

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • DECEMBER 1, 2022 • VOL. 1 • NO. 22



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ERASING RACIAL COVENANTS, WRITING NEW FUTURE

Local artists raise awareness through Free the Deeds, encourage community conversations about redlining

By **Chloe Peter**

In the wake of George Floyd's murder and the Uprising, artists Diver Van Avery, Lacey Prpic Hedtke and Miré Regulus created an art project called Free the Deeds. It invites the Minneapolis community to learn about and act on the way racial covenants have shaped access to housing, the racial makeup of Minneapolis neighborhoods, and the largest homeownership gap in the United States. Free the Deeds uses the Mapping Prejudice (MP) map to help owners identify which homes have racial covenants that need to be removed.

Longfellow Community Council has taken over running the Free the Deeds project as of September 2022, and Diver Van Avery is stepping down from her former position. Because there are so many covenants across the city, they envision the project being in relationship with different neighborhood organizations in the next few years. Lacey Prpic Hedtke and Miré Regulus collaborated on the answers to the questions below.



Artists (left to right) Diver Van Avery, Miré Regulus, and Lacey Prpic Hedtke have created a system where money raised from the sale of lawn signs goes towards the African American Community Land Trust, putting money into the hands of those who were hurt by racial covenants. (Photo submitted)

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CITY'S PLAN TO BUY PEOPLES' WAY MET WITH APPREHENSION

By **Jill Boogren**

At a neighborhood meeting at Sabathani Community Center on October 24, Minneapolis' Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) agency announced plans to purchase the former Speedway gas station, now known as the Peoples' Way, at 38th and Chicago. The city wants to secure the site – and assume liability – for a future use determined by the community.

"We do not have any intention of being the long-term owner here, unless it is determined that it makes the most sense for community-informed use," said CPED director Andrea Brennan.

Director of Economic Development Erik Hansen said negotiations began in September and the property owner, California-based Realty Income, is interested in selling. A purchase could take place as soon as December.

Many residents were skeptical. Jeanelle Austin, resident and executive director of the George Floyd Global Memorial, pointed out that what was first presented

A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IN EVERY COMMUNITY

Fulton resident believes all people are empowered when they discover a personally-relevant book

By **Chloe Peter**

Little Free Library (LFL) is working on programs to address access to books. This includes the Read in Color Initiative, partnering with Banned Books Week Coalition, and the Indigenous Library Program in order to protect the right to read.

"Our vision is a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader," said LFL Director of Communications Margret Aldrich, who is a Fulton resident. "We believe all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege."



Director of Communications at Little Free Library Margret Aldrich, who lives in Fulton, believes people are empowered by books and that everyone deserves access to books. (Photo submitted)

The St. Paul-based non-profit has been awarded the World Literacy Award and Candid's respected Platinum Seal of Transparency, as well as recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation, the Women's National Book Association, and more. There are more than 150,000 libraries worldwide and more than 150 of those are in Minneapolis.

CITIZENS ASK CITY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY NEEDS

Only two of 100 comments ask that spending be lowered, while rest ask for focus on racial and transgender equity, sustainability, and more

By **Cam Gordon**

Despite an increase in the budget proposed by the mayor and with property taxes likely to increase for many property owners, only two of the nearly 100 comments received by the city so far have called for lowering spending.

Mayor Jacob Frey has proposed increasing the city budget to \$1.66 billion in 2023.

In November, the city council held two public hearings on the 2023 proposed city budget. It is preparing to consider amendments in the first week of December with budget approval set for Dec. 6.

The mayor has recommended a 6.5 percent increase in the property tax levy, which will rise to \$27 million in 2023. Because residential markets grew quickly into 2022, while

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1 CITIZENS ASK

commercial values did not, city staff project that the proposed increase will result in an average home property tax increase of \$167 a year. The actual amount will vary greatly depending on a specific property's value, but the larger increases are projected to be in Wards 1, 4, 5, 8, and 11, with slightly lower increases in 9 and 12.

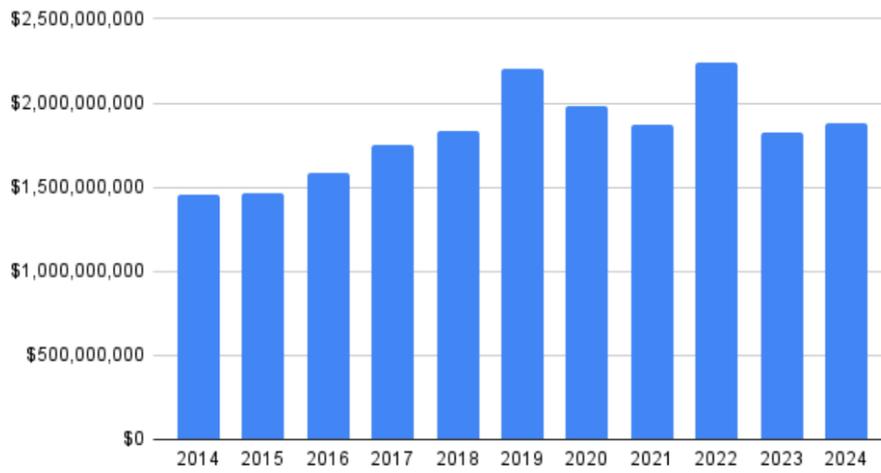
MIRAC, CTUL CONCERNS

During the public hearings, the comments, and apparent organizing, focused primarily on increasing funding in a variety of areas. Most speakers called for more support for community needs. These included: immigrant support, affordable housing, street lighting improvements, neighborhood association funding, public safety alternatives to police, opioid epidemic response, and addressing climate change. Several speakers asked for funding for additional staff to support racial and transgender equity, sustainability, 911, the legislative work of the council, the Office of Performance and Innovation, and the behavioral crisis response teams.

The budget hearings kicked off on Nov. 10 with a song. Howard Dotson, from Twin Cities Crisis Response Team ended his brief testimony singing "All of us are immigrants, every daughter, every son, everyone is everyone, all of us are immigrants."

Over the two hearings, seven people identified as being part of the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC) and Centro De Trabajadores Unidos En La Lucha (CTUL) and asked for funding to cover the costs of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) application fees for residents who need it, and to implement the municipal identification program that was approved in 2018. The DACA application fee of \$495 is required every two years for some residents to legally remain in the United States. "The least that we can do to show our support in our

Minneapolis Budgets



city and our community is provide them with financial relief," said Julia Pearlstein from Powderhorn.

Silvia Martinez, with CTUL, urged the council members to "fund the Minneapolis Municipal ID program passed in 2018 to make IDs available to all city residents regardless of immigration status this year."

In November of 2018, Frey recommended spending \$200,000. At the time many hoped that the cards would improve the community's relations with law enforcement, and also be used as a transit pass, library card and official ID to open a bank account. At least three banks had already agreed to accept it as valid ID. According to the ordinance, they would be available to any resident who is at least 13 years old with proof of residency and two identification documents.

INPUT FROM BLACK VISIONS

At the hearings this year, the council also heard from 13 people who indicated that they were part of Black Visions. This was the largest number of people coming from any identified group. Julia Johnson called on the council to help "safely house every one of our unhoused. Fully

fund the Office of Violence Prevention and the behavior response teams." She, and many others, called for funding for youth and gun control and counseling, as well as support for community-led alternatives to policing and comprehensive plans to address the climate crisis. She also urged the council to use a more inclusive "participatory budgeting" process in the future where people could be involved up-front in the development of the budget and not just reacting to it in the last weeks. "Fund our communities," said Johnson. "Frey's budget gives pennies to address the crises we face."

