

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • AUGUST 3, 2023 • VOL. 2 • NO. 14 • 25,000 CIRCULATION



5 BACK 2 SCHOOL: Let's talk school lunches with U of M

2 Police won't move back into Lake and Minnehaha site

4 LETTERS: Woe in the Wedge, see pollinator gardens

10 2023 Election: city council candidates on ballot again



BIKING WITH PURPOSE

Joyful Riders Club and Slow Roll MSP bring people together to bike, learn about their environments, and gain confidence in their abilities.

By **Talia McWright**

Patrick Stephenson of Minneapolis peddled on his electric cargo bike from the Minnesota State Capitol, cheering as music blasted from DJ Eric on Saturday, June 17, 2023. The Joyful Riders Club was off to ride to the Choose How You Move Frogtown Fair, where fun activities and ice cream awaited their arrival.

Stephenson became passionate about biking in 2010 when he began commuting to work. In 2011, he launched a community biking challenge, 30 Days of Biking, on Twitter. Through 30 Days of Biking, Stephenson connected with Mario Macaruso, and the two led bike rides together. Five years later the challenge grew into an organization called The Joyful Riders Club. The bike club is open to the community, meeting at least once once a month.

"I just want these rides to create really cool experiences for people where they're making awesome memories," Stephenson

People join the Hotter than July Southside Late Solstice Roll with Slow Roll MSP ride on Thursday, June 29 that started and ended at 3rd Avenue and 38th St. They rode around Lake Harriet and learned how to change a bike tire. (Photos by Talia McWright)

said.

During the start of the 2020 pandemic, The Joyful Riders Club stopped meeting. Life changes, like growing families, also created a shift in the organization. Before the pandemic, a large focus for the club was adult connection through biking. The club was sponsored by Surly Brewing, where the group would often gather at the end of the ride for free drinks and conversation.

"Everytime people would walk out of Surly, they'd have a Surly smile," Macaruso said. "That kind of became The Joyful Riders logo - you look at the smile."

The Joyful Riders Club picked back up in April of 2022, this time with a different focus and no longer sponsored by Surly Brewing. Stephenson met Eric Moran, a bike enthusiast that found a way to DJ during rides. Moran has been a rave and club DJ since the early 2000s. After discovering a video of a UK-based DJ who mounted music equipment on a bike, Moran was inspired to do the same. Stephenson and Moran built the DJ bike trailer at Perennial Cycle (3342 Hennepin Ave. S.), which started a new era of DJ bike rides.

"We have two origin stories," Stephen-

son said. "The origin story of The Joyful Riders Club, and then the origin story of where Eric came into the picture, because he gave us a lot of new energy."

Now The Joyful Riders Club host more family-friendly rides for bikers of all skill levels. The rides are often during the daytime, but some still take place at night, with plenty of bike lights to ensure safety, and music to encourage dancing.

"We're riding slow, we're making friends, we're not judging each other," Stephenson said.

The DJ Dance Party ride on June 17 started with Macaruso handing out donuts to all who came. The ride was around 30 minutes long. Families, adults and kids joined to experience the event, and enjoy the Choose How You Move Frogtown fair at the end of the ride, hosted by Move Minnesota at the Lilypad Garden in St. Paul.

"The joyful riders always have some cool destinations, and do things to support the community," said Jeanne Kaplan, a Joyful Riders Club member since 2016. "I'm glad to see more of Frogtown."

The Joyful Riders Club has partnered with organizations

WHAT'S NEXT STEP FOR RENT STABILIZATION?

City council vote ends effort to put second rent question on ballot in last two years

By **Cam Gordon**

The Minneapolis city council voted in June to end the effort to get a rent stabilization proposal on the ballot this year.

In narrow 5-4 vote, the council rejected sending an ordinance amendment forward into its committee process in order to meet the timeline to get it on the ballot in November. The vote was taken on June 28 and several council members, candidates and activists agree that the timing was poor.

Two relevant votes were taken at the meeting when three council members were absent. This included the authors of the proposed ordinance, Ward 10's Aisha Chughtai and Ward 6's Jamal Osman, as well as Ward 5 Council Member Jeremiah Ellison. The 28th was also this year's date for the celebration of Eid al-Adha, a traditional Muslim holy day.

"As the three Muslim members of the Minneapolis City Council, we were observing Eid with our families and community when we learned of this news," said the three council members in a joint statement after the meeting. "It is a common practice for council leadership to reschedule meetings that conflict with major holidays."

▶ 3

DRAWING IN THE MOMENT

By **Talia McWright**

Anita White, age 70, "draws in the moment." Anywhere, any time, the artist has blank sheets of paper, a pencil and sometimes even watercolor paint ready to capture the moments of daily life. Even emotionally difficult moments, like that of her husband passing away in the hospital.



