

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • JULY 20, 2023 • VOL. 2 • NO. 13 • 25,000 CIRCULATION

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STEPPING TOWARDS SAFER STREETS

Lyndale Walkers started walking 30 years ago when gunshots were heard regularly on their neighborhood streets. They've kept walking ever since – recognizable in their bright yellow caps.

Lyndale Walkers recently on patrol include (left to right) Bryan Haskell, Luther Krueger, Shirley Ramsey-Montrose, Chris Nelms, Mary Trondson, Jeanne Wiener, and Cynthia Haskell. Read more inside. (Photo by Terry Faust)



LET'S CLEAR THE AIR

By J.D. Fratzke
SAVORING THE 612



"Tis the Season," I murmur to myself as the aroma of smoke from wood-fired charcoal graces my nostrils. I begin to imagine platters piled high with dry-rubbed pork ribs released from the bonds of household plastic wrap, sirloin roasts raised from the depths of overnight marinades or a rainbow of shrimp and vegetable skewers lined up like a color guard at the world's most delicious Pride Parade.

Then I remind myself that it's eight o'clock in the morning on a non-holiday Tuesday. Like all of you, I am not smelling preparations for the multitudinous celebrations of summer so much as I am thousands of acres of northern wilderness swallowed by relentless infernos. It's heartbreaking.

Over Memorial Day weekend, my wife and I treated ourselves to an early anniversary present with the purchase of a newfangled backyard fireplace. Because of the sweltering temperatures and repeatedly questionable air quality, it remains unchristened in circle of chairs on our patio – a sort of uncomfortable stainless steel ottoman.

To live in a paradise so blessed with ready access to myriad



LYNDALE SAFER SINCE 4-TO-3 CONVERSION

Crashes and injuries reduced in last year since Lyndale went to two traveling lanes and a center lane for turning

By Cam Gordon

The reduction of traffic lanes on Lyndale Ave from 31st St. to Franklin Ave. has improved safety and will remain in place.

Called the "4-3 Lane Pilot Project," Hennepin County staff told the Minneapolis bicycle advisory committee (BAC) on June 13, 2023 that after conducting traffic analysis and collecting feedback they will keep the three-lane restriping. Plus, they will use the information received from pilot study to inform the final design of

Lyndale when it is fully reconstructed in 2026.

Lane reductions from 4-3 are not new in the state or county. They involve taking a four-lane undivided roadway, with two lanes of traffic going in each direction, and restriping them to include only one lane going in each direction with a left-turn-only center lane. Sometimes right-turn-only lanes are also included at busier intersections.

Deanna Newman is the BAC Ward 7

representative and vice chair of the engineering committee where the presentation on Lyndale's pilot was made. "The BAC generally supports 4-3 lane conversions as a way to calm traffic and make room for multi-modal infrastructure like sidewalks, greenspace and bike lanes," said Newman. "The members support doing similar pilots in the future as a way to get real-time community feedback and identify areas for improvement."



NICOLLET POLLINATOR PATHWAY FOR RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEE

By Allie Johnson

There's a new pathway in southwest Minneapolis, but it's not for people.

The Nicollet Avenue Pollinator Pathway is a series of 50 native plant gardens along and around Nicollet Avenue (from Lake Street to Diamond Lake Road) that provide food sources and nesting space for the rusty patched bumble bee, Minnesota's state bee and a federally endangered species.

The project is a collaboration between the Lyndale, Kingfield, and Tangletown neighborhoods. In 2022, the neighborhood associations received a \$40,000

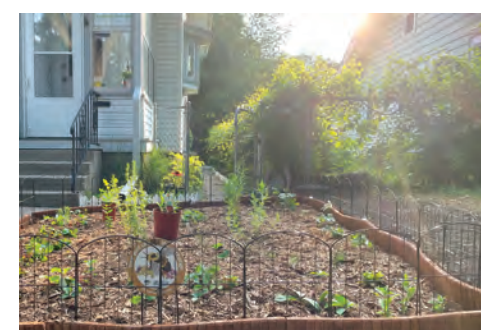
grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to rebuild habitat for pollinators like the rusty patched bumble bee that was lost due to urbanization.

"You can look around and be like there's so many gardens in my area, but there's still a huge lack of native plant life for a lot of native species," said Sarah Linnes-Robison, director of the Kingfield and Lyndale Neighborhood Associations. "We can't do too much."

The rusty patched bumble bee, named for the rust-colored patch on its back, was once widespread across the eastern United States, the Upper Midwest, and parts of Canada. But, its population has declined

over the last several decades and it is now found in only a fraction of its former range, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. Minnesota is home to a significant portion of its remaining population.

Andrea Siegel of the Tangletown Neighborhood Association, said they choose Nicollet Avenue as the focus for the project because it runs through all three neighborhoods. Six of the gardens that make up the pathway are larger community sites maintained by organizations such as Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge and Solomon's Porch and Yoga Sanctuary. The rest were



A series of 50 native plant gardens along Nicollet Avenue provide food sources and nesting space for pollinators.



CEDAR LAKE AND LAKE OF ISLE PARK PLAN

The plan for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles was approved by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) of Commissioners at its meeting on July 5, 2023.

The Cedar-Isles Plan outlines long-term strategies to maintain and improve Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Dean Parkway and a portion of Cedar Lake Regional Trail. Multiple drafts of the plan were created and refined based on thousands of comments received throughout more than three years of work on the plan.

A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) comprised of people appointed by MPRB staff and commissioners met 13 times (along with seven combined meetings for two CAC Subcommittees) to vet and refine ideas incorporated in the Cedar-Isles Plan. The final plan document is based on final CAC recommendations and feedback received during a formal 45-day public comment period that ended in March.

Three amendments to the plan were approved by MPRB Commissioners before the plan passed:

- The two-way soft surface bike trail along Northeast Cedar Lake was removed and replaced by a pedestrian trail.
- New docks for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles were previously included in the "Water Quality" cost estimate/implementation list. This amendment removed the docks from the Water Quality section and instead lists them in the "Amenities" section.
- A sentence was added to Section 6.2, Costs and Funding: "As staff implement amenities within the Amenity and Wayfinding category, the assessment and repair of like-amenities within the plan scope will be addressed and communicated with the public."

The Met Council will consider approval of the plan in the next few months. The Met Council must approve regional park plans in order for parks to receive regional park funding.

A major benefit, and primary reason, for completing a park plan is that it allows the MPRB to seek or capitalize on opportunities to improve parkland. When volunteers, philanthropic organizations, or regional, state or federal funding agencies express interest in supporting the regional park system, the MPRB now has a community-vetted plan for potential partners to follow.

No immediate major changes or projects based on the Cedar-Isles Plan are currently scheduled. Smaller scale projects could be implemented within the first few years. These could include safety upgrades at critical intersections, new or repaired paths, or adding seasonal bathrooms.

Development of the Cedar-Isles Plan was the final part of a decade-long process by the MPRB to create long-term plans for every park in the Minneapolis park system. The Cedar-Isles Plan was the last area in the Minneapolis park system that didn't have a current long-term plan. Now every park operated by the MPRB has a long-term plan in place. Visit the Minneapolis Park Plans page to view them.

