

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • AUGUST 4, 2022 • VOL. 1 • NO. 15



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ART ON THE EDGE DEBUTS IN LINDEN HILLS



Milwaukee area residents Mari Akre, PJ Akre, Marie Akre and Paul Akre look at the chalk art mandala, created under the guidance of Sandy Forseth for the Art on the Edge event in Linden Hills on July 23, 2022. The Akres were celebrating Mari's 65th birthday. "This is a really quaint place to hang out," said Paul Akre. "It's the little things that bring out joy. It isn't that far away. You just have to look for it." More on pages 2-3. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

A MORE AUTHENTIC DRINK

First-time business owners bring East African Chai to farmers markets

By **Evan Vezmar**

On a Sunday afternoon in July, the Kingfield Farmers Market bustles with people browsing the various offerings. Even as rain clouds loom overhead, one of the busiest tents belongs to Red Wolf Chai, founded by Mowafag Mohamed, Mohamed Yousif, and siblings Mayzer Abdusebur, Azhar Abdusebur, and Sumeya Abdusebur two years ago.

Through their tea business, they strive to introduce traditional and authentic chai tea to the Minneapolis community and also aim to make a positive impact on the city. The founders are from Sudan and the Oromia region in Ethiopia where chai tea is prevalent.

In an interview with Mohamed Yousif, he mentioned, "Essentially we all grew up on some form of chai. It's really big for us in East Africa. We drink it every day. We



COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSIONER BEING CONSIDERED BY CITY COUNCIL

Cedric Alexander may manage new department with fire, police, 911, office of emergency management, office of neighborhood safety

By **Cam Gordon**

On July 21, 2022, Mayor Jacob Frey's nomination of Cedric Alexander for Community Safety Commissioner was formally received by the city council, who is expected to vote on the appointment on Aug. 4 following a public hearing on Aug. 2.

The creation of this position was approved on June 30 along with a salary range of \$295,250 to \$350,000. That salary is above a cap set by the state legislature of \$192,144 for 2022, so the city is requesting, and needs, a waiver to pay that much for this job.

As recommended in the mayor's restructuring proposal and the ordinance being introduced by Ward 13 Council Member Linnea Palmisano, the commissioner will report to the mayor and lead

a new Office of Community Safety that, if approved, would include the fire and police departments, 911, the office of emergency management, and a new office of neighborhood safety that will replace or include the office of violence prevention now housed in the health department.

Frey announced his nomination and introduced Alexander at a press conference on July 7. "Government restructuring is probably the most important thing I will ever do as mayor," he said. "Today we are at a seminal moment in that work to reshape and redefine the way we serve the public for the purpose of safety."

He added, "This is a person with a wealth of experience, highly respected nationwide. We are thrilled to have him enter our city to make the kind of changes that we need see."

Alexander began his career in 1977 as a deputy sheriff in Leon County, Fla. and went on to have a long career in law enforcement, public safety, education and government. He was the director of public safety for DeKalb County, Ga. where he oversaw police, fire, emergency response, and 911, and Chief of Police. Later, he was deputy mayor for the city of Rochester (NY). He has served as deputy commissioner of



A WALK THROUGH TANGLETOWN

Lifetime resident Tom Balcom points out historical and present-day highlights of Washburn Park

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Today's Tangletown neighborhood used to be known as Washburn Park, and the high school, library and historic water tower still bear evidence of the family that transformed the space from farm fields.

Local historian, Tom Balcom, has lived in the area his entire life, and does walking tours through Preserve Minneapolis. The 2022 tour was held on Tuesday evening, July 19, and about 20 people spent 90 minutes on the 1.5-mile walk. He believes that local history is not about yesterday; it's the context for where we live today.

"I'm proud of the place I live and I



The Washburn Park water tower was designed by Henry Wild Jones, a neighborhood resident. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

like to tell people the history of it," said Balcom.

"One hundred and twenty years ago, this was all farmland. Then the city marched out. I don't think people have too much of a sense of that."





Lynhurst resident Kathy Pope of Yellow Dog Collage sells her handcrafted collages. "I'm really inspired by color and pattern," she said.



Lucy Duncan, age 5, and her sister Lydia, age 8, watch soul painter Anne Pryor of Lovitude at work during Art on the Edge. They were accompanied by grandmother Beth LaVal (not pictured.)



The secret garden behind Heartfelt was a magical place to be, filled with mystics, tarot card readers and more during the first Art on the Edge on July 23, 2022. "Go see the hidden treasures back there," encouraged volunteer Kathryn Lundquist. (Photos by Tesha M. Christensen)



Brazilian psychic Jurema Silva shared messages from loved ones who have passed on during a sold-out gallery reading.



Handmade candles, soaps and self-care products were sold at the Pillars of Throw booth.



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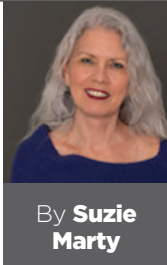
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GRATEFUL FOR ART ON THE EDGE

THE ART OF...

Reflecting on this past week, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude. On Saturday July 23, we celebrated creativity, intuition, and community with the first Annual Art on The Edge Festival in Linden Hills.



By **Suzie Marty**

When I met Kelly Wagner, psychic medium and owner/publisher of *The Edge* magazine, we instantly knew we were meant to create a new kind of art fair together. We knew that blending the creative talents of Minnesota artists from Everett & Charlie Gallery, and vendors from the metaphysical/holistic world through *The Edge*, would be a natural and powerful combination. From potters, painters, jeweler artists, tarot readers, Chinese medicine, essential oils, feng shui, authors, live music, and more, we celebrated together, brought community together, and had an all-around fun day. In addition, art demonstrations, author readings, pendulum teachings, and so much more were part of Art on The Edge. Within a few short months and the help of assistant gallery manager Dylan Marty, creative graphic designer Steve Wagner, and Cindy Torres (virtual assistant and event planner extraordinaire), we managed to create something special with a new twist on the usual art fair experience.

With over 60 participating artists and holistic vendors on the street and in the secret garden, it was a magical day. So magical, we were spared the weather that was forecasted to be less than perfect for an outdoor festival. With only a short period of light rain, which one of the vendors referred to as "sparkles," it was a beautiful day from start to finish and did not deter those attending. Maybe it had something to do with the power of positive thinking and literally standing in the street blowing the clouds in a different direction.

Anne Pryor of Lovitude™ (which means love and gratitude) is a Soul Painter. Anne gifted Art on The Edge with not one, but two, original alcohol ink paintings. She says her creations are inspired by Spirit, the highest energy in the universe. All of her paintings are blessed with essential oils and the inks are blown through a crystal straw using "Healing Breath." The originals are for sale at Everett & Charlie Gallery and prints are also available in 11x14 and 18x24 prints, as well as greeting cards.

Sandy Forseth, a gifted chalk street artist and Community Mandala Specialist, brightened W. 43rd Street with a beautiful chalk mandala. Arriving at 6 a.m. to measure and paint the outline of the mandala so anyone could fill in the spaces with chalk throughout the day was amazing. Children and adults joined in to meditate and create a beautiful piece of art together. Sandy watched in delight and likes to say, "COMMUNITY, creativity and the



Our volunteers in the purple shirts. Power of play are my jam!"

Jurema Silva, a Brazilian psychic, brought her gifts to a sold-out room for a gallery reading. Tapping into members in the audience, she shared messages from many loved ones who have passed on and answered questions through her intuitive talents.