LAKE STREET AND OTHER PRIORITIES

On the 15th at least four student representatives came from the University to support pedestrian lighting near campus, and especially in Dinkytown. Another a handful of residents from Cedar Riverside and one from Nokomis spoke up for more youth programs and for what Farhia Budul from Ward 6 called "culturally responsive addiction recovery support." Several talked about friends and family they lost due to drug use.

At both meetings someone from the Lake Street Council came to present spe-

cific recommendations about how the city budget could better support the recovery and revitalization of Lake Street. Allison Sharkey spoke on the 10th and Russ Adams on the 15th. "Our neighborhood commercial and retail corridors have not fully recovered from the multiple impacts of a two-year pandemic, a sudden recession, a tragic racial reckoning that reverberated across the globe, extensive property destruction due to the Civil Unrest of 2020, a diminished customer base, and ongoing negative public perceptions about public safety," they wrote in a letter they submitted along with their testimony. They asked for over \$20 million to support the corridor with marketing, public realm maintenance, municipal sidewalk snow clearance on pedestrian priority network corridors, increased training and technical assistance for small business owners, façade improvements, income replacement grants to BIPOC-owned restaurants that were shut out of the federal program, a new safety center, and, pilot ambassador program along the Lake Street corridor similar to the downtown ambassador program.

Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley is one of the few council members who has shared her thoughts on the budget since the hearings. "The clearest themes I heard in testimony were demands for increased funding and action around basic needs like housing, substance recovery, transit, education, and mental healthcare" wrote Wonsley in an email update after the hearings. "I heard frustration for our city's continued unconditional investment in MPD and a demand to expand comprehensive services and programs to prevent crime, de-escalate, and heal the community. I take the testimony I heard very seriously and will use it to shape my proposed amendments to the budget."

The council's budget amendment meetings will be held on the mornings of Dec. 1 and 2, followed by a final public hearing starting at 6 p.m. on Dec. 6.

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▶ 3 PEOPLES' WAY

38TH AND CHICAGO PROJECT UPDATE

A third monthly Learning Table, which took place on Oct. 24, was focused on the city's plans to purchase the former Speedway property. The 38th and Chicago project managers, though, have been clear that anything related to an adjacent property or a memorial does not fall within the purview of the road reconstruction project. What is not clear is how the city intends to separate the two. The largest memorial, to George Floyd, spills onto the street in front of CUP Foods, where he was killed. But the site holds other memorials as well, including to Daunte Wright, Imez Wright, Murphy Ranks and the 165+ lives lost at the hands of police whose names were painted on the surface of Chicago Ave. as part of the Mourning Passage that extends nearly the full block from 38th to 37th street.

The Community Co-creation Team, who is tasked with making recommendations to the project team including ultimately a final design concept for the 38th and Chicago project area, has been formed and has begun meeting monthly, first on Oct. 20 and again on Nov. 19. Listed among "key opportunities and influences" for the team to consider is "accommodation of multiple modes and functions – walking and rolling, biking, taking transit, operating vehicles including freight, commerce, gathering and community space, and green stormwater infrastructure."

It is yet to be determined how the project team will accommodate all of the above modes of transportation or which they will prioritize over others. The intersection continues to draw people from across the country and around the globe who visit the site to see the memorials, leave their own offerings, pay their respects and support the movement for justice. Visitors often walk on the streets, as well as on sidewalks and through the Peoples' Way. The City's Complete Streets policy places an emphasis on pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, then vehicles – in that order.



Brass Solidarity leads friends, family and community members in music and song at the Peoples' Way, George Floyd Square, to celebrate Tekle Sundberg on what would have been his 21st birthday Nov. 16, 2022. Sundberg was killed by Minneapolis police on July 14, 2022. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

in the meeting as a "possible" acquisition sounded more like an intended one, and she questioned the swift timeline.

"Just to have one community feedback meeting feels like it's being done to us as opposed to including us," she said.

Bobby Hull asked, "Why should we trust Minneapolis?" He reminded city officials that the people took over the space after George Floyd was murdered. The property is across the street from where he was killed and has been the site of countless gatherings, including twice daily community meetings, for more than 900 days.

Other attendees echoed similar sentiments throughout the course of the evening, during which they broke into small workgroups by table and discussed prepared questions. Following the format of other monthly Learning Tables focused on road reconstruction at 38th and Chicago, a spokesperson shared thoughts and ideas from each group.

"I do agree that right now people should be apprehensive about the city owning the property without firm understanding of who the beneficiaries will be moving forward," said Alexander Bourne. He suggested building up from the gas station instead, commenting that gas stations provide great entry level jobs. He felt that building up would still allow inclusion of the types of neighborhood services people were talking about; culturally relevant trauma resources, workforce development, a museum could all be added as additional stories above the station.

"It's very expensive to knock down a gas station, dig it up and rebuild," he said. "If the city has the money to do that, and they're willing to allocate that money to that particular site, then they can repurpose those dollars and essentially build up."

racially and resource-wise, how they might have access in ways they hadn't considered before, and striking it from the record is a symbol of denouncing the covenant system and all it stands for. To take it from symbolic to impactful, the reparations piece of this project is just as – if not even more so – important than removing the covenants. The reparations Free the Deeds is raising from the sale of lawn signs, posters, and through donations, goes towards the African American Community Land Trust, putting money into the hands of those who were hurt by these covenants.

WHAT DOES THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

Go to freethedeeds.org/participate and work through the process:

1. Look up your property to see if a covenant was found on your deed.
2. Fill out a form to receive free support to have your covenant discharged from your deed.
3. Purchase a lawn sign.
4. Display your lawn sign to offer people the chance to see and feel the history of this discriminatory lending practice

Dave Bicking reiterated that many do not trust the city to control this spot.

"You never asked us whether the city should buy it. That wasn't one of the three questions. Obviously, that's been decided," he said.

The three questions small groups were asked to address were whether this was the right track, how community is defined, and what the city needs to know about the current site.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

A number of attendees mentioned the fact that the site has become a mutual aid hub for neighbors and visitors.

"People come here for food, they come here for clothes and warmth, hydration in the summer... for books and vegetables," said one speaker. "This is really important, and we'd like to see that preserved."

Other speakers added that the memorial isn't just for George Floyd, it's for all stolen lives. In addition to Floyd, the Peoples' Way alone holds memorials for Harde! Sherrell, Paul Castaway, Fong Lee, Winston Smith and Amir Locke.

Agreeing with the location as memorial, another speaker wanted it to remain a place of racial healing where people could have a sense of community while honoring the ongoing movement. He suggested modeling the space after the Lorraine Motel in Tennessee, where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968 and which is now a National Civil Rights Museum.

Referring to both the process and purchase, Tim Lunning said simply, "I do not consent."

"When you start from a position of 'You can't please everyone' [paraphrased from a sentiment expressed by the meet-

BUS ROUTES

At least one of those modes remains on hold at the intersection: public transit. With the Metro D Line rapid bus transit to begin service along Chicago Ave. on Dec. 3, buses will continue to be re-routed around 38th and Chicago. According to Metro Transit spokesperson Laura Baenen, future transit operations at 38th & Chicago are being discussed as part of the ongoing re-envisioning process for the intersection. "The timeline for that process is not being set by Metro Transit. We can say, however, that buses will not move through this intersection as the re-envisioning process continues," said Baenen by email.