White grew up in south Minneapolis on Hennepin Avenue and now lives in Longfellow. White's father, originally from Texas, taught English, film and poetry at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD). Her mother was born in Vienna, Austria, surrounded by a culture of opera. White has an entire folder of opera drawings inspired by her mother. In their house, there was no shortage of art.

▶ 3

▶ 6

POLICE WON'T MOVE BACK INTO LAKE AND MINNEHAHA SITE

Third Precinct officers will house with First Precinct at Century Plaza for now, money set aside to evaluate 3000 Minnehaha site

By **Cam Gordon**

Police won't be moving back into the Third Precinct building at East Lake St. and Minnehaha Ave. that was set ablaze after the murder of George Floyd by Third Precinct officers.

DeYoung Consulting Services (DYCS) was hired to gather community feedback. While doing so, DYCS was met with a groundswell of community concern and neighborhood opposition to either loca-

tion.

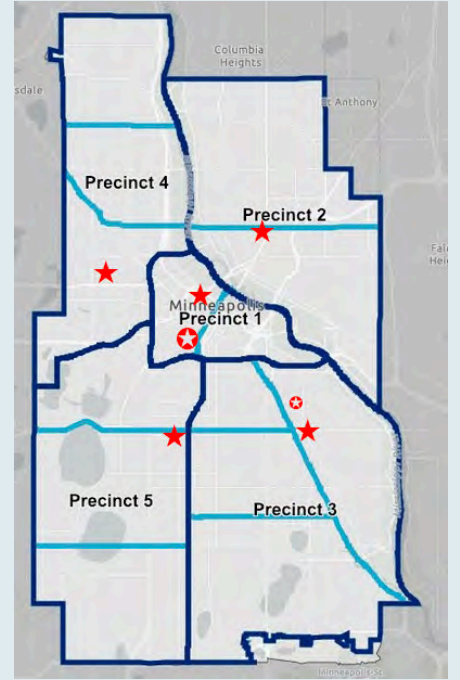
Third Precinct staff will relocate to the downtown Century Plaza building at 330 S. 12th St., which will also be the new home of the First Precinct. The First Precinct includes downtown and the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. The Century Plaza building is not located in the south-side's Third Precinct area, but is closer than the City of Lake building (309 2nd Ave. S.) where the precinct staff currently operate out of.

The council voted to request proposals for non-law enforcement development of the city-owned land at 2600 Minnehaha Ave S.; and to support a truth and reconciliation process by moving \$555,000 from the police department to the department of race, equity, inclusion, and belonging for truth and reconciliation programming. >> [Read more online.](#)

CENTURY PLAZA BUILDING

6-story, 300,000-square-foot building on 3 acres at 1101 3rd Ave. S. Vacant since 2017.

- Built in 1932 for use as a girls' vocational high school, Miller Vocational High School, by the Minneapolis School Board.
- Hillcrest Development converted it into office and retail in the 1980s. The auditorium was demolished and a parking ramp built.
- Hennepin County purchased building in 1996 and it operated as the central hub for the social services division. In 2017, the county moved out to six service centers.
- Entity related to Swervo Development paid \$7.5 million for the 441,840-square-foot building with plans to convert it into a hotel.
- In 2023, Minneapolis announced plans to move its First Precinct into the building, and also house the Third Precinct there.





Take me home, country roads, To the place I belong...

John Denver

If you belong in the city...

Call us.

612-845-5273



Diane Mach & Larry LaVercombe
REALTORS THAT ROCK!

DianeandLarry.com | larry@larrylavercombe.com

Locally Owned, Community Focused.



LAKES AREA REALTY

Step Outside!

Design • Patios • Retaining Walls • Gardens • Lawns



Join soil health, landscaping, and gardening expert Russ Henry on the Dirt Stage at the **MINNESOTA STATE FAIR**




EVERYONE WITH A YARD CAN BE A CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE HERO!

Grow a healthier habitat at home. Invite bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators to your outdoor oasis.

There are 5 things you can do right now:

1. Focus on healthy soil — the foundation of all ecosystem and human health.
2. Replace some of your lawn with bee lawns and gardens.
3. Add pollinator plants and native fruit trees.
4. Never use water soluble fertilizers or any type of herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides.
5. Invite wildlife with bird baths and fountains.

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



Call us at **612-724-5454** to see what is possible with great landscape design and organic gardening.

MinnehahaFallsLandscape.com

Minnehaha Falls Landscaping creates outdoor environments that grow beauty, and support health and wellness. From this foundation grows our garden division, Giving Tree Gardens and our advocacy branch, Bee Safe Minneapolis.