Jim Turner, an international known award winning watercolorist, set up his easel on the sidewalk and painted throughout the festival. His Plein Air street painting captured the spirit and essence of the day. More of Jim's work can be found in the gallery.

Dan Turpening strolled through the festival entertaining everyone with his accordion playing. Other musicians throughout the day included violinist RayCurt Johnson, and Gypsy Jazz guitarist Ryan Picone. Their musical talents brought smiles to so many, and it was



Suzie Marty (left) and Kelly Wagner

sweet to watch the children (and sometimes adults) dancing on the sidewalk.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the community of Linden Hills, the many volunteers who helped the day run smoothly with such kindness, (one vendor actually said the volunteers were like little gifts on the street) and finally to our sponsors of Art on The Edge, the *Southwest Connector*, Priority Partnerships, Linden Hills Dentistry, Lakes Area Realty, BodyLabUSA, and Heartfelt.

We are looking forward to Art on the Edge 2023!

With gratitude,
Suzie, Kelly, Dylan and Team "Art on The Edge"
www.EverettandCharlie.com
www.EdgeMagazine.net

▶ **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 marketing specialist for the *Southwest Connector*. Contact her at ads@swconnector.com.

▶1 RED WOLF CHAI

watched our parents drink it every day."

Yousif explained that he and his partners wanted to share their knowledge about chai because "what we've experienced here with chai is not that good. What people are used to drinking, whether it's in a big chain coffee shop like Starbucks or an independent one, it's not that good because even though it's from an independent coffee shop, they use a syrup that's made by some big factory. So we just wanted to introduce people to a new way of experiencing chai."

Red Wolf Chai endeavors to establish a tradition of chai drinking in America where such a custom has not existed before. Yousif emphasized that the business wants to reach "everyone in a way" with its chai. Yousif described, "We have everyone from five-year-old kids to grown senior citizens who like all of our chai... There's different types of chai drinkers, whether you grew up on it or you were introduced to it by Starbucks. And then there's people who have never tried chai. There's people who may have tried it once and they hated it because it was a bad experience and then there's others who have been wanting to try it, either for health reasons, to leave coffee, or for the antioxidant effects."

Yousif illustrated the ways Red Wolf Chai has been working to establish chai in Minneapolis. "Reframing and redefining what chai is in the minds of people, that's number one. Introduce people to what we're used to in our parts of the world, give people a healthier alternative for caffeine (chai and tea itself has a lot of antioxidants and really healthy properties)..."

"There's some cinnamon, some cardamom, and a range of other spices, but ultimately it's in the brewing technique.



Red Wolf Chai sells its signature chai drink at Mill City Market on July 30. (Photo by Evan Vezmar)

A part of it is the spices, another part is the brewing technique, how long we let it marinate and simmer to let the flavors infuse into each other."

Red Wolf Chai also seeks to positively impact the community that it serves. Yousif described how "a big part of what we do is community work, so every once and a while we'll take some money and we'll donate it to charities. That's something we regularly do. So it's a little bit about introducing people to chai, but also making a difference in our communities. Sometimes we'll have high schoolers and middle schoolers that come, and we let them work in that environment in the farmers market so they can get communication skills and learn a little bit about businesses and how they operate."

Red Wolf Chai not only creates positive change in Minneapolis, but also focuses on sharing the story of the founders, from their love of chai to their East African roots. Yousif emphasized, "We bring [our story] into how we talk to people, that hospitality we have with people, and

even through the logo. The logo is a wolf that stretches through East Africa; that story of connecting different cultures. Even the wolf we're highlighting: It's a red wolf that's specific to the Oromia region that's endangered and we wanted to bring more awareness to it. But it also ties nicely to where we are in Minnesota and the Timberwolves.

"So it's a story that connects both cultures which we feel embodies us as people."

Starting a business has brought its own particular challenges, because although each of the founders had worked in businesses before, none of them had run their own business. Yousif added, "There's a lot of learning, from simple things like how much we should order to more complex things like what's our long-term strategy. So, there's a lot of stuff that we're learning as we're doing. The other thing is juggling this and our day-to-day job. All of us have a day-to-day job so juggling the two projects has been difficult. Sometimes we're making chai in our commercial kitchen space, we're up until 2, 3,

4 a.m. making the chai, and then we're up after four, five hours for our normal day jobs."

COVID-19 luckily did not have as big of an impact on Red Wolf Chai when it was founded in 2021. The pandemic, in fact, motivated Yousif and his partners to begin the business. He explained, "A lot of us had a lot of time to think during COVID and it just made us want to start... a new project... We had a year or two of reflection during COVID when everything was shut and by year two-and-a-half of COVID, we were like 'you know what, we want to start something.' So it actually gave us the reflection we needed to kick-start us and try something new."

Red Wolf Chai has garnered popularity throughout Minneapolis and the business has been successful since its inception. But the founders at the moment are content with continuing to share their chai through farmers markets, and emphasize that potentially opening a stand-alone restaurant is a long-term dream. Yousif stressed, "I'm more focused on our strategy of getting our chai mixture into coffee shops... The idea is that if we have our chai mixtures in a bunch of different coffee shops, then it's more accessible for people... As opposed to having one central location that everyone has to go to, it's more accessible for people."

Find Red Wolf Chai on select Saturdays at the Mill City and Fulton Farmers Market, and select Sundays at Kingfield Farmers Market.

▶ **Evan Vezmar** is a summer intern with the *Southwest Connector*. He is on the staff of the Blake School Spectrum newspaper, and will be a junior next year. He resides in Edina.

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EXTREMISM LEAVES EVERYTHING OUT OF WHACK

We need to start resolving conflicts for the greater good.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Sometimes, it feels like the whole world has gone crazy, and we're all on one big hamster wheel, going around in circles, accomplishing nothing.

We see this in Minneapolis. Pick any topic of community concern. Whether it's public safety or city planning, there's a good chance there is no consensus on what to do, and two sides have extremist viewpoints. We should have no police. We should have unlimited, fully militarized police. We need more street parking. We need all bike lanes. Lock everyone up. Lock no one up.

Going to extremes doesn't work. This is how we got to where are. How much progress have we made in solving the city's problems in the last two years? We're stuck in gridlock. No one can agree on anything from the mayor's office to the city council to neighborhood associations, Facebook groups, street protests and Twitter. Everywhere you look, there are conflicts.

Conflict is nothing new. But now there's no negotiation, no collaboration,



By Eric Ortiz

no compromise. People used to be able to work together, even if they disagreed. They used to be able to find some common ground. Now, it's either-or options all day long. You're either with us, or you're against us. And if you're not with us, you're canceled. Or you're mocked and laughed at. Or worse.

What happened to both-and solutions? What's wrong with having some parking and some bike lanes? What's wrong with holding people at all levels of society accountable for doing the wrong things? Why can't we come up with humane solutions that work for everyone?

This isn't only a Minneapolis problem. This is an all-American problem, with Minneapolis as ground zero for extremist solutions. Extremism, from any direction, leaves everything out of balance. Instead of solving anything, we might even be going backward as a civilized society.

But there is good news. We can reverse course and learn how to resolve our conflicts in a civilized way. We can create win-win solutions for the greater good, aka the public good or the common good. And we have the Coen brothers – the famous filmmakers who were born and raised in St. Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis – to thank for this roadmap.