CEDAR LAKE CHANNEL CLOSED

The Cedar Lake Channel is closed to recreational use until September 2023 to finish construction of the trail bridge that spans the channel. This will allow work in the channel to be completed this year, thus avoiding a full long-term closure next winter that was originally planned. There will be a need for brief closures in 2024, but only minimal impacts to recreational use are anticipated. The Kenilworth Lagoon is accessible from Lake of the Isles.

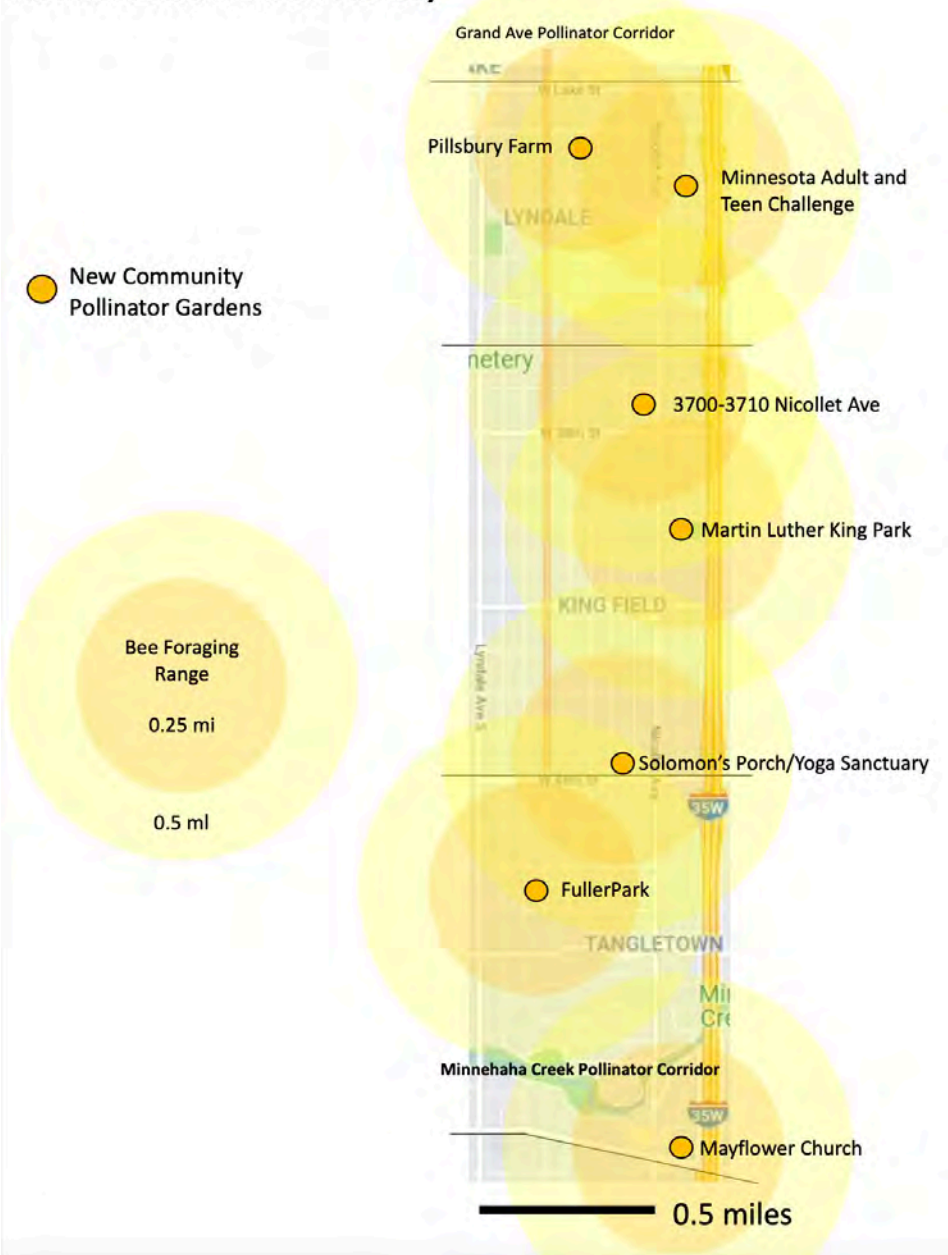
Water management activities continue at the Cedar Lake Channel including water pumping operations to facilitate flow from Cedar Lake to Lake of the Isles.

The closure of Cedar Lake Parkway to advance LRT tunnel construction has been extended until Sept. 29.



Volunteers plant wild geranium, purple prairie clover, wild bergamot, giant hyssop and culver's root in gardens down the pollinator pathway so that the rusty patched bumblebees can find the same foods to eat at each location.

Nicollet Avenue Pollinator Pathway



1 PATHWAY

planted by residents who applied for and were selected to participate in the project. While anyone could apply, residents were chosen based on proximity to each other because the bumblebees have a relatively small foraging radius of about half a mile.

Participants received free native plants, compost, and mulch to help install their gardens. Siegel said the rusty patched bumble bee is a "very picky eater" and feeds on a diet of constancy, meaning they'll only eat one particular plant for a certain period of time. For that reason, they required each garden to have the same core group of plants including wild geranium, purple prairie clover, wild bergamot, giant hyssop, and culver's root so

each will have similar flowers blooming at the same time and the bees won't have to travel far to eat.

Most of the gardens were planted in early June, and each should be marked with a small circular sign indicating they are part of the pollinator pathway. Siegel notes that while the gardens may not be much to look at right now, next year they should begin to attract bees and other pollinators.

"If you were to go out and look at everyone's gardens this year they're probably not going to look very impressive, there's not going to be a lot of blooming or anything like that," Siegel said. "In year two or year three we hope to do some garden tours so people can start to see more established blooming plants, and then that's when people will start to see the

butterflies and bees show up."

Garden tours are part of the next phase of the project: Education. By teaching people about the rusty patched bumble bee and showing them what a pollinator-friendly garden can look like, Linnes-Robinson hopes it will encourage more residents to plant similar species in their own yards.

"Hopefully that education encourages people to plant similar species to help native insects that feed in this way thrive, instead of striving for a super unique garden that has plants that no one else has," she said. "There's room for that, but there's also a need for people to be planting the same species that their neighbors do to make sure that there's enough food for [the rusty patched bumble bee]."

► 1 4-TO-3 CONVERSION

In 2019, when Minneapolis public works staff evaluated traffic crashes on 11 streets that had 4-to-3 lane conversions between 2004-2012, they found that there was a 36% average decrease in injury crashes and a 25% average decrease in all crashes after a conversion.

"We know that four-lane undivided streets in urban environments have particular challenges," said Ethan Fawley, the city's Vision Zero Program Coordinator, "A 4-3 safety conversion is a common and frequent adjustment that can be made at low cost."

The city's 2023 Minneapolis Vision Zero Action Plan aims to end all traffic-related fatalities. It includes strategies to "proactively implement safety conversions (for example, 4-to-3 lane safety conversions) or other safety treatments to address city-owned high-injury 4-lane undivided streets," and aims to partner with Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to implement such conversions on the four-lane undivided streets they own.

Last year, 31st St. E. saw such a conversion and, in 2021, so did Lyndale Ave. North. Lake St., which Fawley says is "the highest crash street in Minneapolis," is being converted this year and next as part of the B-Line bus rapid transit improvements. Plans are also in place to do the same on Hennepin Ave. in Uptown and on Franklin Ave.

