes built by the MPRB Cement Shop. Help design the skate park. There will be in-person Open House on Tuesday, April 12, 5:30-7 p.m. at the site of the future skate park (North Bde Maka Ska parking lot), or take an online survey. The skate park is expected to remain in place through 2023, then skate park's condition and use will be evaluated.

CURIOUS ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY?

Have you been solar curious, but not known how to make it work for you? Then join the Tangletown Neighborhood Association at our Explore Solar Virtual Panel on Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. Three expert panelists will discuss different ways to incorporate solar into your energy use, and how it can positively impact our environment. Register at tangletown.org/solar and read on for more information about solar energy and our upcoming event.

Renewable energy generation is on the rise in Minnesota. In 2020, renewable sources of electricity such as wind, solar and hydropower accounted for a full 29% of in-state electricity net generation. While total electricity generation from solar energy in Minnesota is still only a little more than 3% of the state's net generation, the use of solar technology to generate power has increased markedly since 2013 and continues to grow year over year. So, now is an excellent time to be investigating options for using solar energy, including if you're a renter.

There are two ways to access solar energy for your residential needs. The first is installing solar panels on your roof which is what most people first think about when considering solar. But only certain homes are good candidates for solar panels and not everyone owns their home. So option two is to sign up for a community solar garden.



Community solar gardens allow you to purchase power generation from a large solar array development. Usually, a customer buys a portion of solar energy generated by a garden which can be located anywhere in your county or an adjacent county. This portion would match your residence's average energy use per month. Then the customer sees a credit on their energy bill equivalent to the amount they purchased from the solar garden. Some exciting perks of community solar is that many programs do not require an upfront payment, your subscription can travel with you if you move residences, and often you save money on your energy bills. Community solar gardens in the Twin Cities Metro are owned by private companies and nonprofits and not your electric utility. The programs offered vary widely so it is important to do your research and be sure you understand the program you are buying into. Read the fine print and understand the terms!

There are some very good resources for understanding both solar installation at your home and community solar options. The Citizens Utility Board has a great consumer guide that you can download. And the Clean Energy Resources Teams and Minnesota Renewable Energy Society are good websites to get you started on your solar journey. Also, Xcel Energy has some renewable energy programs.

If you'd like to learn more, we encourage you to attend our Explore Solar Virtual Panel on April 21 that will feature local experts on everything solar. We will be discussing solar power generation and policy, and we will cover the pros and cons of installing solar panels on your residence as well as community solar garden subscriptions. Experts include Frank Jossi, climate journalist and correspondent for *Midwest Energy News*; Kyle Samejima, Executive Director Minneapolis Climate Action; and Mark Webber, President of the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society.

Common questions: Is my house too shady? Can I access solar energy as a renter? What are the upfront costs? What is community solar? Can I afford solar energy? How does it work? Does solar really make an impact on climate change?

Register at www.tangletown.org/solar to receive the Zoom link. A recording will also be made available after the event if you are unable to attend live. Now is the time to move forward with renewable energy. We hope you can join us!



Applications are due by April 15 for the Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) Small Grants Program. Grants are available for \$500-\$2,500 for projects that

align with FNA's youth education and community engagement strategies. FNA may award partial requests.

Who is eligible? Applicants operating in or based in the Fulton Neighborhood. Applicants will be prioritized who have not received a Fulton Small Grant in the previous two years.

What can be funded? New or existing projects and programs aimed at youth education and character development. New or existing projects and programs aimed

at supporting and enhancing community engagement.

When must funded projects and programs be completed? Grantees must complete the project or program for which funds are awarded prior to the FNA Annual Meeting in October 2022. Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

More information, a full list of program guidelines, and the application can be found at fultonneighborhood.org/smallgrants.



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1 HEALTH CARE, CULTURE

in the urban Native American community of the Twin Cities. Their mission is to promote the health and wellness of mind, body, and spirit of Native American families, and offer a full range of healthcare services that include medical, behavioral health, dental, and substance abuse programs. As a community clinic, NACC will see patients regardless of ability to pay.

NACC combines their healthcare services with traditional medicine and culture. The clinic aims to honor health and tradition by providing spiritual care and access to traditional healing. To promote these ideals, the traditional healing committee planted sage in the garden outside the clinic. Sage is used for smudging within the clinic, and is given to community members. The clinic has also planted tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar and other traditional medicines around the clinic to provide teachings and to be used by community members.

"The relief that some of our patients feel when we're able to provide sage or smudge, I don't even know how to describe it, but it's such a cool feeling to know that we're able to help people in this way," NACC Operations Manager Ashlee Jallen said.

NACC also provides classes for the community members that they serve. One of these classes is making jingle dresses where participants will be given the necessary materials and taught how to create them before pow wow season. Classes like these help people to come back to their culture and find acceptance and support. Tapio mentioned that many participants will come back and are excited to make jingle dresses for their granddaughters and friends.

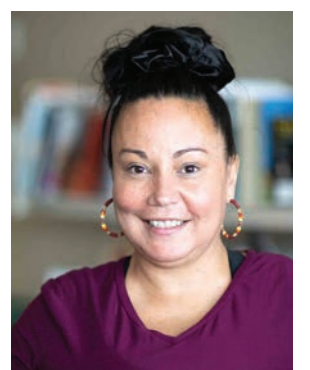
"Knowing that there's something bigger than you and having spirituality is vitally important," Tapio said. "Just as important as the medical piece."

The clinic also has a holistic approach to healthcare. They aim to address the root causes of health disparities like access to food, housing and health insurance. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, entire tribal communities, like the Red Lake Reservation, lack access to fresh and healthy food. And, according to the Minnesota Homeless Study, 48% of Native Americans were homeless in 2018. The clinic addresses these disparities through resource navigation, care coordination, outreach and community-based activities through the use of peer recovery coaches and community health workers. NACC also partners with outside businesses and nonprofits in order to connect any individuals with the care that they need.

"Our patients tend to come here more



"It's such a cool feeling to know we're able to help people in this way," said NACC Operations Manager Ashlee Jallen. (Photo submitted)



Anita Tapio is the traditional healing coordinator at NACC. (Photo submitted)

than once, and we get to build that relationship with them and we really make sure that we get them the services that they need. If we can't provide it, we find outside resources that can," Jallen said.

In addition, NAAC offers several unique substance abuse treatment programs in partnership with the Red Lake Nation. They provide a heroin and opioid addiction program that includes daily dosing, harm reduction services, spiritual care, mental health care, nurse care coordination, and drug and alcohol counseling. A culturally-centered approach outpatient program is also offered, which is rooted in Indigenous spiritual practices to treat substance use disorders. This program includes individualized programming with a gradual step-down, daily prayer and cultural teachings by NACC's Elder in Residence, medication assisted treatment, health education, relapse prevention, individual, family and group therapy, and peer recovery support.

"I've seen women who were recovering from addiction. They came in and made Ribbon Skirts or learned dances that they've wanted to but never could," Tapio said. "Seeing them complete that and get excited about their culture brought tears to my eyes. It sparks something in them."

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