Remember their cult classic movie "The Big Lebowski"? Let's revisit the "mark it zero" bowling scene with Walter Sobchak (played by John Goodman), The Dude (Jeff Bridges) and Smokey (Jimmie

Dale Gilmore). Walter, a Vietnam War veteran and The Dude's best friend, believes Smokey stepped over the line when he rolled a shot. There is no definitive proof. It's Walter's word against Smokey's.

Walter: Over the line.

Smokey: Huh?

Walter: I'm sorry, Smokey. You were over the line. That's a foul.

Smokey: Bulls**t. Mark it 8, Dude.

Walter: Uh, excuse me. Mark it zero. Next frame.

Smokey: Bulls**t, Walter. Mark it 8, Dude.

B Smokey, this is not 'Nam. This is bowling. There are rules.

The Dude: Hey, Walter. Come on, it's just – hey, man. It's Smokey. So his toe slipped over a little. You know, it's just a game, man.

Walter: This is a league game. This determines who enters the next round-robin. Am I wrong?

Smokey: Yeah, but I wasn't –

Walter: Am I wrong?

Smokey: Yeah, but I wasn't over. Give me the marker, Dude. I'm marking an 8.

Walter: Smokey, my friend, you are entering a world of pain.

At this point, Walter pulls a gun out of his bowling bag and holds up the gun.

The Dude: Walter, man.

Walter: You mark that frame an 8, you're entering a world of pain.

Smokey: I'm not –

Walter: A world of pain.

Smokey: Look, Dude. This is your

partner.

Walter (yelling and standing up): Has the whole world gone crazy?! Am I the only one around here who gives a s**t about the rules?! Mark it zero.

The Dude: They're calling the cops, man. Put the piece away.

Walter (pointing the gun at Smokey): Mark it zero.

The Dude: Walter, put the piece away.

Smokey: Walter –

Walter (cocking the gun and pointing it at Smokey): You think I'm f**king around here. Mark it zero.

Smokey marks it zero.

Smokey: All right, it's f**king zero. You happy, you crazy f**k?

Walter sits down, uncocks his gun and removes the clip of bullets.

Walter: It's a league game, Smokey.

If it weren't for Smokey de-escalating the situation, things would have gone much different.

We need more Smokeys in the world today because there are a lot of crazy f**ks. We can't make them all happy, but if we take a page from the pacifist's guide for resolving conflict, we might avoid a world of pain.



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

ARE WE ACCOMPLISHING ENOUGH WITH THE JAN. 6 HEARINGS?

TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

Without an obstructionist Republican megaphone, these hearings are both coherent and revealing – nothing like what you get when one party is doing everything they can to obscure any progress or significant realization.



By Larry LaVercombe

And yet, of course, people are asking: Will any of it matter? Once you have drunk the Republican Kool-Aid, you seem to remain forever deluded. Even Arizona Republican Speaker Rusty Bowers admits that while Trump is a liar and a lawbreaker, he'd still vote for him in a general election. Apparently, no matter what crimes the Republican elite has committed, run-of-the-mill Republicans will still vote Republican. It's part of their identity. They are who they are. And they don't feel the same way that we do about either hypocrisy or democracy.

A lot of people hate it when I talk this way. They call me intolerant. They call me ideological, and offensive, and "just as bad." They say I'm not helping things by painting with such a broad brush and blaming people for not being able to see past or through their own culture.

Maybe. But I, for one, am tired of watching us turn the other cheek and

then feeling it burn with another slap. I no longer believe that bipartisanship is healthy for us. If the Republican Party was a spouse, we would have gotten divorced. We'd be seen as foolish for trying to work things out with such an untrustworthy partner.

Which is exactly what they have been. Untrustworthy. And it didn't just start with Trump. The war in Iraq was based on a Big Lie, too.

We are taught not to judge. And many of us have been taught to accept virtually any moral stance. We've even been led to believe that it is immoral to make moral judgments. I don't buy it any longer. We've been married to an untrustworthy party, and we keep trying to work it out without offending anyone. I've come to see it this way: we may choose to quietly not offend, but we can't work it out. And I'm starting to wonder if not offending is the moral choice any longer.

Of the seven deadly sins, pride is number one. The flip side of pride is shame, and shame is perhaps the most difficult of all experiences. It takes courage to face your shame. Ask yourself this: Do you have the courage to admit that you've been wrong about something?

It isn't just the politicians who are unable to face the shame of having been so wrong for so long. It's your neighbor next door. That's the awful truth of this. It's too shameful to stop voting Republican after having voted for Trump twice.

You'd have to admit to yourself how wrong you were. You'd have to have courage.

And it's their lack of courage we see over and over again with their constant minimizing of their party's corruption. Before Trump, who would have thought the Republicans would have turned a blind eye to Russian intervention in an election? Who imagines that this didn't embolden Putin?

It's shameful the way the Republican party has traded decency for power. And it's shameful the way people allow themselves to be fooled by Fox News.

I know I lose people when I go this far with my words. And I don't like looking like an unforgiving hardliner. Truth is, I'm not unforgiving. But I do believe that Republicans have a willful indifference to the horrors perpetrated by their own party, from the hateful rhetoric against the Black Lives Matter Movement, to the jailing of children on the border, to the continued wrongness of their positions on guns, gays, women, climate change, etc.

They have been morally wrong on all the moral issues of our time – yet we non-Republicans refuse to make the moral judgment. We let them off the hook, as if it's just a preference, like chocolate over vanilla. To each his own... Right? No. Wrong. Voting is a sacred act, and a moral choice. And voting Republican is morally wrong at this point.

These Jan. 6 hearings are proving

truths beyond any doubt. But so did the impeachment hearings if you were looking at them honestly. The "politics game" is supposed to be played with respect for each other and respect for the rules, but they have made it clear that they do not respect us, nor do they respect the rules. We know this, but we keep hoping they will see the light someday. They won't. There is no changing a mind committed to remaining closed. The Republican party won't get healthy until they need to, and, in their own eyes, they haven't hit rock bottom, yet.

Meanwhile, Biden gets blamed for the inflation caused by war-time oil prices and post-COVID-19 supply problems.

So, what can we do? I, for one, still have faith in getting out the vote, and I still have faith that justice and decency will prevail.

We need to get the fence-sitters out to the polls. And we also need to stop fighting among ourselves, and encourage those of us who have lost faith to regain it. If we can increase our hold on the senate from 50-50 to 52-48, we can bypass the filibuster and then pass The John Lewis Voting Rights Act. That will make all the difference.

We have work to do. Let's do it.



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.

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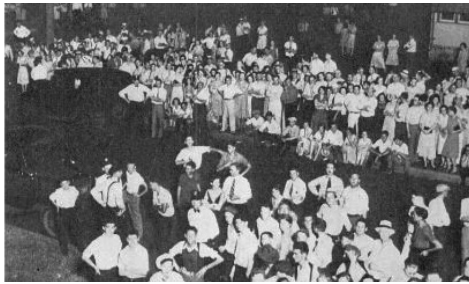
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GFS: SOWING SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY



A few thousand White citizens tried to drive the Arthur and Edith Lee family from their home for a week. This photo was featured in the October 1931 edition of "The Crisis" magazine.



Jay the Gardener (left) and Carla Jo "CJ" Bielawski embrace as he holds a box of Black-eyed Susan seeds that have been passed along from the original garden tended by the Lees.