▶1 RENT STABILIZATION

VOTING PROCEDURE

The votes themselves were close. The first vote passed with six affirmative votes, which is less than a majority of the council, which is seven, but was a majority of the nine members in attendances. That vote defeated the motion to send the proposal through the committee process. The second vote was to “return it to author” and, according to the city clerk Casey Carl, is a motion to “postpones the item indefinitely.” That motion that Carl said “killed” that “item” was made by Linea Palmisano, and passed with only five votes with Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson abstaining and Council Members Elliot Payne, Robin Wonsley, Jason Chavez, and Andrea Jenkins voting against return to author.

“I’m shocked right now. There’s three Muslim council members celebrating Eid with their families” said Chavez. “And this is notice of introduction being referred to committee and its not even the policy to be voted on.”

“We ought to be ashamed of ourselves as a body for not being able to govern and follow democratic norms,” said Payne.

OPPOSITION TO FRAMEWORK 5 MODEL

Koski and Palmisano stressed that their opposition was tied to the fact that the proposal was aligned with a specific, often called strong, rent stabilization framework recommended by a work group appointed by the council and mayor last year.

“I do not support, and have never supported, a rent stabilization ordinance modeled after the framework 5 model proposed by the housing/rent stabilization work group with a 3% fixed rent increase cap, no adjustment for CPI [Consumer Price Index], vacancy control, no rent banking, no exemptions,” said Koski when asked about it after the meeting ended. “And, I never intended to, nor gave any indication that I intended to, support moving forward a rent stabilization ordinance modeled after the framework 5 model.”

The work group voted to recommend the so-called “framework 5” policies in December of 2022, and, in June of this year, the council approved a motion to draft a rent stabilization ordinance in line with those policies.

“This ordinance would have been among the strictest policies in the nation, mandating an annual 3% rent cap with few exceptions. I have been consistently on record that I do not support such a drastic proposal,” said Palmisano in her e-newsletter following the meeting. “The City Council has been presented a multitude of data showing the negative impacts of a rent stabilization ordinance and recommending against its implementation.”

In April, following the work group recommendation, city staff presented an analysis to the council that suggested it could discourage maintenance, encourage annual rent increases of the maximum amount allowed, slow the production of



The three Muslim members of the Minneapolis City Council were absent for the vote on rent stabilization as they were celebrating Eid al-Adha, a traditional Muslim holy day. (Let to right) Ward 10’s Aisha Chughtai and Ward 6’s Jamal Osman had authored the proposed ordinance; also absent was Ward 5’s Jeremiah Ellison. All members of the city council are up for re-election in November 2023.

new housing, and result is a loss of new rental housing over the next 10 years.

Several work group members who voted in support of framework 5, wrote an open letter to the council following the city council meeting on June 28. Kadra Abdi from the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, Jennifer Arnold of Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia, Maura Brown from The Alliance, Mary Kaczorek of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, renter Rico Morales, landlord Yolanda Roth, Daniel Suitor from HOME Line, AsaleSol Young of Urban Homeworks, and José A. Zayas Cabán from Rente wrote, “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.”

‘TAKE IT TO THE BALLOT BOX’

Candidates for city council have also shared concerns.

“The motion to return to author that was made by CVP Palmisano in the absence of rent control champions, may have closed the topic for the remainder of the year, but it did nothing to resolve the rent control discussion,” said Ward 13 City Council candidate Kate Mortenson. “What it did was deal a devastating blow to working relationships on council, for the un-democratic and disenfranchising maneuver that exploited religious differences within the body to score, at best, a deferment. I feel that rent control is bad policy, but we may soon find that, so too, is trickery. In the upcoming election, there’s not likely going to be a pick-up of another centrist vote, which leaves those (like me) who don’t support rent control with an even tougher environment in which to craft a satisfying outcome.”

“It’s hypocritical of Minneapolis leadership that this vote took place on Eid, while three Muslim council members (including two bill authors) were absent,” said Ward 8 City Council candidate Soren Stevenson. “City leadership has the responsibility to create an inclusive and democratic process and failed to do that. Pushing forward with the vote stopped the city council from being able to work together to develop and form a rent stabilization policy. This is undemocratic and does a great disservice to Minneapolis residents, especially to our Muslim neighbors and renters.”

The Home to Stay coalition also released a statement following the meeting. “We’re incredibly disappointed that

this year’s path towards rent stabilization ended with today’s vote, especially with the way the vote happened,” they wrote.

While some focused on the disappointment with the delay, others, including Hone to Stay, are also looking to the future.

“Today was incredibly frustrating,” they wrote, “but our coalition won’t stop fighting until we win a policy that keeps Minneapolis families in our homes and our city truly becomes a place where all of our families can thrive.”