There are currently two bus detours, on Routes 5 and 23. Route 23 detours off 38th Street to 42nd Street between Bloomington Ave. and Park/Portland avenues. Route 5 currently detours off Chicago Ave. to Park/Portland avenues between 35th/36th streets and 42nd St. One Oct. 24 Learning Table participant said the re-routing of public transportation has added 10 minutes to his walk time.

Starting when it opens on Dec. 3, the D Line will also detour to Park/Portland, with a modified routing. Southbound, the D Line and Route 5 will detour off Chicago Ave. via 35th St., Portland Ave., and 42nd Street, as the Route 5 does today. Northbound, the D Line and Route 5 will detour via 39th St., Park Ave., and 36th St. Temporary stations will be located at Park/Portland avenues and 38th St.

A fourth Learning Table focused on public transit was held Nov. 28. Learning Tables are held for neighbors to discuss the 38th and Chicago reconstruction project, with different topics addressed monthly. They take place every fourth Monday of each month at Sabathani Community Center, from 6-8 p.m., with dinner provided. An open house was also held on Oct. 22. Using paper illustrations, attendees designed the intersection the way they'd like to see it. According to project manager Alexander Kado, these and other materials will be posted on the project web page. For information, including public input, from all public meetings and open houses visit www.minneapolismn.gov/government/

ing facilitator], it means someone is going to be excluded," he said. "I'm worried about who is displaced from this process."

CPED's request to authorize purchase of the property was on the agenda of the City Council's Nov. 29 Business, Inspections, Housing & Zoning Committee. The cost to the city would be \$200,000, with the seller donating \$420,000, the difference between the purchase price and fair market value. If approved, the full City Council will review it on Dec. 8.

▶ 1 FREE THE DEEDS

WHAT DOES FREE THE DEEDS DO?

Free the Deeds is a community/public art project that aims to elevate people's awareness about racial covenants and their impact on the racial housing gap and the racial makeup of our neighborhoods. Through several methods: a website with stories, invitations to learn about racial covenants and guidance on how to understand if you have a racial covenant and how to remove it; artistic engagement through paintings, drawings, lawn signs and poetry into the value of housing; and through public conversations at farmers' markets, Open Streets events, door knocking and between neighbors.

WHY IS THIS SYMBOLISM SO IMPORTANT?

While removing a racial covenant from a deed is mainly symbolic, we're hoping to start a conversation and bring more awareness to homeowners as to why their neighborhood looks the way it does,

If you discover that your home did not have a racial covenant, we still encourage you to donate and receive an artist print and interact with this project's resources with your family and community. Whether your home had a covenant or not, you can still become a supporter of the African American Community Land Trust and practice reparations through financially contributing the AACLT down payment assistance fund.

HOW DO LAND TRUSTS HELP?

A community land trust (CLT) is a nonprofit, community-based organization that works to provide perpetually affordable homeownership opportunities. In the truest sense, a CLT acquires land and removes it from the speculative, for-profit, real estate market. CLTs hold the land they own "in trust" forever for the benefit of the community by ensuring that it will always remain affordable for homebuyers.

Owning a land trust house is a way to ensure that housing remains affordable for the next person, and is in investment on both the land trust and homeowners'

part. While the homeowner doesn't build equity like in traditional home ownership, they are able to afford and buy a house they might not have access to otherwise.

HOW CAN PEOPLE HELP?

More than 10 percent of the racial covenants in Minneapolis are in southwest Minneapolis. People can go to the website and determine whether they have a racial covenant. They can apply to have the covenant removed, donate, and get and place a lawn sign in their front yard. They can talk with their children, neighbors, family, and friends both in the Twin Cities (and across the nation) about the existence of racial covenants and how they have profoundly shaped the racial housing landscape and the largest home ownership inequality gap in the nation. They can decide to work, either by themselves or with others to understand and work through their discomfort with the ways they feel implicated in this history. They can reach out to Longfellow Community Council, and offer to volunteer with them to talk with people in community about racial covenants.

A MORE SUSTAINABLE SEASON

How I have been making changes for eco-friendly holidays in 2022

Extra waste from the holiday season is a big problem in America. The average American throws away 25 percent more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday season, according to Stanford University. I know I'm part of the problem. This amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about 1 million extra tons per week. I love to set up decorations and find the perfect gifts for each of my loved ones. But enjoying the holiday season does not have to come with so much holiday waste. Here are some tips to make small, or big, changes to create a more sustainable holiday season.



By **Chloe Peter**

paper is also not recyclable. Now, I look for wrapping paper that is 100 percent recyclable, and try and reuse gift bags and tissue paper that I was given previously. To avoid wrapping paper altogether, consider wrapping the gift in a scarf, hand towel, throw blanket, or even a table runner to give to the giftee. Use paper bags from shopping trips and draw on the outside with colors or fun designs. Instead of gift bags, try looking for reusable decorative tins or baskets. Cloth ribbons can also be used instead of plastic bows.

DECORATIONS

I love putting up all kinds of decorations for the holidays. I put up lights, garlands, ornaments, stockings. My husband and I will be getting our first tree this year. I reuse my decorations year after year, but might change the layout for a fresh perspective. For garlands, I used craft materials that I already had at home. Twine and dried slices of oranges can make a classic looking garland that I pair with natural greenery. I have used the dried oranges for many years now, but they can be composted. Pinecones and pine tree scraps can also add to the festive look of a space. Potted plants such as poinsettias and Christmas cacti can be kept all year long and be brought into a main room for the holidays.

Upcycled jars from marinara, pickles, old canning jars, and etc. can be used to create a winter scene. Pour in salt or sugar for snow, and add pinecones or cuts of branches to look like trees. They can also be painted or have a tealight inside to make a candle holder. Try making salt dough decorations or ornaments with friends and family. Consider adding cinnamon to make them smell good and using cookie cutters to create fun shapes.

Shopping small and buying local can be a great way to find sustainable holiday decorations, as well. Thrift shops also often have holiday decorations out right before or after the holiday season. Whether it's an ugly sweater for a contest at work, a wonderful Menorah, or a beautiful Nativity scene, these can all be found second hand.

GIFTING

While finding great gifts that makes a family member or loved one happy is exciting, finding more sustainable options for gifts can be difficult at times. Consider buying something that they can reuse or making a tasty treat. Many local businesses have a much smaller carbon footprint than big box stores and online retailers. If getting out to shop isn't for you, Etsy.com is full of small businesses, and they purchased carbon offsets for all the emissions caused by shipping.

Sustainable gifting does not have to break the bank. Last year, my husband and I decided that our holiday gifts for

one another would be shop small/buy local or second hand. I found him two cookbooks from the local thrift store for a few dollars each. I paired the books with candied pecans from a small business as they are one of his favorites. He loves cooking and has gotten to try a couple of great recipes from the books so far. Meaningful gift giving can come from all budgets and all different places. Gently used books, homewares, pots for plants, toys, vintage accessories, and more can also often be found at thrift stores. As long as you make sure that the items are cleaned thoroughly, and it is something the giftee is OK with, then these can make great gifts.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for me to let go of climate "doom and gloom," even during the holidays. I ask myself, how could the small changes I make amount to anything? And yet, the holidays are a time to come together, a time to take care of one another. I think this includes taking care of our planet and making sure future generations get to celebrate holiday traditions new and old well into the future. A community banding together to make small changes can make a big difference in the end.