By JILL BOOGREN

The little white house at 4600 Columbus Ave. S. is a typical south Minneapolis home. It has a garden out back and another out front, where every year in mid-July the Black-eyed Susans bloom. Its simple serenity belies its roots in Minneapolis history, though, as indicated by a limestone pedestal on the front lawn bearing a plaque that describes how it earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

Formerly the Arthur and Edith Lee house, it is the site of a 1931 race "row," as termed by the then *Tribune* - a White mob numbering in the thousands had gathered out front to coerce the Lees to leave. They first tried paying them but ultimately resorted to hurling bottles, black paint and racial epithets at the home.

The Lees were Black. And though Arthur Lee was a war veteran and U.S. postal worker, that wasn't enough to break the racial covenant that denied home ownership to people of his color.

In a 1931 edition of *The Crisis*, "A Roman Holiday in Minneapolis," Chatwood Hall wrote, "Mr. Lee's first serious



On July 11, Brass Solidarity plays a few tunes in front of the Arthur and Edith Lee house at 4600 Columbus where an angry mob gathered in 1931 to force the family out. (Photos by Jill Boogren)

hint of trouble was a large sign placed on his front porch, bearing this inscription 'No N-s [racial slur is spelled out] Allowed in this Neighborhood. This Means You.'"

"Please, never forget that it wasn't just the south that dealt in the Jim Crow behavior," said high school teacher and GFS resident Marcia Howard to community members who gathered in front of the home on July 11, 2022.

A steel sculpture that stands with the plaque, created by Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (3749 Chicago Ave.) with Obsidian Arts, has a portrait with this quote from Arthur Lee from July 16, 1931: "Nobody asked me to move out when I was in France fighting in mud and water for this country. I came out here to make this house my home. I have a right to establish a home."

Carla Jo "CJ" Bielawski, whose parents Carl A. and Pearl Lindstrom moved into the home in 1957, is the current resident and caretaker of the property. She keeps the Lee's contribution to the house alive by tending to the Black-eyed Susans that are planted throughout the property.

"Those are the same babies of the ones Edith Lee planted in 1931," said Howard. "And for that reason, the idea of commemorating what happened here and bringing it to the Square, where we have had an occupation that is markedly different than what happened here" - this drew cheers from the two dozen people there - "because we are there for equality. We are here for liberation. We're here for dismantling systems of racial redlining, profiling, inequity that happened here."

People tucked cut flowers behind their ears and, to the music of Brass Solidarity,

marched in procession to 38th and Chicago. There they were met by CJ who had already presented seeds to Jay the Gardener to plant throughout the Square.

"Today was the day 91 years ago that [the Lees] were told, 'Go. We'll give you money if you go,'" said CJ. "That man was American. Whatever his color is my color, we're all the same color underneath. We all bleed red. So let no more blood be shed."

The Lees moved within three years, and the neighborhood didn't have another African American resident for 30 years.

Jay held up a box of "thousands" of Black-eyed Susan seeds and embraced CJ.

"If you see Black-eyed Susans sprouting up from every hem and hamlet and corner of this Square, it's because Edith and Arthur Lee's legacy continues," said Howard.

See the University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice project and view the TPT documentary "Jim Crow of the North" to learn more about discriminatory housing practices in Minneapolis. See JustDeeds.org to see if your home has a racial covenant on it.

BUILDING POWER

Under The Peoples' Way that same evening, in another quiet act of solidarity, artist Jordan Powell Karis was constructing the components of a new wooden fist, like those that mark each of the four entrances to the Square. Once ready he hand delivered it to its destination - Akron, Ohio, where on June 27, 2022, Jayland Walker was killed by police in a hail of bullets shot as he was fleeing on foot. The medical examiner's autopsy determined that

Walker had 46 gunshot wounds; 26 bullets were recovered from his body.

Asked what moved him to build another fist, Powell Karis said, "I live in mostly White spaces. And in these White spaces everything is back to normal. And it's intolerable. It's truly intolerable to see White spaces continue on while people are doin' work and the work's not done yet. And it makes it harder for us to do the work when that continuation is happening unconsciously."

Five days prior, Powell Karis had no plans to do this. Something called him. He reached out to a reverend there, and it just clicked.

"The people there, they need the support. They need to know that they're being cared for by the rest of the communities out here," he said. "We gotta keep showing up for one another. We all just gotta keep showing up."

BLESSINGS

On the evening of July 14, to show solidarity with Jayland Walker's loved ones, activists gathered at the Square to bless the fist, which was now assembled and painted, for its journey eastward. Civil Rights Activist Rosemary Nevils offered the first blessing, pouring water for each name called of a person whose life was taken at the hands of police. But there was one more name to say today, once more from closer to home: Tekle Sundberg. (See article online).

The impact was felt throughout the Square. GFS community member C Chase had spent the night watching livestreams and trying to get information from residents.

"I had to tell people today that I can only stay a little while because I've got two vigils to attend tonight. We've gotta bless this fist to go to Akron for Jayland Walker, who was absolutely massacred. And in the early hours of the morning, overnight, we have someone presumably in what seemed to be a mental health crisis shot for it while his parents were outside," she said. A vigil was being held for Sundberg after the one at GFS. "And I'm in coordinator mode. I show up to this space that holds the grief and resistance to this very atrocity, and I show up to make sure we have water, to make sure people are seated, to make sure it's accessible for those who need it. And this is not who I wanna be in this space or in any moment. I don't wanna be facilitating other people's grief."

After community members spoke, everyone present was invited to sign the fist, which Powell Karis delivered the following day. One expression, written on its base, reads: "Love to Akron. Peace, Power & Love from GFS. Minneapolis."

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FARMERS MARKETS: RECONNECT, REFRESH AND RE-STOCK YOUR PANTRY

By **Susan Schaefer**
UNDER THE HOOD



Summer in the cities finds metro residents flocking like sheep to partake of the bounty offered at more than 15 local farmers market from various neighborhood locations.

Replicating the function of historic town squares, our modern-day farmers markets are places for neighbors to meet, greet, eat and frolic. Reflecting current passions, many markets feature way more than produce, protein and prepared foods, offering everything from mini-cooking and even yoga classes, to knife sharpening services, local crafts such as jewelry, ceramics and woodworking, and live music.

Outdoor gatherings like these have gained even more popularity with quarantine-weary urban area dwellers delighted to share safe places to reconnect, refresh and re-stock pantries.



Dawn2Dusk farm provides land, infrastructure, and sharing of knowledge of farming and markets, as well as building community to beginning farmers through 1-on-1 support. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

FARMERS MARKETS THROUGH THE MILLENNIA

Said to have originated in Egypt over 5,000 years ago, farmers and craftsmen have been provisioning city denizens throughout history. Archaeological data reveal that early farmers and artisans often measured their goods on scales, using barter to value items by weight rather than using a monetary system.

Though not farmers markets in the traditional sense, Native peoples of the Great Plains also engaged in trade between members of the same tribe, different tribes, and with the European Americans who increasingly encroached upon their lands and lives.

According to the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, trade within a tribe involved

gift-giving as a means of obtaining needed items and social status, "often taking the form of an exchange of products of the hunt (bison robes, dried meat, and tallow) for agricultural products, such as corn and squash. European and American items, such as horses, guns, and other metal products, were incorporated into the existing Plains trade system after the 17th century."

The first farmers markets in North America, in fact, date back to the 1600s and were brought by European settlers. Such markets were the primary means for customers from small towns to access

meats, dairy, and fresh produce. They were significant economic operations that attracted many people into city centers.