FIRST, A PILOT PROJECT

The Lyndale pilot was started following concerns being raised about dangerous driving and too many crashes. In the city's 2017 pedestrian crash study, the Lake St. and Lyndale Ave. intersection had the highest number of pedestrian crashes in the city over 10 years. The intersections at 26th St. and Franklin had the 10th and 23rd highest. Left turning vehicles accounted for nearly half of all crashes.



Motorists can't cross Lyndale at 25th anymore, but pedestrians and bicyclists can use the median to pause while crossing. Last summer, the two lanes in either direction were changed to one lane in either direction with a center turning lane. The pilot project was deemed successful as crashes and injuries have been reduced. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

In July 2022, following organizing work by the advocacy group, Our Streets Minneapolis, and with the support of Hennepin County commissioner Marion Greene (who identified a safety overhaul of Lyndale as her top public works priority), the county restriped Lyndale between Franklin Ave. and 31st St.

"The conversion has been a big success. My office has received a tremendous amount of positive feedback, and transportation staff are encouraged by the data they are seeing and hearing from the majority of users," said Greene. "The investments have changed the way residents and neighbors interact with the street and their neighborhoods, in ways that engender community connectivity, active living, transit use, and safety for all users."

In addition to the lane reduction, the

pilot on Lyndale changed the intersections at 29th, 27th and 25th streets. This included prohibiting left turns at some intersections, adding concrete medians and more traffic signs, and installing flashing pedestrian crossing beacons at 25th and 27th.

CRASHES DOWN A YEAR LATER

A year later, the county reported that there has been a 57% decrease in all crashes and a 48% decrease in injury crashes. They also found that at 25th St., vehicles were 92% more likely to stop for a pedestrian, and that speeds have gone from above the speed limit to below it. According to the report, 85% of drivers prior to the pilot would reach up to 39 mph. After the conversion, that 85 percentile speed went down to 29 for those going north and 25 for those going south.

Pedestrian behavior also changed, with less illegal crossings and an increase in pedestrian crossings by 86% at the three improved intersections, especially at 25th and 27th.

IS TRAFFIC SLOWER?

One concern raised about 4-3 lane conversions is that they delay traffic and increase the time it takes to drive through a corridor. Travel times for drivers have increased on Lyndale. While times never reached 15 minutes and were usually closer to 8 over this relatively short distance, the average increase was 43 seconds for those driving north and 26 seconds for those going south. Average wait times at traffic signals went from 8 to 14 seconds.

The county also gathered feedback from residents and business owners through more than 400 in-person interactions and 1,000 responses online. They reported that 83% of people feel safer walking or rolling across Lyndale Ave., and 74% feel more comfortable driving on or across Lyndale Ave. Some people shared concerns about the merge area at Franklin Ave. for southbound drivers and longer travel times through the corridor.

WILL BIKE LANE BE ADDED?

In response to the presentation, the BAC passed a resolution supporting the conversion and saying they are "excited that the reconstruction planning will include a review of closing a bikeway gap between Franklin Avenue and the Loring Greenway and request that the planning consider adding bikeways along the full project corridor to 31st. Ave. S."

"There are no plans for bike facilities on Lyndale at this time," said Newman, "but the committee requested that when the full reconstruction of the street is considered in the future that staff evaluate the possibility of a bike lane."

"There is a commitment from all the agencies to build on the success of this pilot," said Fawley. "A bike lane is part of what we will be looking at."

► 1 LYNDALE WALKERS

By **Tesha M. Christensen & Terry Faust**

The Lyndale Walkers have been purposely walking along their neighborhood streets to discourage crime for the last 30 years.

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, the Lyndale Walkers met at the home of Michael and Shirley Montrose for their 30th anniversary celebration.

Member Luther Krueger said the group organized to discourage open drug dealing in the neighborhood.

They started out walking every day for about a week and saw dealing in their neighborhood go down. In 1998, they had about 70 volunteers. Recently, as dealing has dropped, smaller groups patrol on a less frequent schedule.

Michael Montrose shared a bit about the last 30 years.

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO BE INVOLVED?

Montrose: When my wife, Shirley Ramsay-Montrose, and I moved into the Lyndale neighborhood in 1987, it was an "at risk" neighborhood with crime, drugs, and gangs. When a cab driver was killed in 1990 or 1991, it was decided that something had to be done. Luther Krueger, who was chairing the LNA Crime & Safety committee at the time, came up with the idea of starting a citizens' patrol for the neighborhood with the premise we would make our presence known at trouble areas and report activity to the 5th Precinct. Luther acquired yellow hats, while Shirley and I made LNA Walker badges with photos and kept signed rules and schedules of walks. The rules consisted of no weapons, minimum of two walkers, no alcohol, and the patrols would start and end at our house. Our primary objective was to get people



In the formal group shot of the Lyndale Walker, Lynne Larson proudly holds their Mpls Police Dept Citizen Commendation, while Norma Pietz displays the group's Mpls Police Dept Citizen's Appreciation Award. (Photo by Terry Faust)

out of their houses and be seen with the idea that where people were, crime wasn't.

In 1993, we started the Walker potluck as a recruitment tool and a celebration for us die-hards and have continued this for the past 30 years.

WHAT ARE SOME MOMENTS THAT STAND OUT FOR YOU THAT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE WALKING

AS A GROUP?

Montrose: We have witnessed a great change from being an "at risk neighborhood" to premium place to live. With the help of the city, the police, and LNA committees, we were able to identify crack houses, slumlords, and gang members and thereby tackling the issues of our neighborhood. Our benchmark was the reduction

of nightly gunshots per week in the early 90s to a few per week and then to none in the early 2000s.

While, it has been a long road, it has been a good outcome and the Walkers are now mostly ambassadors for the Lyndale Neighborhood Association to get residents involved and informed.

EVERYONE DESERVES A GOOD EDUCATION

We need to give all students an opportunity to succeed.

Youth need more positive opportunities than ever. The opportunity gap is increasing, especially in public schools and marginalized communities across the United States. While some youth are thriving, many others are being left behind.

Three years after schools were closed because of the pandemic, many educators in public schools say they are still struggling to teach kids skills they lost out on during remote learning while managing a surge in post-pandemic misbehavior. Students are misbehaving more now than they did before the pandemic in 2019. The pandemic has also affected students' motivation and morale. It's more difficult to inspire some students to do their best in school, and many of them have an unhopeful outlook about the future.

This troubling reality is a problem confronting many educators, parents and students. It means recovering from the pandemic could be more costly, time-consuming and difficult than anticipated, leaving a generation of young people struggling to catch up. This is a national problem affecting cities around the U.S. Minneapolis is one of those cities.

Some young people today in Minneapolis have a pessimistic view of the world or their futures after a tough few years. Poor mental health has skyrocketed and created a generation that expects negative outcomes and sees many problems as unsolvable.

Some schools are working to change this distorted reality. One of those schools is Ella Baker Global Studies and Humanities Magnet School in Uptown. Ella Baker



By **Eric Ortiz**



Students at Ella Baker Global Studies and Humanities Magnet School. (Photo submitted)

(formerly known as Jefferson School) is a vibrant PK-8 school community with a student population of around 700.