Chloe Peter is a writer, editor, and local news enthusiast. She is an advocate for creativity and learning with a sense of wonder. Contact her at new@swconnector.com

WRAPPING PAPER

Wrapping paper is often used once and thrown away. I was shocked a few years ago to learn that most wrapping

LOOK CLOSER AT CREDIT CARD COMPETITION ACT OF 2022

Act is a victory for big business at the expense of communities of color

The Black community has struggled to keep up financially with White peers. Much of this can be attributed to a lack of access to financial services offered to the community. Nontraditional services like payday loans are far more prominent in Black neighborhoods, while they see limited access to traditional banks, credit unions, and services as financial literacy continues to lag White peers. According to data in 2020 and 2021, 40% of the Black community remains unbanked or underbanked, compared to 12% among White peers.



By **Brett Buckner**

Community banks and credit unions, many Black-owned or serving in communities of color, have been able to create partnerships in these communities to advance their access to banking services. According to an Urban Institute report, Black-owned banks and credit unions focus on lending to small businesses, nonprofits, and African-American homebuyers.

In 2012, Senator Dick Durbin passed legislation known as the Durbin Amendment, a model for today's legislation known as the Credit Card Competition Act

of 2022. As the Durbin Amendment was an expansion of Dodd-Frank, it took aim at banks as the government continued its attempt at reforming financial institutions. Prior to the amendment, debit card transactions were not mandated to offer multiple networks for transactions. Banks could build relationships with their preferred networks and charge transaction fees at their discretion. However, the Durbin Amendment mandated that banks offer multiple networks for their transaction fees, while regulating the fee to a flat rate instead of a percentage of the transaction total. In theory, the competition would drive those transaction fees down and retailers would pass along those savings into the cost of goods sold.

However, after a decade of data, the results show that major retailers won that deal, and the Black community paid the price. While the Durbin Amendment was supposed to save retailers money that they would pass down to customers through lowering prices, a Richmond Federal Reserve study showed retailer's prices either stayed the same or increased. As big-box retailers saw soaring profits, small and community banks that typically serve in communities of color struggled to catch their stride as their revenue plummeted. To compensate for their financial struggles, these banks had to cut services like free checking and zero bank fees, or reduce locations. Unfortunately, this deal did not provide the footing for banks to continue to venture into communities of color. According to data, the number of banks within majority-Black neighborhoods has

decreased by 14.6% since 2010, while the number of total Black-owned banks has also plummeted. This is compared to a decline of just .2% in the rest of the U.S. during the same period.

Many programs and organizations have stepped up to facilitate the location of Black-owned banks or credit unions into Black neighborhoods, however, their efforts might be cut short if the Credit Card Competition Act of 2022 passes. As proposed by none other than Senator Durbin, this legislation will attempt to regulate the credit market the same way the Durbin Amendment regulated the debit market, while disregarding and undermining the needs of the Black community. As a result, we can expect to see the same impact within credit unions and credit access as we saw before with community banks and how that affected communities of color. Since credit unions will be faced with the same struggles as banks the first time around, we can expect to see a further decline in access to credit and banking, especially within the Black community, which already faces a higher rate of credit denial than that of White peer.



Brett Buckner is the managing director at OneMN.org, a research-based, advocacy, and communications project to provide public policy recommendations that support and propel racial, social, and economic equity throughout state, county, local governments, agencies, and corporations.

CENTRISTS RESEARCH AND DON'T BLINDLY CHECK BOXES

I take exception to Mr. LaVercombe's premise that it is the unaffiliated swing voters (his "comfortable" who are tyrants. I think it is the strident malcontents and activists on the left and the "alternative facts" election deniers and

MAGA goons on the right who are trying to impose their views on the pragmatic centrists. The party nominating process on both sides is controlled by activist extremists who often endorse candidates too extreme to appeal to the majority of voters who are not activists. In my opinion, selecting candidates based on their abilities and proven track records, rather than their ideological purity or diversity, is the most responsible way to go. Rather than being "disengaged from politics," centrists often research candidates and issues better than those who blindly check the boxes of those candidates endorsed by their parties. And to me, "comfortable" is not a pejorative. Comfort is preferable to conflict, contentiousness and unrest.

Donald Wolesky
Uptown

We want to hear from you.
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SOUTHWEST Connector

The Southwest Connector is a twice monthly community publication in Southwest Minneapolis, owned and operated by TMC Publications CO. Visit our website for calendar and publication dates.
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Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group
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Delivery: Bjorn Willms, 612-235-7197,
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Mail subscriptions available at \$80/year.
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NOTHING BEATS FORGIVENESS – IN ANY SEASON

Forgiveness is the essence of peacemaking and begins with ourselves

The holidays are here. You know what that means. It's the most wonderful time of year. Or the worst. Depends on how you feel about Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. And what they represent.



By Eric Ortiz

Some people love the holidays. They love getting together with family and friends, cooking and eating, giving thanks, exchanging gifts, offering peace, and spreading good cheer and tidings of comfort and joy. They love being optimistic about the present and hopeful for the future.

Some people are cheerful all the time. They are a walking, talking, living Hallmark card. Every day is Christmas. They go over the river and through the woods to grandma's house year-round. Even when they're down, they're up. The only thing they know (and show) is unconditional love.

Others appreciate the spirit of the holidays. They do their best to live up to it. They send cards to loved ones, decorate the house and tree, wear festive clothes, bake festive food, sing festive music, go to church. But their hearts aren't really in it. They're just going through the holly jolly

motions. They aren't living that life. Deep inside, their souls are hurting.

The holidays aren't great for everyone. For some, they can be a sad, dark and lonely place. Some families can't stand each other. They would rather drink motor oil than raise a glass of eggnog to celebrate anything. Some people have issues with their parents, can't stand their siblings, hate their inlaws and loathe their neighbors. They don't like anyone.

There are Scrooges and Grinches everywhere. Always have been. Whatever holiday traditions people have, one thing remains universal in every family and any culture – drama and conflict. Every family has a level of drama and conflict. From peace on Earth to global thermonuclear war.

Now more than ever, we have drama and conflict. In the world. In our communities. At home. Feuds last longer. There are fewer calls for peace and louder calls for war.

We have forgotten the true meaning of what it means to be human. Humans are a flawed species. We didn't start out as warmongers. We all start off as kids, innocent, seeking love and belonging. We are corrupted, driven to make bad choices. Life messes us up. That doesn't excuse the mistakes. It explains them.

Our human mistakes can be passed down generations, creating a spiral of trauma. The beauty of life is we can learn from our mistakes and break cycles of trauma and pain. It isn't easy, but it is possible. Those lessons are what restore relationships and build bridges to peace. In the

world. In our communities. At home.

As Theresa Magness wrote in "Creating Good in the World:"

"Forgiveness is the essence of peacemaking and begins with ourselves. First, we find the wisdom to be gained from whatever mistakes we have made or failures we have experienced and give thanks for it. Then we forgive ourselves by releasing blame, guilt, and pain. We also need to forgive others who have hurt us. We do not have to condone what they have done, but we do need to release our anger and resentment toward them. ... Since our inner world is reflected in our outer world, peace, joy, and love (the fruits of forgiveness) will flow into the world's environment and help people who are having difficulty forgiving themselves or others."

We need more forgiveness today. People who understand how to forgive should encourage forgiveness in others. We can start in our own families.

Are there any longstanding family feuds in your family? Can you encourage feuding family members to let go of grudges? Let go of bitterness. Let go of resentment and thoughts of revenge. Stop feeling angry or resentful toward someone for an offense, flaw or mistake.

The act of forgiveness allows us to move forward down a path of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Forgiveness doesn't erase memories. It enables healing. Letting go of negative feelings is good for our health and relieves a strain on our souls. After family feuds end, we can focus on ending community feuds, then bigger conflicts.