By the 1800s and 1900s, farmers markets were not only important for economic success, but also social interaction, as they were often the only means for rural and urban community members to meet.

FARMERS MARKETS HERE AND ABROAD

Growing up in Philadelphia, I was fortunate to frequent one of our country's earliest farmers markets, the historic Lancaster Central Market, which dates to 1730 when city planners had the foresight to

designate a 120-square-foot lot in the center of town as a public marketplace. This remarkable market has persisted throughout the years offering products from many vendors, notably from the celebrated Pennsylvania Amish community.

During my 10 years as a resident of the medieval European city of Maastricht, the Netherlands, I went weekly to the traditional Market Square with its "goods" market on Wednesdays and an expanded version on Fridays featuring fresh fish, artisanal regional products, and a famous textiles market. Living just across the Muse River in



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MINNEAPOLIS FARMERS MARKETS

- Fulton Farmers Market | Saturdays May 21-Oct. 29 | 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | 4901 Chowen Avenue South
- Kingfield Farmers Market | Sundays May 22-Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., NEW LOCATION at the north end of MLK Park at 40th & Nicollet
- Linden Hills Farmers Market | Sundays beginning May 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 2813 W. 43rd St. (Settegrens of Linden Hills)
- Lyndale Farmers Market | Daily 6 a.m.-1 p.m., 312 East Lyndale Avenue North,
- Market After Dark | 4th Tuesday of each month, May-Oct. 6-9 p.m., 1315 Tyler Street NE (Bauhaus Brew Labs)
- Midtown Farmers Market | Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. May-October; Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. June-September/3-6 p.m. June-October, BACK AT 2225 East Lake St.
- Mill City Farmers Market | Saturdays, May-October, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 750 S. 2nd St.
- Nicollet Mall Farmers Market | Daily 6 a.m.-2 p.m. (June- October), between 6th and 9th St. on Nicollet Mall
- Nokomis Farmers Market | currently closed (hope to be back in 2023), on the corner of 52nd and Chicago Avenue S.
- Northeast Farmers Market | Saturdays, May 14-Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 629 NE 2nd Street (St. Boniface Church parking lot)

ST. PAUL FARMERS MARKETS

- Highland Park Farmers Market | Saturdays, June 11-Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Luke's Lutheran Church
- House of Hope Farmers Market | Fridays, May 13-Oct. 28, 1:15-5 p.m., 797 Summit Ave.
- Signal Hills Farmers Market | Fridays, June 10-Oct.28, 8 a.m.-noon, 1225 S Robert St.
- St. Paul Farmers Market {Downtown} | Saturdays, April 23-Oct.29, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, April 24-Oct.30, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 5-19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays, Nov. 6-20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 290 5th St. E.
- St. Paul Farmers Market {Securian} | Wednesdays, July 13-Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 400 Robert St N, St. Paul

▶ 6 FARMERS MARKETS



A perennial favorite: fresh, farm-raised flowers. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

the tiny, ancient Wyck neighborhood, I frequented its legendary Thursday organic market, which drew hundreds of locals as well as neighbors from nearby villages and towns. My neighborhood market was an authentic international experience where polyglot vendors spoke at least five languages, communicating with customers from nearby Germany and Belgium in the local Limburg dialect, Dutch, English, German and French.

NOSTALGIA, RESURGENCE FOR FARM TO TABLE

Back in the USA, the 1950s and 60s featured people transitioning from rural to urban life. Farmers markets diminished as a focal point for commerce and interaction as improved roads, transportation and technology drastically changed consumers relationship with food production, giving rise to an eventual 24/7 global economy where an itch for a midnight bowl of ice cream could be tickled by 3 a.m. trip to a nearby supermarket. During this era, most people had no idea where the food on their table came from. Presently in the United States, food travels, on average, 1,300 miles and changes hands six times before it is consumed.

But by the 1970s, there was a renewed desire for fresh and organic food, sparking a



Tera Forge Knives offers "while you shop" knife sharpening. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

revival of farmers markets and local coops. United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) data show that the number of farmers markets had increased by 63% over a six-year period from 1994 to 2000.

NAT'L FARMERS MARKET WEEK, AUG. 7-13

The USDA, which provides support and education for its broad membership, sponsors National Farmers Market Week each year during the first week of August.

Here in Minnesota, our nation's breadbasket, the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, (MFMA) provides services, programs and leadership that support and promote farmers markets across Minnesota, highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion.

One local market, the Mill City Farmers Market, runs its enterprise mirroring the MFMA. Operated by a unique non-profit founded by legendary restaurateur, Brenda Langton, in collaboration with the Mill City Museum, Mill City Farmers Market mission supports diversity, equity and inclusion. And fun! Known for its free cooking classes with prominent chefs, MCFM also features engaging children's activities and adult education, supporting over 100 local farmers, food



Café Palmira offers fresh brew and hand-picked and shade-grown coffee beans according to traditional Mayan customs, at Mill City Farmers Market. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

makers and artists, the market has always focused on local, sustainable and organic food in a vibrant setting. The added benefit of the relationship with the Mill City Museum allows the market to operate year-round, outdoors May through October next to the Guthrie Theater, and inside the Museum on select Saturdays November through April.

With half the summer still ahead, consider incorporating a visit to assorted markets as part of your seasonal explorations. Your tummy and taste buds will thank you.



Something under the hood is not immediately apparent or obvious. This column uncovers stories that span the neighborhoods covered by TMC Publications. Susan Schaefer is a widely published independent journalist, creative writer, and poet. Her articles appear in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, PBS' online magazine, *Next Avenue*, *Next Tribe*, and *Beyond*. She was columnist and features writer for Minneapolis' *Southwest Journal* and *Minnesota Good Age* magazine.

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5. Invite wildlife with bird baths and fountains.

Check the State Fair schedule for the dates and times of Russ Henry's presentations on the Dirt Stage.

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STRATEGIES THAT CAN IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION

Strong reading comprehension skills are one of the foundations of a successful academic career. According to the Institute of Reading Development, students with strong reading comprehension skills get a big boost in all subjects, including math and science.

Parents concerned about their children's reading comprehension can try these strategies to bolster this highly valuable skill.

• **Let kids read what they like.** The

tutoring professionals at Oxford Learning® report that 73 percent of students indicate they would read more if they found books they liked. Parents can address this issue by taking children to their local libraries and letting them choose which books to check out. The more practice kids get with reading, the more their comprehension skills develop.

• **Read aloud to children.** Various studies have found that reading aloud to children significantly benefits literacy de-

velopment. One study from the National Association for the Education of Young Children found that listening to others read helps children develop key understanding and skills, including how stories are written. In addition, the Reading Rockets project, which aspires to bring reading research to life in the hopes of helping young children develop into strong, confident readers, notes that children can listen on a higher language level than they can read. That makes complex ideas more accessible.

• **Ask questions when reading to children.** When reading to children, parents can compound the benefits of this activity by asking youngsters questions about the book. Asking what, when, where, why, and how can encourage children to look for answers to these questions while they're being read to. As students advance and then read more on their own, parents can encourage them to ask these questions of themselves (if they're not already doing so on their own). Asking and answering these questions is a great way to strengthen reading comprehension skills.