Students come from all areas of Minneapolis. Ella Baker demographics are 41 percent African American, 36 percent Hispanic, 11 percent white, 3 percent Asian, 3 percent American Indian, and 5 percent two or more races. Students represent many different countries and are 66 percent ESL (English as second language), 15 percent special education, and 70 percent free/reduced lunch "educational benefits."

Ella Baker was an influential and respected human and civil rights activist who believed in the power of youth to strengthen their communities and shape their future. That is the philosophy at Ella Baker School. They encourage students to be problem solvers and creative thinkers through a global lens and support students with real, tangible skills they can use to be-

come active and thriving members of the community.

As a magnet school within Minneapolis Public Schools, the focus of Ella Baker is on global competency and humanities. With their global competencies, they want to ensure students can solve problems, collaborate, think critically, and empathize with others. Ella Baker is focused on creating changemakers. They want students to "Think Global, Act Local" by identifying problems and actively seeking solutions in our local communities.

Ella Baker became a magnet school during the 2021-22 school year and has established a school culture that is warm and welcoming, valuing all of the students and their families. They have a diverse global community at Ella Baker. But like many public schools, they still can use more help.

I have written about Ella Baker before, and I am thinking about them again. We

will start our community solutions with youth program with students from Ella Baker at the end of July. In September, we will start a youth journalism program at Ella Baker as part of our community solutions program.

I am leading this work with Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation, a youth development organization where I am the board chair. Our mission and purpose is to close the opportunity gap and give everyone a chance to succeed. We empower youth and families in historically under-recognized communities to be solution-minded and develop a problem-solving mindset. We are reinventing how we solve problems by creating a fair environment that provides more opportunities for all.

Closing the opportunity gap starts with reducing educational inequality and has many benefits. Allowing children from disadvantaged backgrounds to get an education can help them find good jobs with higher salaries, improve their quality of life, and make them more productive members of society. It decreases the likelihood of community violence and increases access to health care, stable economic growth, and unlimited opportunities.

Education is the foundation of success. We need to rethink how kids learn, how we teach, and how we solve problems. We need to make sure we're preparing all students to thrive.

Educational equality is how we resolve the root causes of systemic injustices and create more opportunities for youth and families. Too often youth are seen as a threat, problem or "at-risk" rather than as people with talents and knowledge that can be resources to build a stronger society. Youth can make our world better if given the opportunity. We want to give them that opportunity.



Eric Ortiz lives in the Wedge with his family. When he's not community building, he's the head of content and strategy 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.

DEBATE OVER RENT STABILIZATION CONTINUES

The following letter was sent to Mayor Frey and city council members:

In November 2021, by a majority vote, the people of Minneapolis authorized the City Council to enact a rent control ordinance. In June 2022, the City Council established the Housing/Rent Stabilization Work Group to study and make recommendations for a policy framework that would "[h]old rental owners accountable to fair, equitable, and reasonable practices by prohibiting excessive annual rent increases." In December 2022, the Work Group voted to select a set of policies, referred to as "Framework 5," as the policy recommendation of the group. On June 2, 2023, the City Council approved a motion to draft a rent stabilization ordinance in line with Framework 5.

However, on June 28, the council voted 5-4, with one abstention, not to advance the motion to committee for further work, study, and public input. This vote was held on Eid al-Adha, one of the most important Islamic holidays, a reflection on sacrifice

and service to something greater than ourselves. Three Muslim council members, including the two co-authors of the motion to draft a rent stabilization ordinance, were not present as they observed this important religious holiday. This vote effectively ended any possibility of placing a rent stabilization measure on the ballot this November.

We are writing as Work Group members, who each voted in support of Framework 5, to strongly condemn the actions taken at the June 28 Council Meeting. This vote was Islamophobic, anti-democratic, and empty political gamesmanship. To leverage the faith of three council members against a policy disfavored by the Mayor and some council members is an act of anti-Muslim bias. In public statements, President Jenkins and other members of the council have hidden behind the requirements of open meetings laws and council procedure as pretext for why the vote could not be rescheduled. We are not fooled. Council leader-



LETTER

ship could have availed itself of any number of procedural mechanisms to delay the vote. You chose not to. And in doing so, you deprived three Muslim council members of their vote, disenfranchising their constituents as well.

You may disagree with the policy suggested by the motion, but that is why we have our political process. This was not a vote to put a policy on the ballot. This was merely a vote to engage in the very work of policymaking—discussion, debate, compromise, and collaboration—that results in better laws and better lives for the people of Minneapolis. Observers of the Council are unanimous in expressing how unusual it is for a policy to be killed at this procedural stage. Perhaps the Mayor and some council members fear public discussion and debate of rent stabilization. Perhaps they feel that the people of Minneapolis should not have a vote in this matter. Perhaps they feel that the means justifies the ends, that violating morals and norms, and that disrespecting the faith of their colleagues are all acceptable so long as they can place profits over the people of this city.

We, the undersigned, name and condemn those things. We stand with our Muslim neighbors across Minneapolis as well as Council Members Chughtai, Ellison, and Osman. We support the motion raised by Council Members Chughtai and Osman, but moreover we support the values of religious pluralism and tolerance, the democratic ideals of self-governance and representative participation, and a core belief that dissenting views on housing and economic policy should be engaged with, not silenced. We will not allow the events of June 28 to be forgotten as the debate over rent stabilization continues, and we will continue to work to obtain the policy that the people of Minneapolis need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Kadra Abdi, Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers

Jennifer Arnold, Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia

Maura Brown, The Alliance

Mary Kaczorek, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

Rico Morales, Renter

Yolanda Roth, Landlord

Daniel Suitor, HOME Line

AsaleSol Young, Urban Homeworks

José A. Zayas Cabán, Renter

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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Unsigned letters will not run.

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Design & Layout: Tesha M. Christensen

Billing: billing@swconnector.com

Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

This issue of the Connector is printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Approximately 95-97% of material that enters the print facility is recycled.

Delivery: 612-235-7197, Delivery@TMCpub.com

Mail subscriptions available at \$80/year.

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Allie Johnson, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Cam Gordon, Eric Ortiz, J.D. Fratzke, Terry Faust, Suzie Marty, Larry LaVercombe, Donald Hammen, Michele Rae, Talia McWright, Aamira Redd, Evan Vezmar, and WACSO.

Member of Minnesota Newspaper Association, Midwest Free Community Papers, Uptown Association, and Southwest Business Association.

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POWER OF ART BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Amid challenges, ArtAble focuses on 'disability pride'

By **Evan Vezmar**

ArtAble has had its fair share of changes during the pandemic.

Founded in 2007 and running as a nonprofit since 2010, this organization functions as an art studio and event space. However, the programs often include people with disabilities, a group that ArtAble founder Jane Elias says is "so secluded in so many ways. They're either with their family or their day programs. And there's not a lot of opportunity to be out and participating in the community."

Elias, a resident of Linden Hills, says, "I'm a professional muralist. I used to travel all over the country doing murals in hospitals and clinics... Then I just did murals locally and smaller jobs, volunteered a lot at the schools. I would draw out place-mats for auctions and then the kids would paint them in and we'd auction those off. It was really fun teaching the kids and working with my kids. So, I just basically started simplifying my designs and putting them on canvases to teach other people because a blank canvas is really daunting."