A nativity scene depicting the birth of Jesus. (Gareth Harper/Unsplash)

Peacemaking begins with forgiveness. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned 27 years for opposing the apartheid system in South Africa. Despite facing harsh conditions meant to break his spirit, he never gave up his efforts to achieve equality for all people. After his release, he helped end apartheid and became the first democratically elected president of South Africa.

Before he left prison, Mandela said, "As I stand before the door to my freedom, I realize that if I do not leave my pain, anger and bitterness behind me, I will still be in prison."

Forgiveness does not make us weak. It sets us free. Give the gift of forgiveness this holiday season. We might rediscover our humanity.

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.

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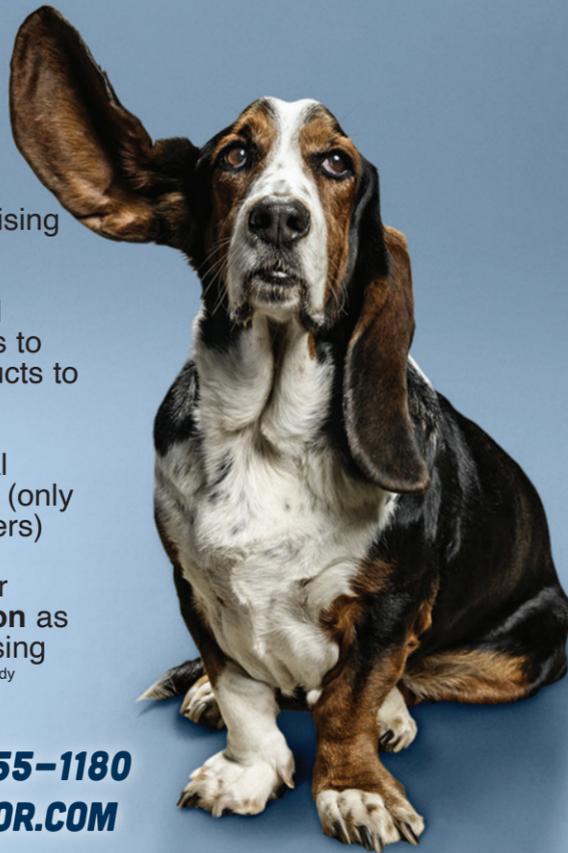


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▶ 1 LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

HOW DO YOU FOSTER NEW LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES?

Aldrich: Little Free Libraries are established by volunteer stewards, either individuals or organizations. We welcome roughly 15,000 Little Free Libraries and stewards to our network every year.

To start a Little Free Library, you can build your own and register it with us or you can purchase a kit or finished library from the LFL organization. (Registered Little Free Libraries have a sign with a unique charter number.) Registration for the library costs \$40 while buying a prebuilt library with registration included starts at \$180.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF GRANTING A LIBRARY?

Aldrich: Those in under-resourced communities can apply to receive a Little Free Library at no cost through our Impact Library Program. Through this program, we grant little libraries full of books at no cost to areas where books are scarce.

We review these applications monthly and award these library grants on a rolling basis. This program is funded by individual and corporate donors. However, in 2021 we were only able to grant libraries to 22 percent of the applications we received. We would love to be able to grant books and Little Free Libraries to every applicant.

HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE THE LIBRARIES INCLUDE DIVERSE BOOKS?

Aldrich: We launched the Read in Color initiative in 2020. Through Read in Color, we bring diverse books to Little Free Library book-sharing boxes across the country. Read in Color distributes books that provide perspectives on racism and social justice; celebrate BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices; and incorporate experiences from all identities for all readers.

When George Floyd was murdered, we worked with our community to develop Read in Color to help create meaningful change. Minneapolis was the first Read in Color city. Since then, Read in Color expanded nationwide to 11 additional cities with more on the way! In total, nearly 200 Little Free Libraries have been established in high-impact areas and 40,000 diverse books have been shared. Our Read in Color recommended reading lists include selections from Asian American, Black, Indigenous, Jewish, Latinx, LGBTQ+, Muslim, and other important communities.

HOW IS LFL ADDRESSING BOOK BANS?

Aldrich: Banning books goes against everything Little Free Library stands for. We are committed to expanding book access, not shrinking it. This year we partnered with the Banned Books Week Coalition, HarperCollins Children's Publishing, Bookshop.org, and the American Library Association to celebrate the right to read and provide resources for those combatting book bans. We were thrilled that Harper Collins generously donated 1,000 banned books to stewards in the Little Free Library network.

WHY DOES IT MATTER THAT THERE IS ACCESS TO BOOKS?

Aldrich: Everyone deserves a book to read. There are more than 150,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes around the world – in all 50 states, 115 countries, and on all seven continents. Through them, more than 250 million books have been shared. By providing greater, more equitable book access in neighborhoods worldwide, we work to strengthen communities and influence literacy outcomes. Books in the hands of children improve literacy rates. The more books in or near the home, the more likely a child will learn and love to read.

7

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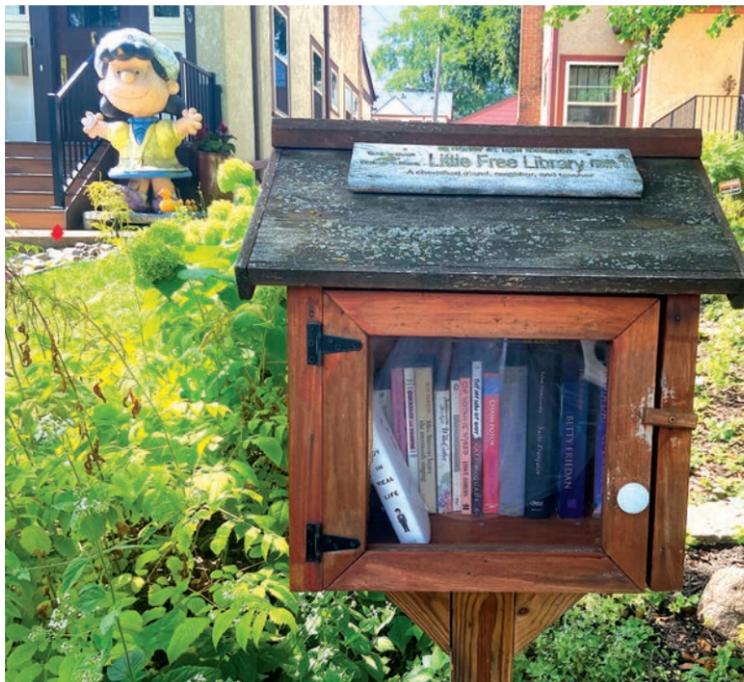
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TALK ABOUT THE INDIGENOUS LIBRARY PROGRAM

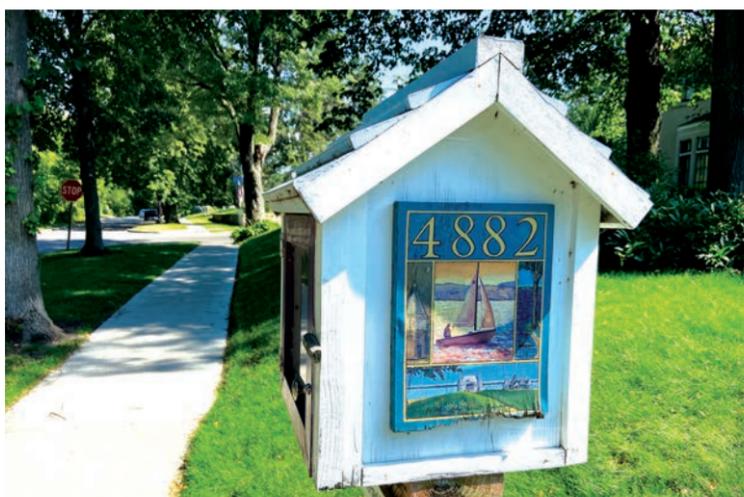
Aldrich: Through this initiative, Little Free Library grants no-cost book-sharing boxes where needed most on tribal lands and in Indigenous communities in the United States and Canada. We work with Indigenous community leaders and members to place book exchanges in locations where book access is important to improving literacy. In tribal communities, book access is a challenge, as most do not have their own public libraries. Often, literacy rates suffer. Little Free Library

There are more than 150 Little Free Libraries and counting in the southwest Minneapolis area. Stewards of the libraries help provide access to books for everyone. The one above is located in Kingfield. (Photo by Chloe Peter)

book exchanges are a great vehicle for easy access to books.