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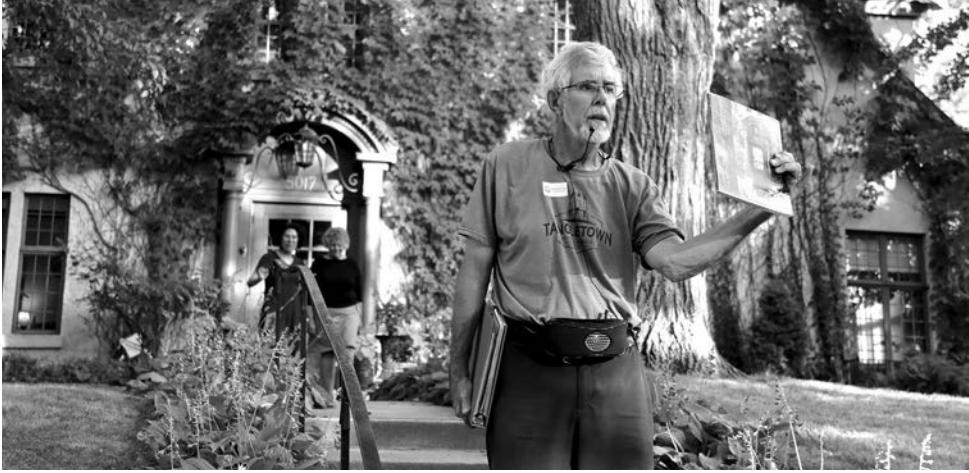
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Tom Balcom stands near the residents of the house at 5017 Belmont Ave. that is on the cover of "The Doors of Tangletown" by Elizabeth A. Vandam, published in 2002. **View more photos from the tour online at www.swconnector.com.** (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

▶ 1 TANGLETOWN WALK

The tour began at the Washburn Library, where the Washburn water tower could be seen through the trees. Down the hill to Minnehaha Creek is where the Richfield Flour Mill used to sit. There are no known images of the flour mill. In the 1860s, there was a general store, blacksmith shop, and meat market on Lyndale. Post World War II photos show a chow mein restaurant, an auto body shop and the Boulevard Twins, a movie theater and bowling alley. It later became the Red Owl supermarket, and is now Kowalski's. (View images in online photo gallery at www.swconnector.com)

The original stone arch bridge spanning Minnehaha Creek on Lyndale was torn down in 2010 and rebuilt, making space for a trail underneath so people don't have to cross the busy street.

In 1886, this area was part of Richfield township, pointed out Balcom. It was annexed by the city and privately platted in 1887, in part, due to milling executive and Soo Line Railroad founder William D. Washburn. He was among the wealthiest men in Minnesota in the 1880s. He founded the Pillsbury-Washburn Milling Company, which later became the Pillsbury Company, and was eventually absorbed by his brother Cadwallader Washburn's firm, General Mills.

The well-known landscape architect, Horace Cleveland, designed the original plat of the 110-acre parcel, with winding streets that followed the natural depressions of the land. A real estate brochure by H.E. Ladd & Co. praised Washburn Park as a place "where the men of business can get away from the noise of the city and the inconvenience of small lots and crowded neighborhoods." Washburn Park was deemed a "retreat" along Minnehaha Creek. It included the land between the creek and 48th St., from Lyndale to Third Ave. The price of the one-quarter to three-quarter-sized lots ranged from \$900 to \$5,000.

Harry Wild Jones built the first house

WALKING TOURS

Preserve Minneapolis offers a variety of summer walking tours in the city. Buy \$15 tickets at www.preserveminneapolis.org.

UPCOMING:

- A Wander Through the Wonders of the Middle Wedge on Saturday, Aug. 13, 10-11:30 a.m. with Anders Christensen and Kathy Kullberg
- Lakewood Cemetery: Creating a Landscape of Memory Walking Tour on Thursday, Aug. 18, 6-7:30 p.m. with Peter Sussman
- Victory Memorial Parkway Walking Tour on Saturday, Sept. 10, 10-11:30 a.m. with Bob Roscoe
- Lowry Hill Walking Tour on Sunday, Sept. 11, 9-10:30 a.m. with Anders Christensen and Richard Kronick.

Contact tour coordinator Carson Backhus at tours@preserveminneapolis.org for more information.

in the neighborhood at 5101 Nicollet Avenue South, a shingle-styled Norman chateau that he called "Elmwood." The architect came to Minneapolis from Boston, and left his mark on the city. Among the other buildings he designed were Butler Square and the Lakewood Cemetery chapel. His Rustic Lodge was never built.

Another notable residence, 408 W. Minnehaha Parkway, was owned by the Thayer family. Frank Lloyd Wright was a friend of the Thayers, and designed a bay window on each side that was added during a home expansion. "Frank said he enjoyed visiting here," observed Balcom.

Charlie Brown cartoonist Charles Monroe Schulz was born at home at 919 Chicago Avenue South #2, and grew up in St. Paul's Highland Park. He owned a home in Tangletown at 112 W. Minnehaha Parkway from 1955-58 prior to moving to California. Balcom remembers a time when Schulz attended a school event where he drew sketches of his Peanuts cartoon characters. "It was nice to have him in the neighborhood," he said.

A drawing he drew on an interior house wall after the birth of a daughter that had been wallpapered over was carefully removed by the Schultz Museum a few years ago, pointed out Wade Johnson, who attended the walking tour with neighbor Mark Karraker.

"We're both big history buffs," said Johnson. In researching their houses, they've learned that around 1903, some roads were added in the neighborhood and others removed.

There are three public triangles in the neighborhood. About a hundred neighborhood houses were removed when Interstate 35W was put in, and the majority were torn down. The freeway is now the eastern border of Tangletown.

The stories about plane crashes in the neighborhood at the tower are not true, observed Balcom. A plane did crash at Dupont and Emerson in 1950, however. In trying to land in a blizzard, it clipped a flag pole at Fort Snelling and came down four blocks away from the Washburn water tower near Minnehaha Creek.

WASHBURN WATER TOWER

William D. Washburn served as the president of the Washburn Memorial Orphanage Board of Trustees. Located where Justice Page Middle School currently sits at Nicollet and West 50th, the orphanage needed water. In 1893, a brick and stone watertower was constructed at on the hill that is now 401 Prospect Ave. Water was pumped from Minnehaha Creek to the tower, and then piped to the orphanage.

By the 1920s, the 120 children at Washburn orphan asylum had dropped to about 10, and the orphanage was closed. The building was razed and a school built.

The city of Minneapolis purchased the water tower in 1916 and connected it to the city's water supply. It was inadequate in the 1920s, and was also razed.

The tower that replaced it in 1932 was designed by Harry Wild Jones, who collaborated with engineer William S. Hewitt and sculptor John K. Daniels, fellow local residents.

It is known for the eight hood-

ed knights stretching up the sides of the tower to eight eagles that stand atop the evenly spaced pilasters. The sculptures cost \$1,800, and the overall cost of the tower was \$85,000. It rises 110 feet. At the base, the walls are 24 inches wide narrowing to 18 inches halfway up.

The new tower held nearly eight times more than the original tower at 1,350,000 gallons. As a new historical plaque at the tower states, "It utilized modern hydro-engineering methods for the waterworks while incorporating reinforced concrete construction and external ornamentation." It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The tower was used until 2005. It is currently empty.

LUSTRON HOMES

The largest concentration of Lustron homes is found in Minneapolis, pointed out Balcom. There were only 6,000 built in the country.