After working with a business partner to create a studio that taught painting and sold canvases, Elias says that "people started coming in - like there was this woman that brought this autistic boy every Wednesday night and lots of people started coming in. And I started to notice [painting] was more of a healing, meditative thing. So, after a few years, I got a board together and we became a nonprofit and moved into a space and built it all out



ArtAble seeks to provide a sense of community and unity across all abilities through its programming. (Photo submitted)

to make it accessible."

ArtAble's mission is a place for "creating high quality art programs for all abilities and disabilities," explains Elias.

PERSONAL CONNECTION TO DIFFERENCES INSPIRED ELIAS

She says her personal and familial experiences with disability and sensitivity have immensely impacted her role in the studio. "I have a niece that is nonverbal and in a wheelchair, and a step-niece that has a cerebral palsy. There are mental health issues in the family, so I'm very accustomed to being around people that have different abilities... That's what we

did at the studio. You would come in and there would be groups with disabilities or individuals with everyone intermingling."

She adds, "The world is so full of lights and bells and whistles. Heightened sensitivity is not considered a disability because 20% of the population has it at some level, and it's a blessing and a curse. I didn't realize I had that, and I just thought I was a freak... I ended up coping by pretending I wasn't me. And it wasn't until I was in my 30s that I read about and realized there were other people like me. So, I wanted to create a space where it's nice and calm. I play nice, soft music with all natural light. There's so much to cope

MISSION-DRIVEN

Simply ArtAble is a non-profit organization, our mission is to provide rewarding art programming for people of all ages and to be inclusive of all abilities and disabilities. We partner with many organizations that serve adults with disabilities in providing inclusive paint sessions.

with in this world, and it's just getting worse so we need a space like this again."

UNITING COMMUNITY ACROSS DIFFERENCE

ArtAble doesn't just provide spaces for people with disabilities. Elias emphasizes the need for community and unity across all abilities.

She says, "Once a month we would do pizza parties, where I would invite 20 people from our day programs with disabilities and 20 people from the greater community, from a church or business. So, they would come together and have people pair up. We'd have lunch together and paint together and a celebration of everyone's achievements. And I heard over and over from people that don't have disabilities saying, 'I've never been around so many people with different disabilities and how rewarding it is to communicate with somebody even if it's nonverbal.' Just sitting with somebody and eating and painting is a really cool thing."

Because of the pandemic, ArtAble stopped hosting frequent pizza parties, but Elias hopes to bring the community events back to complement other events ArtAble participates in.



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CREATIVE, HEALING COMMUNITIES: AN ANSWER REVEALED AT THE BUFFALO SHOW

Do creative, healing communities exist only in our dreams, or can they be realized? In early May, inside of the Bryant Lake Bowl Theater, an answer revealed itself to me at the Buffalo Show. It was my first time attending. Elders, artists, activists, storytellers, and healers affiliated with Oyate Hotanin (“Voice of the People”) and Change Narrative were sharing stories, catching up, and preparing for their performances as I entered the venue. I was greeted with a warm welcome and made brief introductions.



By **Basanti Miller**

A VARIETY SHOW

This piece is written in reflection to The Buffalo Show, a variety show that creates spaces for the community to come together and talk about critical issues, while utilizing music and poetry to prompt healing. The Buffalo Show is hosted by the Indigenous-led, non-profit Oyate Hotanin, held every other month at the Bryant Lake Bowl.

The show opened with Musical Poetry by the Buffalo Weavers titled “Us, the Trees & Leaves.” As if inside of a dream, the video was a brilliant tapestry of audio and visual elements. Portraits of community members, juxtaposed with images of the trees, their leaves, and bodies of water. Relatives, all connected and existing on Dakota land. Poetic verses, recited by Dakota elder, poet, and storyteller, Strong Buffalo, complimented soothing instrumentals. A rich narrative depicting communities processing pain underneath darkened pandemic skies, healing amidst wildfires, and eventually setting ablaze sparks of social justice.

Was I dreaming or awake? As I listened and observed, the room began to fill with a flurry of emotions. While these emotions were varied, each one was valid. Aspects of our identities were reflected back at us as we watched. I began to feel a comfort and desire to engage deeply with these heightened emotions.

The next performance was a collaboration between Change Narrative’s founder, Jothna Harris, and artist and author, Brandyn Lee Tulloch. A spoken word poem, written and performed by Brandyn, introduced a critical dialogue about capitalism and climate change. After his performance, Jothna charged the audience

with the task of exploring our own relationship with climate change, social justice, and storytelling. As if slipping in and out of a dream, we took turns listening to and sharing with one another. A gentle back and forth cadence became palpable as we engaged in creative self-expression together.

Third to perform was a Dakota hip-hop artist, Arthur “Kute” Lockwood. In his debut live performance, Kute rapped entirely in Dakota. During his performance, I was reminded that no dream can be deferred if one’s motivation to dream is also fueled by a desire to heal, inspire, and connect with others through art.

When the Buffalo Weavers and Joe Savage took to the stage, I felt as if I were dreaming within a dream. As Ben Weaver began to sing the lyrics to “The Other Side of the Dream,” I was introduced to vivid images of the wind standing at the tip of one’s tongue and the end jumping right back into the beginning’s mouth. As Joe Savages’ fingers danced across his steel guitar and as the palm of Strong Buffalo’s hand rose and fell against a tambourine, I closed my eyes. Inside of those metaphors and similes I realized I was no longer alone. As the dream was being realized, a creative, healing community presented itself.

Basanti Miller (she/her), Ed.M., is a Twin Cities writer, free-thinker, and arts educator. She is dedicated to amplifying historically silenced voices through artistic expression.



5 ARTABLE

Elias adds, “We always do Linden Hills festivals where we have a big tent and we will set up our studio. We’ve partnered with Joyce [Uptown] Food Shelf, and we’ll have people bring in non-perishable food items and make a huge food sculpture out of them... I love to bring in another nonprofit to work with them and we do a lot of community outreach. It’s a real community draw to bring people together.”

Elias highlights ArtAble’s work with other nonprofits as a successful way to help the Minneapolis community and to garner support for organizations that benefit people with disabilities.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON STUDIO

Before COVID-19, ArtAble would do up to eight birthday parties in a weekend, drop-in paint hours, 12 weeks of small summer camps, and after-school art club. She says, “A lot of our kids had special sensitivity needs like autism and OCD. So, we kept the classes small, with two teachers for 12 students and everyone got a lot of personalized attention.”

However, COVID-19 played a role in the changes that have affected ArtAble in recent years. The studio that was on 54th and Nicollet closed, and currently ArtAble is without a permanent location.

When the studio stopped in-person events in 2020, Elias says, “We started making kits. So, we would send to individ-



Jane Elias of ArtAble (at right) poses with artists. ArtAble’s mission is a place for “creating high quality art programs for all abilities and disabilities,” explains Elias. (Photo submitted)

uals’ homes and we did Zoom and painted with that. We were able to do summer camps that year. We gutted the studio, had 12 kids at a time, wore shields and masks, and spread the tables out. But by the fall, we weren’t bringing in any money so it didn’t make sense. So, we closed up and briefly moved to a little shop in Linden Hills.”

The studio was unsuccessful in retail so Elias and her organization worked with a church. However, Elias explains that “in the end, [the church] ran it like a large corporate business and our brand and model

did not fit in. So, now we’re being very cautious about where we move, but still exploring the idea of moving in with another nonprofit or religious institution.”