HOW CAN PEOPLE HELP?

Aldrich: Monetary donations to LittleFreeLibrary.org are hugely impactful for getting books and Little Free Libraries to the communities that need them most. You can also help by sharing high-quality books in the Little Free Libraries in your community. Find a Little Free Library near you by downloading our mobile app!



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ALL THAT WAS YUMMY IN 2022

THE ART OF...

Another year is coming to an end, giving birth to a new one. What 2023 has in store is yet to be seen. A mystery like turning a page in a suspense novel yet to be written. This last year has not been without "speed bumps," both locally and globally. Locally we continue see the struggles of Minneapolis, and globally, well... that's another longer chapter. When we talk about local, it seems to me that perhaps it refers to distance. Something that is not far, but close. Within reach. = I like to use the word "Local" with word "Community" =. Local Community has a nice tone to it. It feels good. The energy is good. It is good. The community surrounding my small business, Everett & Charlie, has given me many things to be thankful for this year. As December gently pulls the shades, I'm still soaking up the sunny moments on all that was yummy in 2022. I want to share with you some of the highlights through the eyes of the Everett & Charlie Gallery, and the amazing gifts given and received.



By **Suzie Marty**

of energy with acoustic originals, harmonica solos, violin serenades, gypsy jazz, to folk rock. We often heard comments and compliments about how magical it was to sit outside on a lovely evening or Sunday morning to listen. My favorite would be when children or adults would spontaneous dance or sing along. Music truly is a universal language.

ART ON THE EDGE:

Four years ago, I was asked if I would ever start a Linden Hills Art Fair. My immediate response was a quick and solid no. I'm familiar with the amount of time and energy that goes into the planning and execution of it. Absolutely not. I thought, Everett & Charlie is like an indoor art fair – why do anything more. I like art fairs. Minneapolis has some great ones that have been established for years. I had no desire to do what is already being done. Then I met Kelly Wagner of The Edge Magazine. We had an immediate connection and knew we were drawn together to create something. Within days we knew we wanted to blend the visual arts with the metaphysical world. So, we said yes, and the Art on The Edge Fair was born. With over 50 artists and holistic ven-

dors, as well as the help of some amazing volunteers from the community, we pulled it off and look forward to the 2nd Annual Art on The Edge July 22, 2023!

LINDEN HILLS BUSINESS EVENTS:

Linden Hills businesses support one another and enjoy bringing special events to the community. Woofstock might be for the dogs, but who doesn't enjoy puppies and hearing a local band sing, "Who let the dogs out?" And for the adults, twice a year, "Wine & Stroll" is an excellent time to stroll through the businesses, sip something special and enjoy some fun shopping. December brings us the wonderful winter event, Reindeer Day. Carolers, Santa, and hot chocolate warm us for the holiday season.

I wrap this up by thanking each and every one in the local community and beyond for your continued support for Small Businesses like Everett & Charlie. (And, a reminder that every artist and musician is also a small business).

By the time this issue is out, we will be past the annual "Shop Local and Small Business Saturday." It's a great promotion; however, I believe every day should be "Shop Local Day."

We live in a world of abundance with lots of choices. Make good choices!



Mike Salovich, of St. Paul and Columbia, performs in front of Everett & Charlie. (Photo by Suzie Marty)

ART:

E&C represents only Minnesota Artists. We are blessed with an enormous amount of creativity in Minnesota, and I am honored to share it with the community. There is a quote that says, "When you buy something from an artist you're buying more than an object. You're buying hundreds of hours of errors and experimentation. You're buying years of frustration and moments of pure joy. You're not buying just one thing, you're buying a piece of a heart, a piece of a soul... a small piece of someone else's life."

I consider it a gift to share the talents of every artist and love seeing pieces received into the arms of a new "forever home." When a piece of art speaks to you, listen carefully.

MUSIC:

"Busking" is the activity of playing music in the street or another public place for voluntary donations.

Local musicians generously played for tips and just for the love of playing music. The sidewalk outside of Everett & Charlie and Harriet Brasserie brought a new level

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SHOP LOCAL

1 More of your money will be kept in your local economy – For every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 will stay in the community. What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community.*

2 You embrace what makes your community unique – You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the U.S. So why would you want your community to look that way?

3 You create local jobs – Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.

4 You help the environment – Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

5 You nurture community – Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

6 You conserve your tax dollars – Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify your community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong – in your community!

7 You create more choice – Locally owned businesses pick the items and products they sell based on what they know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products because they buy for their own individual markets.

Everett & Charlie

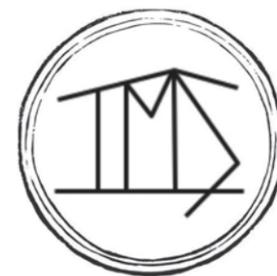
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TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

"We're playing all originals tonight," said band leader Terry Walsh as he ripped into another of his audience' favorites. "I mean, since we're celebrating Dan Israel's, what, eight-thousandth CD, we're gonna play a few new ones of our own."



By **Larry LaVercombe**

It was another night in Music Paradise for the packed house crowd at The Hook and Ladder, there to celebrate the release of "Seriously" – which is actually Israel's 17th CD. And yes, by Music Paradise, I do mean The Twin Cities. For while Jay's Longhorn Bar may be long gone, I'm writing to say that there is a lot of great music for people my age around here, and there are also a lot excellent venues. They're easy to get to, inexpensive to get in to, and full of folks long out of college but not close to the old folks home.

It would take the rest of this column to name, one-by-one, the talented players and writers consistently performing here in Minneapolis, many of whom have been in Twin Cities ever since The Minneapolis Sound and the consequent explosion of punk and new wave bands put Minneapolis on the international music map.

The Hook and Ladder, located in the old firehouse at Lake and Minnehaha (and once home to Patrick's Cabaret), hosts live local and nationally-known musicians on two different stages, three nights a week and more in the summer. This night was, in fact, the second Dan Israel CD release party I've attended there in the last three years. Along with drummer David Russ, bassist Mike Lane, and lead guitarist Steve Brantseg (also of Suburbs and Phones fame), Israel continues



Dan Israel celebrates the release of his 17th album, "Seriously," at a show at the Hook and Ladder. (Photo by Larry LaVercombe)

to put out quality CDs that seem to get better every year.

Meanwhile, just a couple miles away at The Driftwood Char Bar, you can hear live music every night of the week. "Sunday is Fun Day," with Grateful Dead music from 6 to 11 p.m. Mondays are open mic night, with a different host every week. Tuesdays, one of my favorites, are St. Dominick's Trio, playing originals and more covers off the top of their heads than any band you've ever seen. Truly, if they know the song at all, they'll try to play it for you. And you'll never hear Van Morrison or the Rolling Stones covered any better. The rest of the Driftwood week often features local favorites like Lolo's

Ghost and Trailer Trash, and you can usually expect a cover of five dollars or less.