Six Lustron houses are on the 5000 block of Nicollet Avenue, just south of Justice Page school: 5009, 5015, 5021, 5027, 5047, and 5055. Three additional Lustron houses are at 4900 and 4916 Cedar Avenue in South Minneapolis and 2436 Mount View Avenue in Bryn Mawr.

Each of these pre-fab homes was built in just 1.5-2 days following World War II. "This was a big deal for the housing market," said Balcom. However, the trades didn't seem to appreciate the construction method and the style, and the Lustron company was forced into bankruptcy, said Balcom.

"I have a special interest in hearing about this stuff," said Stevens Square resident Angela Anderson, who is a local real estate agent and finds the Lustron homes fascinating. She pointed out that you may pass a place a hundred times, but not notice something until you take a walking tour. "The idea of being a tourist is you can learn things - little things you learn that you'd never know otherwise."

WATER TOWERS IN MINNEAPOLIS

KENWOOD (LOWRY HILLS)

- 1724 Kenwood Parkway
- Built in 1910
- Designed by Frederick William Cappelen, then city of Minneapolis engineer
- 110 feet tall, making it the tallest structure in Kenwood
- Not been used to store water since 1954
- Ornamented with projecting ribs, narrow rectangular windows, and Lombard bands, suggesting a medieval fortress
- A late 1970s adaptive reuse proposal to convert the tower into condominiums was defeated by concerned neighborhood groups

PROSPECT PARK

- 55 Malcolm Avenue S.E.
- Built in 1914
- Engineer: F.W. Cappelen
- 320 ft. tall with a holding a capacity of 150,000 gallons of water
- Obsolete in 1952
- Known as the "Witch's Hat"
- Observation deck is open one day a year, the Friday evening after Memorial Day Weekend
- Also built to be a bandstand, but only held one concert because of 117 steps up

WASHBURN PARK (TANGLETOWN)

- 401 Prospect Avenue
- Built 1931-1932, \$85,000
- Architect: Harry Wild Jones, who also designed the Butler Square Building and the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel
- Engineer: William S. Hewitt, the inventor of the Hewitt System of reinforced concrete construction
- Sculptor: John K. Daniels, who also designed the milling figures on the Washburn Flour Mills Utility Building
- 110-foot structure, 1.35 million gallons of water
- Used until 2005
- Eight hooded knights surround the tower in perpetual vigilance while, overhead, eight eagles stand, as if pausing in flight, atop the evenly spaced pilasters.

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DATE:
Tuesday, August 23, 2022

TIME:
4:30 to 7 p.m., long-term planning presentation at 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION:
Metropolitan Airports Commission
Administrative Offices
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

QUARTERLY TRANSIT SCHEDULE CHANGES COMING

Hi! I'd like to introduce myself to the *Southwest Connector* readers. My name is John Wilson and I have been a transit enthusiast since the 1970s. You may have seen my Metro Transit column in the *Alley* and my In Transit column in *Southside Pride*. Now my transit writing is available to *Southwest Connector* readers, as well. The *Transit Connector* will appear whenever there is transit news in southwestern Minneapolis.



By John Wilson

Once every three months, Metro Transit has something called a "pick." This is when drivers, in order of seniority, get to pick their piece of work for the next three months. It is also when any route and schedule changes are normally made.

Schedules are changing Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022. The following routes in the *Southwest Connector* readership area will be affected:

- Route 2 frequency will be reduced from once every 12 minutes to once every

15 minutes.

- Route 4 is being restructured entirely. Route 4 buses will now go straight down Lyndale instead of serving Bryant Avenue South between 31st and 50th Streets. This is, of course, faster and more efficient for people south of 50th, but it's kind of six of one and half a dozen of the other for people and businesses on both Lyndale and Bryant between 31st and 50th. Historically, the streetcar went down Bryant, and it is likely that is the main reason there are businesses located on that otherwise residential street. I count five restaurants, one bike shop, and one church along that stretch of Bryant. The equivalent stretch of Lyndale contains four restaurants, three churches, two convenience stores, one auto parts store, one dry cleaner, and one coin laundry. It appears the route change does improve business access.

- Route 9 frequency on weekdays during rush hour will be reduced from once every 20 minutes to once every 30 minutes.

- Route 18 frequency will be reduced from once every 12 minutes to once every 15 minutes.

- Route 21 will have minor eastbound schedule adjustments on Saturdays to improve reliability.

- Route 46 will be moved from Bryant Avenue to Lyndale Avenue between 46th and 50th Streets to match the changes to Route 4. The stop for Southwest High School is moving from 47th and Chowen to 47th and Abbott. The limited service branch on Nicollet for Washburn High School is being abolished. Schedule adjustments will be made due to the new routing and to better connect with the Orange Line.

- Route 467 to Kenrick Park and Ride in Lakeville is being restored after having been suspended for the pandemic. Six trips will run in each direction on weekdays.

- Route 612 frequency is being reduced from once every 20 minutes to once every half hour during rush hours. Times are being adjusted for better connections with Route 6.

Though most of this news is disappointing to say the least, I hope *Southwest Connector* readers get involved in trying to get Metro Transit on the right track.

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

WALK & TALK IN LORING PARK

Walk & Talk with a Naturalist: Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon at Loring Park during a guided stroll. The leisurely pace includes stops to observe and discuss different nature and history topics each week.

UPTOWN ART FAIR AUG. 5-7

The Uptown Art Fair, produced by the Uptown Association, is a juried fine arts festival. This year, it will be held Aug. 5-7, Friday noon-7 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

LINDEN HILLS HONORS BONNIE BOLTON

Bonnie Bolton, a LHiNC board member and very active member of the Linden Hills community, passed away unexpectedly on June 30. At LHiNC's July board meeting, the board and community paid tribute to Bonnie. Zumbro owner Barb Nei, who worked with Bonnie on the LHBA, said, "Bonnie was a delightful force of nature, immensely talented, generous with her time, and a ton of fun. She knew the true meaning of community, and shared it, with grace, hard work, and great humor, with everyone around her. I will miss Bonnie and so will Linden Hills."

44TH AND VINCENT PROJECT ON HOLD

In April, Good Neighbor Homes and Streetfront Development attended LHiNC's Zoning and Housing Committee meeting to share a proposal for a 38-unit apartment building at 44th Street West and Vincent. The project is currently on hold, after a Hennepin County District Court ruling in June suspended the Minneapolis 2040 plan, the city's long-range development plan, following a litigation challenge about its potential environmental impact. The developers had planned to present the project to the city planning commission in July; they now expect that presentation will be pushed back by 30 to 60 days. The developers are committed to presenting to LHiNC's Zoning and Housing Committee, prior to that public hearing, once the date is set.

LINDEN HILLS FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 17

The Linden Hills Festival will be on Saturday, Sept. 17. The festival regularly draws 3000+ people to Linden Hills Park to enjoy food, drink, music and family fun. Businesses can participate in a variety of ways.

FRESH PRODUCE AT MUELLER PARK

Wedge resident and LHENA board member, Daniel Martelly, is collaborating with the Parks department on a community garden pilot program in Mueller Park. These plants are meant to be enjoyed by all residents, so come on over and harvest some fresh produce and herbs to use in your next meal. The tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers are not quite out yet, but there are herbs aplenty.

UPTOWN THEATER REHAB

Rita Goodrich of MacDonald & Mack Architects has submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness application for a rehabilitation project at the Uptown Theatre located at 2900 Hennepin Ave. The Heritage Preservation Commission will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 317, City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., Minneapolis.