COLLABORATION WITH VARIOUS NONPROFITS INSPIRES COMMUNITY, HOPE FOR FUTURE

In addition to outreach with other nonprofit groups, ArtAble works monthly with Abbott Northwestern Hospital in the mother-baby center to paint with mothers on bed rest. Because ArtAble does not currently have a permanent location, Elias explains, “We’ve been going to these other

organizations, day programs, and it’s been really fun to see my people out in the community.”

While ArtAble is aiming to bounce back from several years of setbacks, Elias stresses that the studio will continue to help people with disabilities and share how the organization works to create a more welcoming community for individuals of any ability.

Elias remains positive about the studio’s mission and outlook and

says, “Almost all of the employees that work at the studio have disabilities and so we always talk about disability pride. Because it’s our differences that make things unique and beautiful.”

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 senior next year. He resides in Edina.

CHECK OUT SCOTT ZOSEL'S LATEST ALBUM

TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

So, I'm not an album reviewer. (As some of you know, I'm not really a reporter either, I just kind of... talk). When I heard that Kingfield resident Scott Zosel had another album coming out, I just thought I'd talk to him.



By Larry LaVercombe

"I give myself a deadline," he says, when I remark that he's producing a lot of art for a guy who also has a regular job, grandkids and everything.

"I write a lot of poems, and I publish on a site called Medium. You should try it," he says, helpfully, after I bemoan the fact that even though I write every day, my novel still isn't finished. (Again, Minnesotans can't help but be helpful.)

"I give myself a few months, write some tunes, some lyrics, and then I go into the studio with some pros and bring it all to life."

"Saturday's Child" is Zosel's latest LP - his fourth since "retiring" from a life of coaching baseball 10 years ago and then going back to music. "This is the time of our lives for doing cool things that we love," he says, echoing what has been almost a mantra for my own. (Lately, in my own music life, I often end my set with Bob Dylan's "Forever Young" - and my rap that it's not too late to learn how to paint, or to write poems, or to... live your heart's desire.)

One of the songs you will encounter in the SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR PLAYLIST (see sidebar) is the evocative tale and tune titled "George Jones," from Zosel's "Cold Black Curls" (2020) album. "It's the story of my childhood growing up in southwestern Minnesota, in a strange kind of way," he says, after I hear him play it at



Scott Zosel (left) of Kingfield performs with Amy Finch on the keyboard during a show at Sociable CiderWerks. (Photo by Larry LaVercombe)

Sociable CiderWerks.

Another of my favorite songs from "Saturday's Child" is "I Saw the Buddha," and while it's the title that first drew me in, its haunting melody and circular imagery is what led me to listen to it three times in a row.

We talked of how most artists have to wear a lot of hats and be capable in the "producer" role of each musical endeavor. It requires skills beyond writing and playing music, and, in fact, you can be accomplished at writing compelling music, but if you're not a "producer," you won't "exist" beyond your friend group. A inventive artist in full control of their craft may blossom internally without an audience, but to get an audience, you need to "produce."

Media skills, technical skills, computer skills, "communication skills" - wheth-

er you're trying to sell cds or play live, you must also be capable of promoting your work, scheduling shows, coordinating musicians, etc. It never ends.

Throughout history, married couples have often fulfilled both roles in their business. The model I most recognize is the male director/female producer teams.

I remember talking about this a lot with my son when he was in high school, and it was becoming clear that he was aspiring to have a career as an actor. I told him that if he is able to "produce," if he develops those skills, too, he will be able to get work in times he isn't getting cast. I helped him see that you can get hired on projects you want to be a part of... (and in fact, this was a great reason to be on stage crew when he was not cast in the high school play). With producing skills,

THIS MONTH'S PLAYLIST

- 1) "George Jones" by Scott Zosel
- 2) "Look at the Moon, Betty," Belfast Cowboys
- 3) "Save it for a Rainy Day," Jayhawks
- 4) "Bike Ride on 35 W," Belfast Cowboys
- 5) "House of Cards" by Scott Zosel
- 6) "Blue," Jayhawks
- 7) "I Saw the Buddha" by Scott Zosel
- 5) "Northern Lights," Belfast Cowboys
- 6) "Waiting for the Sun," Jayhawks

you can create your own opportunities. Producing skills are always necessary everywhere. Getting work in open casting is not reliable, and I think the same is true for musicians. Hitting it big is really a crap shoot. Having a life in the arts is something you can plan.

"I took on music later in life," Scott says. "Not sure I'll ever catch up. Hitting it big, that's not really important. Being true to myself, staying engaged with my musical vision every day, creating fresh new music for people to enjoy - that's what it's all about for me. I'm not done yet. I have things to say. And I'm not going to get there sitting on the couch eating potato chips. Publishing and performing is everything to me. And when people watch me perform, I think they get that. Just because retirement is just around the corner doesn't mean it's time to coast. It's time to pour it on."

I loved that. My friend JL says it to me. This is the time of your life to do art.

Check out three of Scott's songs on our Playlist, along with three favorites from The Belfast Cowboys, and a couple classics from the Jayhawks.

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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EVENT INFO

TRAVEL INSPIRES LOCAL JEWELRY ARTIST

THE ART OF...

Tell me a little about who Amy Sabatier of Amy Sabatier Designs is...



By **Suzie Marty**

LET'S START WITH WHERE YOU ARE FROM...

Excelsio, Minn.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER AS JEWELRY DESIGNER...

It's a career that took some time to arrive at!

I double majored in political science and Russian with a concentration in international relations. I married French and procreated in Germany where we lived for seven years in Dusseldorf, Germany, returning to the U.S. in 2007 with a five year old. I have spent time working in the plastic compounding industry, tutoring English while in Germany, working in the creative teacher's center for a school district in Pennsylvania, making and packing handmade chocolates locally (yes, total bucket list and probably 10 pounds of gain). Fast forward 20 years or so and I arrived back at my passion for jewelry and the story that it follows. Happy to be here and the evolution continues as I constantly add new skills and technique to my work.

EXPLAIN YOUR TECHNIQUE/CREATIVE PROCESS...

Working with my hands has always been a part of my life. Since I could move I have been collecting skills and creating things. Minnesota, with its extensive art community, has very much influenced my work. Adventuring and travel inspiration have been working their way into my pieces. I create jewelry that I like to wear first and foremost, and then I share them. My recent focus is making pieces that invoke a story I want to tell or maybe a message I'd like to convey. Each piece is a chapter of that story. There is always an ongoing list



Excelsior resident Amy Sabatier says that she feels unwell if she goes too long without creating. It took her awhile to arrive at her career as a jewelry artist. (Photos submitted)

of creations being planned on paper and in my thoughts. I am ever grateful to be an art warrior and a student of life and travel.

TELL US ABOUT THE MATERIALS YOU USE AND WHY...

This small business is a passion realized for me. I carefully choose my tools, supplies and stones in an effort to support other artists along the way. I seek out U.S. turquoise mines and, in particular, high-quality stones. I practice traditional metalsmithing using my hands, a torch and limited tools. My pieces are meant to reflect these handmade intentions and are therefore one-of-a-kind.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO CREATE ?

What doesn't?! I actually feel unwell if I spend too long away from creating. I rely on it!

HOW IS YOUR ART IMPORTANT TO OTHERS?