Meanwhile, if you missed the Free Summertime Jams at the Hi Fi Hair Stage, fear not: when summer comes around again, Stylist-to-the-Stars Jon Clifford will be hosting a whole slew of rocking bands on many a Sunny Sunday. Last summer included shows with Robert Wilkinson, The April Fools, Cindy Lawson, and the new star-studded Linda Ronstadt tribute band, The de'Lindas. Hi Fi Shows start as early as late April in 2023.

Last but not least – a quick plug for Beatles fans and one of the coolest shows you will ever see in your whole life. I



don't exaggerate. When I finally got my brother to come see it one year, he turned to me during the second tune and said, "Dude. I am so sorry I didn't believe you. This is unbelievable."

Thursday, Dec. 8 – at First Avenue – Curtis A (with a little help from his friends) will blow your mind at the 43rd Annual John Lennon Tribute Show.

I've seen this show 20 times, at least, and every year is both surprising and predictable. Surprising in that you never know which local stars will deliver a memorable guest vocal; predictable in that we'll hear upwards of four hours of Beatles and Lennon solo classics played with rockstar energy and drive. It's a love fest on the stage, and on the dance floor, too.

So, treat yourself and see this show! And when the aforementioned Steve Brantseg rips into the Harrison solo in "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," try not to kick yourself for missing this event so many years before.

Team up for good by feeling 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.

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LETTING STAFF GO

Lyndale Neighborhood Association Board President Doug Herkenhoff made this announcement in the association's e-newsletter on Nov. 28:

"As the LNA Board of Directors, we have worked to communicate with the community throughout this year about the Lyndale Neighborhood Association's financial and organizational challenges. This is due, in large part, to the recent City divestment in neighborhood groups. To meet these challenges, we have taken steps to ensure that our neighborhood organization will continue serving our community into the future.

"As part of the 2023 budget, the LNA Board has approved a restructuring of the LNA Educational Program. This change aligns the expenses of the program with the income, assuring that LNA can continue serving English learners in our community in the years to come. This correction restructures the program and reduces the number of staff positions. While this change is challenging, it is our fiduciary

LYNDALE

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

responsibility given the fact that we cannot currently afford the relatively large staff that LNA has sustained in recent years.

"And so it is with deep gratitude that we recognize the longtime dedication and service of Nicki Olalde and Erin Cary who have helped to grow the program over the last decade. They will both be leaving LNA at the end of 2022. We thank them for their knowledge, as well as their guidance and care of the program. We are grateful for their service to LNA and to the many students they have worked with, and supported, in our community. If you want to express your appreciation to Erin and Nicki, we will have a thank you card for neighbors to sign at the November 28 General Membership meeting held at 6:30 PM at Painter Park.

"Additionally, LNA is beginning the

process of analyzing our assets (i.e., Lyndale's various properties), including the costs and challenges of managing them, and determining what long-term sustainability goals are possible for each of them. We are continuing to explore restructuring options which include partnerships, mergers, and a thorough analysis of the work we do, and how we do it, in our community. Given LNA's current financial position, downsizing our program staff is not the only step we need to take to create a financially secure future for the Lyndale Neighborhood Association and we are looking forward to listening to the community about the key questions and considerations we should be taking into account as we plan for this time.

"To this end, LNA will present a budget overview at the Nov. 28 LNA General Membership Meeting, and we invite all community members to join us. We ask that you come prepared to share your ideas and the considerations that you hope the board will be taking into account at this critical time."

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

SIMPSON HOUSING OPEN HOUSE DEC. 3

Simpson Housing is temporarily relocating its shelter to Zion Lutheran Church in the Lyndale neighborhood in December. Join them at Zion, 128 West 33rd Street, for an open house on Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. – noon.

EAST ISLES SAFETY WALKING CLUB DEC. 4

The new East Isles Safety Walking Club is modeled after the popular and successful Loring Park and North Loop safety walking clubs. This is a way to promote neighborhood safety by using the collective eyes and ears on the street. MPD 5th Precinct officers and Loring Park Safety Walking Club members who joined the inaugural walk will continue as partners on upcoming walks to help support the new walking club and promote crime prevention in the neighborhood. Wear the orange T-shirt/hat from the inaugural walk or pick one can pick it up if just joining. Walk will be held at Joanne R. Levin Park (1600 W. 26 St.) on Dec. 4 from 10-11:30 a.m.

LYNNHURST HAPPY HOUR DEC. 5

Join the Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association for a happy hour to kick off the holiday season and connect with neighbors on Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m. at the newly remodeled Malt Shop (809 W 50th St.). Light appetizers and a free beer, wine, or soft drink for each attendee. Cocktails and food available for purchase, too. RSVP at info@lynnhurst.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL HOUR DEC. 5

Neighborhood Socials are monthly gatherings to meet other residents and learn what's going on in East Bde Maka Ska. It will be held on Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m. at Lake and Irving Restaurant and Bar (1513 W Lake St.). Light appetizers will be provided. RSVP at info@eastbde-makaska.org.

LISA GOODMAN SOCIAL RECEPTION DEC. 7

Visit with Council Member Lisa Goodman as she talks about her plans for Ward 7 and happenings in Minneapolis. Ask questions and socialize with other community members about what is happening in the neighborhood. This event will be held at The Dayton's Project (700 Nicollet Mall) on Dec. 7 from 5-6 p.m.

TASTE OF ANWATIN AND CRAFT FAIR DEC. 8

The BMNA Schools Committee is seeking artisans, crafters, and vendors for the Bryn Mawr Craft Fair held in conjunction with Taste of Anwatin at Anwatin Middle School on Dec. 8 from 5-7 p.m. The fee is \$15 per six-foot table to display your wares along with two chairs and local advertising to promote the fair. More can be found on Bryn Mawr's website.

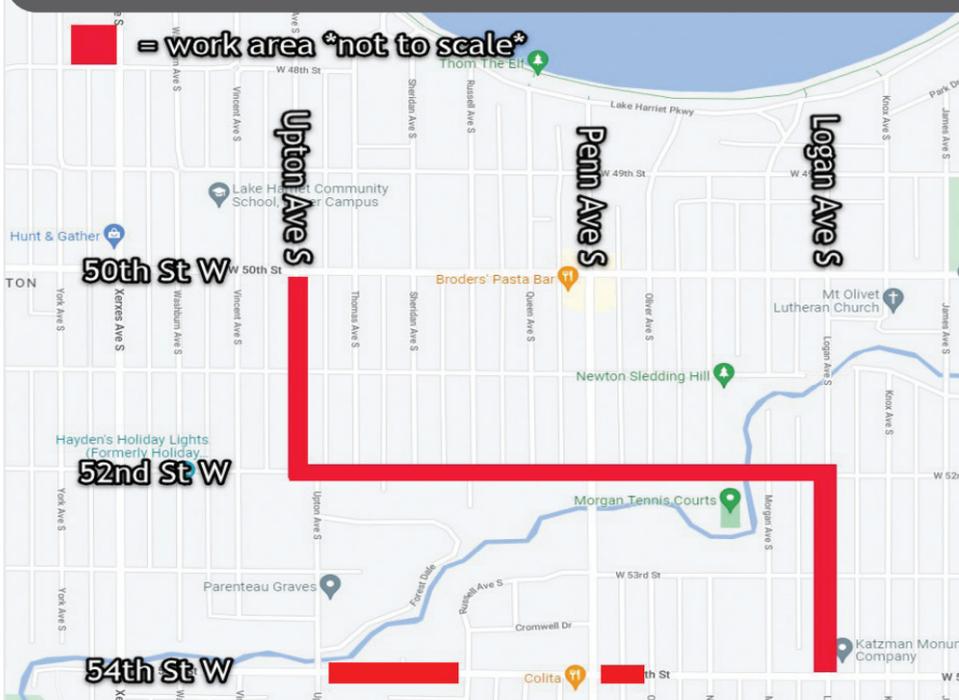
LINDEN HILLS HOLIDAY WINE AND STROLL DEC. 8

Head for downtown Linden Hills for this year's Holiday Wine & Stroll on Dec. 8 from 5-8 p.m. Start the evening at New Gild Jewelers (4300 Upton Ave. S.), where one can pick up a map of participating merchants, then enjoy polite bites and sips throughout the village.