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NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT KENNY PARK



A brief ceremony to celebrate Kenny Park's newly renovated playground was held on July 21, 2022. It kicked off the annual Kenny Festival, with Kenny Neighborhood Association Co-Chair Jon Erickson joining MPRB Superintendent Al Bangoura, President Meg Forney and District 6 Commissioner Cathy Abene, plus kids who joined in to cut the ribbon.

The Kenny Parent Foundation helped fund a new climber and play area. The project included additional new equipment, along with new decking, slides and paint for existing play structures. Improvements at Kenny and at dozens of other parks are funded by the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20 for short), which allocates funding using a data-driven, criteria-based system to help address racial and economic equity. www.minneapolisparcs.org/npp20

COMMUNITY SAFETY

the New York State Division of Criminal Justice, and as an assistant professor and former practicing psychologist at the University of Rochester.

He is a former president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and was a member of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

He has also appeared on national media networks, including CNN, and has written numerous editorials including "How to Build a Sensitive Cop," "Police and Communities of Color Need to Build Trust," and "Attacks on Police are an Attack on Community." He is the author of "The New Guardians: Policing in America's Communities for the 21st Century," published in 2016, and "In Defense of Public Service: How 22 Million Government Workers Will Save Our Republic," published in 2020.

In 2020, his firm, CL Alexander Consulting LLC, was hired by the University of Minnesota to review their police department's (UMPD) practices and to improve student-police relations and communication. That report called for significant changes including demilitarizing the UMPD and taking "a holistic systems approach to defining the roles for UMPD

and ways to better link with and integrate more appropriate responses to social issues such as mental health, welfare checks, domestic violence, sexual assaults, disabilities and homeless situations through an integrated Community Safety or Community Response Team."

"When we talk about public safety from this moment going forward, it is going to be from a holistic approach," Alexander said.

He has faced criticism in the past, particularly when he was working in Rochester, N.Y. There, a group called "Rochester for All," expressed serious concerns about his frequent absences, use of city staff time and outside business interests. They reviewed emails and other records, and concluded that Alexander "was paid to speak at a Florida conference, but put down time as regular work hours," had an executive assistant who "has been booking his personal travel as part of her regular job duties," and "did work for a government contractor [in Africa] that previously engaged in torture."

The Rochester watchdog group reported (<http://www.rochesterforall.com>) that Alexander was absent from City Hall for 28 days in his first 25 weeks on the job as deputy mayor, and that travel records raised potential ethical issues regarding his outside business activities. According to the group, the mayor, city council, the

city's office of public integrity and board of ethics did not act on the information and ethical concerns they raised.

Additionally, there was a formal complaint filed by a subordinate accusing him of sexual harassment and making repeated "unwelcome advances" when he worked as director of public safety in Georgia. It resulted an investigation and a 166-page report, where Alexander denied all the allegations. The report concluded in February 2016: "In the absence of reasonable proof, the allegation cannot be substantiated and is reduced to 'she said, he said' and were not provable." Intimidation and retaliation allegations were "also determined to be without merit," according to the report.

Still, he clearly has the support of Mayor Frey who has called him "one of the best leaders that we could find in the entire country."

With a vote likely to occur on Aug. 4, Alexander and the mayor appear to be confident that he will be confirmed. "There is no one savior here. It's not me. It's not the mayor. It is all of us collectively," Alexander said. "Minneapolis has the opportunity to be the new brand of what policing looks like in America. We are going to make this the greatest city in America."

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The ArtCar parade gets ready to roll around Lake Harriet. The cars are interesting and the people that drive them are just as interesting. Gotta love city living...this isn't something you're gonna see in Woodbury. (Illustration by WACSO)



BRIEFS

STREET WORK ON NICOLLET AVE AND 31ST ST.

As part of the city's Vision Zero Plan to reduce traffic-related injuries and deaths, crews will be installing several cost-effective safety improvements on high injury streets and more than 160 intersections this year, including on Nicollet Ave. starting in the coming weeks. On Nicollet, from Lake St. to 46th St., they will install 18 reflective backplates on signs, 15 improved intersections, 20 delineator bump-outs, 6 delineated medians, 10 hardened centerlines and 2 hi-visibility crosswalks. On 31st St. to Cedar, they will install non-permanent safety treatments primarily using paint and bollards.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING

Adults may sign up by Aug. 19 for a no cost training by The Minneapolis Violence Prevention Community Champion Institute to learn about de-escalation, conflict resolution, and the public health approach to violence prevention. Those who complete the training can expect to receive a certificate, have access to violence prevention resources, be invited to monthly spotlight trainings to continue building your skills, and have continued support and networking opportunities in the future. The next training will take place from

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center, 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Room 105. Find more details and watch for future violence prevention training sessions to be posted on the city website.

CITY GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Mayor Frey has called for passing government restructuring amendments by the end of August. Council Member Linea Palmisano (Ward 13) has introduced the restructuring amendments that will be drafted in the weeks ahead. These will make changes to the ordinances governing the city attorney, internal auditor, city coordinator and create the new office of Public Service and Community Safety. A new chief operations officer could oversee the proposed new Office of Public Service which would include the 311/Service Center, city assessor, civil rights department, communications, community planning & economic development, finance & property services, the health department, human resources, information technology, intergovernmental relations, Minneapolis Convention Center, neighborhood & community relations, public works and regulatory services. As proposed, the community safety commissioner would oversee the new Office of Community Safety, which would include the fire and police departments, 911, the office of emergency management, and a

new office of neighborhood safety that will replace, or possibly include, the office of violence prevention now housed in the health department. The council also approved adding a city auditor position to the audit department. The auditor and the city clerk would report to the council.

SOUTHWEST CONSENT DECREE LISTENING SESSION

On July 21, at the Bryant Square Recreation Center, 3101 Bryant Ave S. roughly 60 people attended the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) community meeting to learn more about the consent decree and share ideas about what should be included in a consent decree to addressing race-based policing in Minneapolis. The research center has been hired by Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) to gather community input to help inform the decree. The center intends to include the ideas from the community in a report to MDHR that will inform any agreement made between MDHR and the city of Minneapolis. More details can be found at the MN Justice Research Center's website at <https://www.mnjrc.org/events>.

CLIMATE ACTION AND EQUITY PLAN SURVEY

The city of Minneapolis is updating its Climate Action Plan that was approved in 2013. They started a formal community engagement phase in July around how

to meet its goals of "eliminating carbon emissions and improving the daily lives of residents, particularly those most impacted by changes in our climate." People can fill out our survey and learn more at <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/climate-equity/community-engagement/>, and by emailing sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. City staff will also be tabling at upcoming this summer and fall, including at Urban League Family Day Aug. 27; and Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) Oct. 29.

SUMMER MEALS AND SNACKS FOR YOUTH

People 18 years old and under can find free nutritious meals and snacks from Minneapolis Public Schools this summer. Young people do not need to attend Minneapolis Public Schools to participate and can pick up food at parks, libraries, other community spaces, as well as at the Minneapolis Public Schools food truck and food bus. For locations and more information, use the Free Meals for Kids mobile app at <https://hungerimpactpartners.org/meals-for-kids/mobile-app/> or visit <https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/sfsp>.

Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.



*Old homes! old hearts! Upon my soul forever
Their peace and gladness lie like tears and laughter;
Like love they touch me, through the years that sever,
With simple faith; like friendship, draw me after
The dreamy patience that is theirs forever.*

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