I think each person connects to my work for their own reasons and I love this. Also, I think the stories behind my work, the traveled-to location inspiration and the longing to wear a piece based off a place they love to go.

DO YOU EVER HAVE CREATIVE BLOCKS AND HOW DO YOU OVERCOME THEM ?

I do. Especially if I've been away for too long. I overcome by forcing myself to



the bench to create something that I make often vs any OOK

HOW MANY HOURS GO INTO AN AVERAGE PIECE ?

Depends on the piece. Maybe 2-12 hours.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR DESIGNS 10 YEARS FROM NOW?

I hope to see them being treasured, worn and loved. I hope to move solely into the OOK collections based on my travel in the next 10 years

Amy's jewelry designs can be found at Everett & Charlie Gallery in Linden Hills, on her website and at various other retailers and art fairs.

More at www.amysabatierdesigns.com
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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.

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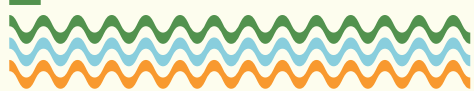
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►1 CLEAR THE AIR

bodies of water and to watch them shrivel, un-slaked by rain, seriously chokes the zeal in one's soul required to fire up a proper barbecue.

Having spent a lifetime transforming the best of Mother Nature's bounty into deliciousness with the help of open flame, I know full well that other options exist for outdoor, charbroiled hoedowns. I also know that most of them are quite economical and arguably more earth-friendly.

The problem is that I love the visceral thrill of skillfully lighting a fire for the purpose of comfort, fellowship and gastronomic celebration. I can honestly say that I have never started a fire - whether in a Boundary Waters firepit, the enormous hearth of a fine-dining kitchen, or in my backyard Weber with the shoddy plastic wheels - without succumbing to the sensation of time travel.

There are few experiences left in our modern life that allow us to place ourselves in the shoes of any ancestry. Building a modest fire is a common thread of human culture stretching across every continent, island and atoll for millennia. The fires we learned to create provided every kind of person who ever lived on any part of the planet with safety, salvation and sustenance.

It's kind of miraculous, when one considers it, that with the proper tools, provisions and experience, a cold spot in the ground can be transformed into a kitchen doling out bowls of a one-pot meal in about the time it takes to watch an episode of "Vanderpump Rules" (give or take the amount of time one requires for the shower needed after watching an episode of "Vanderpump Rules").

Don't we owe it to ourselves and to our communities, in the little time that we're here, to try and solve the environmental crises that make us second-guess whether we should be indulging in as comforting and enlightening a human experience as starting and sharing a cooking fire?

In the early 2010s, a series of papers were published by archeologists and neuroscientists proffering the theory that our distant ancestors became better communicators and problem-solvers because they gathered around campfires when the sun went down (www.smithsonianmag.com). They communed to share not only the daily bounty they had harvested, but the experiences and dreams that only the safety and meditative quality of fire could provide.

I have long been witness to a well-prepared meal's ability to open minds, to heal and to induce gratitude. That goes



Chef J.D. Fratzke cooks on an open fire while camping as his wife, Lisa Anderson Fratzke, shields the meal with an umbrella. (Photos submitted)

double for food prepared outdoors - barbecue in particular. It seems to be a universal love language - I dare say even for vegans and vegetarians (grilled sweet corn, zucchini tenders and cauliflower steaks, anyone?).

Perhaps our best chance at making progress on the inequities in our society and the climate catastrophes curtailing the quality of our air and our water is to quit holding conferences in ivory towers and plate glass conference rooms. Let's fuel solutions with grilled deliciousness piled on a biodegradable paper plate eaten with our fingers or bamboo flatware in a city park or public beach.

Thanissaro Bhikku once wrote,

"Human beings are most free when we are allowed to create spontaneously from the heart." In this season where we gather to consider what our responsibilities are to cultivate that way of life in our communities, I can't dissociate heartfelt creativity from cooking.

So, as soon the air is clear, I'll be the first one to get up early and light the fires. BYOB. Everyone is invited.

► **J.D. Fratzke** is a husband, father, wilderness advocate, and word enthusiast. He has spent most of his adult life toiling in restaurant kitchens to varying degrees of success. A lifelong Minnesotan, JD and his family live in South Minneapolis.

CANOE COUNTRY CAMPFIRE MARINADE

This recipe works universally for fish, fowl, vegetables, tofu or other animal proteins. The flavors will work best if you cut the ingredients into pieces no larger than 1 1/2" to 2". It will also keep the grilling time to a minimum as smaller pieces will cook faster. If you are not using a metal skewer, pile your grilled ingredients up on a plate or in a bowl after they are finished, then skewer them on bamboo skewers for easy handling. Remember, metal skewers will be very hot and will stay hot. Don't handle with bare hands!



- 4 pounds vegetable or protein of your choice, diced 1 1/2" to 2"
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire
- 1/4 cup sri racha
- 1/2 cup green olive brine
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tbl rice wine vinegar
- 2 tbl raw garlic, peeled and chopped
- 1 tbl ground cumin
- 1 tbl ground allspice
- 1 tbl turmeric
- 1 tbl Tajin Clasico or other taco seasoning

1) Toast all dry spices over medium heat in saute pan until aromatic. Remove from heat and set aside.

2) Place protein or vegetables in large glass or plastic mixing bowl.

3) In a blender, combine Worcestershire, sri racha, olive brine, vinegar, garlic and olive oil. Liquefy on high speed. Add toasted dry spices, then whip on lowest speed until well-incorporated.

4) Pour blended marinade over protein or vegetables and toss until all ingredients are evenly distributed. Cover and marinate in refrigerator for a minimum of three hours but not more than six hours.

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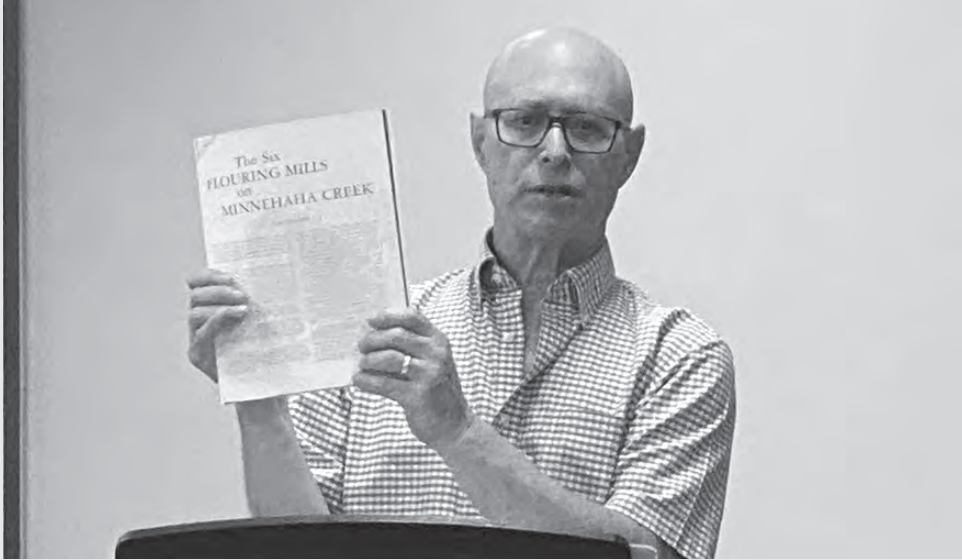
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FRIENDS OF MINNEHAHA PARK GROUP FORMS

Richard Kronick (far right) discusses the seven flour mills that used to be located on Minnehaha Creek during a presentation on June 10, 2023 at Washburn Library. It was the first event by the fledgling Friends of Minnehaha Park. Susan Glenn is in the process of lining up additional speakers and creating a website for the city's newest friends group. The Friends of Minnehaha Park (FoMP) Stewardship Agreement with the Park was approved on June 13. "The agreement is focused on the natural environment and engaging with the public to promote park stewardship and knowledge of the natural environment at the park," explained Glenn. "That means that we will be able to partner with the park to organize stewardship events, and recruit partners and volunteers through networking and social media."



throughout Minneapolis and the entire region. But it's sorely in need of some community involvement and support.