KINGFIELD HOLIDAZZLE PARADE DEC. 10

Dress up one's clothing, bike, stroller, etc. in lights or costume on Dec. 10. In addition to the fun, the community will be taking a moment to thank Jim and Joanne, the owners of the Royal Grounds coffee shop at 4161 Grand Ave. S. After 12 years of serving the community, they have decided to close up the shop. Meet at Royal Grounds at 5:30 p.m. to thank Jim and Joanne. Then attendees will leave the coffee shop at 6 p.m. for a parade down Grand Ave. to 46th. Afterward, meet up with neighbors or head home.

2022 PORTION OF UPTON/ 52ND/ 54TH/ LOGAN PROJECT FINISHED



Centerpoint Energy has been working on a natural gas large-diameter steel main in the Kenny neighborhood since September of this year. Crews needed to weld the pieces of the pipe together, so the steel main replacement requires open excavation and takes longer to install than the small-diameter plastic main. Streets included are Upton Avenue S. from 50th to 52nd Streets W., 52nd Street W. from Upton to Logan Avenues S., Logan Avenue S. from 52nd to 54th Streets W., 54th Street W. from Upton to Russell Avenues S., and from Penn to Oliver Avenues S.

In spring 2023, project areas will be permanently restored with concrete on sidewalks and black dirt and grass seed on boulevards and lawns. More project info is at <https://bit.ly/uptoncproject>. (Graphic courtesy of Centerpoint Energy)

CITY BRIEFS

CEDAR-ISLES MASTER PLAN UPDATE

A completed draft of the new Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan will be available for a 45-day public review and comment period in January. This long-range (up to 30-year) plan includes changes to Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Dean Parkway and a portion of Cedar Lake Regional Trail. After the comment period, the plan will be presented to Park and Recreation Board for a public hearing and vote on final approval of the plan. The plan outlines strategies to maintain and improve these park spaces are part of Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park and will help guide funding decisions for years to come.

MINNEAPOLIS FOR A BETTER POLICE CONTRACT VS. CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

In November, the city council approved a settlement agreement related to the lawsuit brought against the city by the group, Minneapolis for a Better Police Contract, that was formed to influence the current police contract before it was negotiated and approved. They filed the lawsuit after meetings were closed and not accessible to the public. As part of the agreement, the city will pay them \$60,000 for attorneys' fees, and will have to publish the time and location of all future bargaining sessions with the Police Officers Federation and ensure that the public may observe. Negotiations for the next contract are expected to begin this fall.

VOLUNTEER ADVISORS NEEDED

The Hennepin County Board is recruiting volunteers for 38 advisory and watershed district board positions through its annual open appointment process. Appointees advise commissioners and help set policy on a variety of topics. Appointments to these positions will be made during the first quarter of 2023. There are openings on many boards including the Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council, Library Board, Race Equity Advisory Council, Three Rivers Park District, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board. People can apply through Dec. 31 at hennepin.us/advisoryboards.

NEW COMMISSION ON POLICE OVERSIGHT

There was a public hearing on Nov. 30 about an ordinance amendment that would replace the existing Police Conduct Oversight Commission with a new commission to help oversee both the police and fire departments.

DRAFT 2023-2025 VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

The draft 2023-2025 Vision Zero Action Plan, written to help end all traffic deaths and severe injuries in the city, is now out for public comment. According to the plan, an average of 150 people suffered life-altering injuries or were killed in traffic crashes each year on streets in Minneapolis from 2017 to 2021, and traffic crashes disproportionately impact people in neighborhoods with lower incomes, Native American residents and people walking and bicycling. There will be an

online open house to learn more on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. In order for your feedback to influence the next draft, comments should be submitted by Dec. 11. To learn more and comment, see www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2022/november/vision-zero-action-plan/

PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT FUND

Information sessions have been scheduled for the next round of funding through the City of Minneapolis' Partnership Engagement Fund. Using city funding community organizations can partner with neighborhood organizations on projects that support community engagement, health and safety. For more information, visit NCR's Partnership Engagement Fund webpage or please contact PartnershipFund@minneapolismn.gov.

NRP POLICY CHANGES

People can submit comments an updated map of district boundaries for representatives on the NRP Policy Board and an updated neighborhood grievance process until Dec. 10. This new map increases neighborhood seats on the NRP Policy Board from four to eight. The new grievance to process would allow grievances to go through the neighborhood organization, city Neighborhood and Community Relations department and the NRP Policy Board. Submit comments to Steven Gallagher, neighborhood programs manager, at steven.gallagher@minneapolismn.gov.

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 believes in buying local and shopping local. She has held various positions over the years that promote local artists and tourism, including as an art buyer for Love from Minnesota Company, artisan manager at St. Croix Promotions and Retail, and docent at MIA. She is the owner of Everett & Charlie, a Linden Hills art gallery where art meets experience. It features only Minnesota artists. She is a TMC Publications marketing specialist, and can help you develop a comprehensive marketing plan that fits your budget and needs.

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25 YEARS OF STUDENT ART



MCAD alumni Thomas Gleaner discusses his art pieces during the VIP sale event held on Nov. 17, 2022. After being held virtually for two years, this year's event was on campus and featured a larger group of alumni from the past 25 years. (Photo by Suzie Marty)

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) held its 25th Art Sale on campus Nov. 17-19, 2022 after being held virtually for the past two years.

More than 400 students and alumni participated in this year's Art Sale - an annual tradition that connects MCAD students and alumni with the wider Twin Cities community. In honor of the 25th anniversary, a larger group of alumni from the past 25 years were invited to participate. Some of the artists include Evan Abrahamson '13, Gregory Euclide '09, Samantha French '05, Carla Alexandra Rodriguez '11, Song Thao '11, and Sarah Wieben '04. A VIP preview for the event opened on Thursday, Nov. 17, followed by a public night on Nov. 18, and a free family day on Saturday, Nov. 19.

The MCAD Art Sale is an opportunity to buy original works by emerging artists and designers. An eclectic range of creative mediums are represented at the sale - including paintings, prints, photographs, illustrations, sculpture, furniture, jewelry, accessories, printed books and more. Prices ranged from \$10 to \$1,500. Following a commitment to supporting students and alumni, 80% of all sales go directly to the artist. The event offers many students the first opportunity to price their own works, market to the public, and build relationships with local art collectors and enthusiasts.

Founded in 1886, MCAD is home to approximately 800 students from 45 states and 15 countries. The college offers bachelor's degrees in 14 disciplines; one MFA; three online master's degrees; and continuing education classes for all ages.



Volunteers staff the 25th Art Sale at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design on Thursday, Nov. 17 during the VIP preview. Eighty percent of all sales go directly to the artist, and the event offers many students the first opportunity to price their own work. (Photos by Suzie Marty)

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