"Everyone I connect with agrees that Minnehaha Regional Park, home of the majestic 53-foot Minnehaha Falls, is a gem. I'm hoping to find others, who like me, are passionate about the park and consider it to be a beautiful and sacred gathering place of natural beauty, historic significance, and local and regional importance to the community, which enhances our quality of life.

Check out our Facebook page at "Friends of Minnehaha Park." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Glenn (at right) explained on a social media post: "Well I guess retirement didn't suit me. I have a new project. I'm working on starting a non-profit, @ Friends of Minnehaha Park. It's one of my favorite places, a greatly loved destination for many people (more than 850,000 annually)



"I put on my librarian's hat and did some research and a lot of networking. There is no existing Friends group supporting Minnehaha Park. Really? In contrast, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, another Regional Park and local treasure in Minneapolis, has a Friends group that is in its 71st year!!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

GIVE INPUT ON KMART/NICOLLET PROJECT

The project team has recently launched Phase II of engagement for the New Nicollet Redevelopment project (the former Kmart site). They are asking for feedback on the conceptual design of both the new Nicollet Ave and future public spaces on the former Kmart site. An online survey closes on Friday, Aug. 4 at 4 p.m. There will be a Community Workshop on Tuesday, July 25 from 5-7:30 p.m. at Sabathani Community Center (310 East 38th St.), or give feedback at the LNA General Membership meeting on Monday, July 24 at Painter Park.

'ROSA MEXICANO' BY IVONNE YAÑEZ

The exhibit "Rosa Mexicano" by Ivonne Yañez explores the theme of magic and color by interpreting traditional objects from her home country of Mexico through soft sculpture, installation, and painting. The exhibition runs July 29-Aug. 27 at Soo Visual Arts Center (2909 Bryant Ave. S.). Running at the same time will be "Delicate and Filled with Dynamite" by Aaron S. Coleman. Aaron S. Coleman's exhibition is about how wounds from injustice can be transformed into a vehicle to transport those inflicted with scars into a better future, or at least a more hopeful one.

CLOTHING SWAP ON AUG. 19

The Tangletown Neighborhood Association Environmental Committee is holding a Clothing Swap on Saturday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m.-1p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. Bring clothing items you no longer want or need (in clean, wearable condition - something you would give to a friend) to share in the swap (maximum 10 items), then "shop" the items others have brought. Mens, womens, and kids clothing of all sizes to be included. If bringing donations, please start at the check-in table.

SUPER SALE SEPT. 9

East Bde Maka Ska, East Isles, Lowry Hill, and Kenwood will hold a Neighborhood Super Sale on Sept. 9. If you plan to host a garage or yard sale, start setting things aside, and look for a sale registration announcement soon.

HELP ERADICATE JAPANESE BEETLES

If you live in the Twin Cities Metro Area, Extension entomologist, Vera Krishik, and her team need your help. They are looking for Japanese beetle grubs to collect this summer through October. In Minnesota, Japanese beetle grubs grow underground most of the year until they emerge in late June - just in time to wreak havoc on your roses, basil, fruiting plants, and practically anything else in your garden. Collecting the grubs is part of a larger research effort to eradicate Japanese beetle from Minnesota, eventually. How do you know whether you have Japanese beetle grubs before they emerge as adult beetles? Dead grass that pulls away easily is one good indication.

If you think you have Japanese beetle grubs, please email Vera Krishik at krisc001@umn.edu.

CITY BRIEFS

LISTENING SESSION ON POLICE

The U.S. Department of Justice has issued the results of their investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department, and is now seeking community feedback on the findings and what can be done to address them. They will be hosting a public listening session on Tuesday, July 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street. People can also share input by emailing community.minneapolis@usdoj.gov or calling (866) 432-0268.

MORE MONEY FOR MPD LEADERSHIP

In June, the City Council approved an 8% pay increase and a \$6,500 bonus for upper level, nonunion, appointed leadership positions, excluding the police chief, in the police department (MPD) who remain with the department through September. This includes city employees with titles of assistant chief of police, deputy chief of police, police commander, and police inspector. Eight Council Members voted to approve the raises and seven voted to approve the retention bonuses that will be paid after Sept. 30 if the eligible employee was actively employed full time and available to work since June 26.

AIRPORT PLANNING

The Metropolitan Airports Commis-

sion (MAC) has opened a comment period on the MSP Airport 2040 Long-Term Plan that they began drafting in 2019. The plan will outline future facility and infrastructure needs at the airport, as well as how to address future environmental factors including noise. On July 11, there was a public presentation at the Sabathani Community Center and written comments on the draft plan are being accepted through an online form, by email, or by mail until 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21. To learn more, visit www.msppairport.com/long-term-plan.

FOOD MATTERS PROJECT

The city, through its Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, has joined the Natural Resources Defense Council's Food Matters project along with other cities, like Baltimore, Denver, and Nashville, to help reduce food waste through policies and programs and reach the city's goal of recycling and composting 80% of citywide waste by 2030.

BLACK PLASTIC PHASE OUT

By the end of the year, black plastic to-go containers will no longer be accepted under the city's Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance that limits what can be used as take out containers in Minneapolis. They will be added to polystyrene, plastic-lined paper cups and plates, and styrofoam containers that have been banned since 2015. The material cannot be sorted or sold by recycling

facilities and they are not being recycled.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

Hennepin County is hosting a community collection event from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 11, and Saturday, Aug. 12 at Patrick Henry High School, 4320 Newton Ave. N. where county residents can dispose of unwanted garden and household hazardous wastes. Visit Hennepin County's household hazardous waste collection event webpage for a list of items you can bring to the event, to review safety guidelines, and to see the list of all 2023 events.

311 SYSTEM CHANGES

Starting July 19, people calling 311 will be greeted with "Thank you for calling Minneapolis 311. To continue this call in English, say 'English' or press 1. [In Spanish] For Spanish, say 'Spanish' or press 2. [In Somali] For Somali, press 3. [In Hmong] For Hmong, press 4." Callers choosing English or Spanish will then be asked to say what they need help with and the new system will use speech recognition to connect them with the best person to help. Callers who choose Somali or Hmong will get a menu of touch-tone options to connect them more quickly to the right person.

Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.

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SUZIE MARTY

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

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Source: 'Demand Generation', Feb 2021, Mindshare/MediaCom/Wavemaker/GroupM/Gain Theroy. The payback series analyzed the ROI of 60 brands with annual turnover of \$23b, and \$450m in advertising. Data is based on 14 finance brands. Total News is primarily based on print and magazine data.



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