“Our sights are now set for 2024,” wrote Minneapolis United for Rent Control, another coalition supporting rent control. “To win, we need a movement of renters and supportive homeowners organized building by building and block by block. The Minneapolis City Council must use their positions to build a movement to overcome opposition from Mayor Frey and the conservative majority on the City Council.”

“I am committed to working towards the strong rent stabilization policy that my neighbors in Ward 8 voted for,” said Stevenson. “There is harm done to our neighbors and our neighborhoods with every month that goes by without a policy. Renters need protection provided by the city and communities need the stability that this protection will ensure. Our current city leadership has failed to deliver the policy that we instructed them to provide.”

Others appear to see the end of the rent stabilization effort as a chance to focus on other strategies to address housing needs.

“Our city staff, our experts here at city hall, were abundantly clear on this matter: a rent stabilization policy would not effectively address the problem of renter cost-burden, because it does not target relief to those who are experiencing renter cost-burden,” Koski said. She is concerned that a rent stabilization ordinance could hurt efforts to build new housing. “We need to focus on supporting, and furthering our investment in, known effective strategies to relieve renter cost-burden, and a rent stabilization policy isn’t one of them,” she said.

“With the possibility of a rent stabilization ordinance off the table, the City Council can now shift its focus to policies proven to help renters and increase housing availability,” said Palmisano. “I am committed to protecting our most vulnerable residents and providing real, practical help to our city’s renters. Solving the housing crisis requires a multifaceted approach,

VOTERS SUPPORT RENT CONTROL

In the 2021 general election, 53% (or 75,598 voters) approved authorizing city council to enact a rent control ordinance. This was the question on the ballot: Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to authorize the City Council to regulate rents on private residential property in the City of Minneapolis, with the general nature of the amendments being indicated in the explanatory note below, which is made a part of this ballot?”

The City Council can enact an ordinance or the City Council may refer the ordinance as a ballot question.

Minneapolis City Council created the Rent Stabilization Work Group in August 2022. The 25-member group was charged with submitting recommendations on a policy framework for rent stabilization. Members included six renters, three property owners, three developers, and 13 people from organizations that do affordable housing work. They were Ryan Taylor, Jonathan Kim, Jose A. Zayas, Jimmy Lee Harris, Rico Morales, Peggy Clark, Yolanda Roth, Kayla Gibbons, Dan Largen, Asalesol Young, Joseph Peris, Henry Parker, Bruce Brunner, Daniel Suitor, Ellen Sahli, Alex Kane, Cathy Capone Bennett, Kelly Elkin, Kim Smith-Moore, Sue Speakman-Gomez, Kadra Abdi, Maura Brown, Eric J. Myers, Jennifer Arnold and Cecil Smith.

At a December 2022, 56% of the group voted to recommend a policy that caps rent at 3% increases with no exemptions.

The preferred policy framework largely replicates the original adopted policy by St. Paul voters in 2021.

and our work is far from finished.”

The city council elections in November could change who is on the council and could make a difference.

“Take it to the ballot box,” said Ward 2 Council member Robin Wonsley at the June meeting. “Democracy has failed here.”

“The price of rent is not the problem. The price of everything is the problem,” said Mortenson. “Because rent is the single biggest monthly expense for many folks, it tends to be cast the villain. The thing that needs to literally ‘be fixed.’ It’s really important to have a rational discussion of the long tail of consequences that an across-the-board cap would unloose, and an exploration of sensible options to address a real problem of affordability. We need elected officials who will get out in the community to stump for a sensible, sound approach.”

The work group members say that they “will not allow the events of June 28 to be forgotten as the debate over rent stabilization continues,” and “will continue to work to obtain the policy that the people of Minneapolis need and deserve.”

You can count your community newspaper.

The stories and moments in the life of our community that matter to you can be found here each edition, delivered free of charge right to your home and at www.SWConnector.com.

Our Voluntary Pay program

helps ensure that we not only continue to deliver the best local news and information, but to also continuously improve upon the service we offer our readers and business partners.



CONNECTOR VOLUNTARY PAY

Support your neighborhood newspaper. Not something you can do right now? That’s ok. We’ll still deliver to your door. You can also rest assured that we won’t share your contact info with anyone. Mail 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please write your check out to TMC Publications or donate online at www.SWconnector.com

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____

I’M INTERESTED IN READING:

- Green Living
- Food & Drink
- Health & Wellness
- Business & Development
- Historical tidbits
- Sports
- Pets
- Employment
- Arts & Entertainment
- 55+ plus lifestyle
- Home & Garden
- School news
- Kids Corner
- Finance & Money
- Bicycling
- Neighborhood news

in Household: _____

Age/s: 0-19 20-99 30-44 45-64 65+

CREATING A NEW COMMUNITY STORY TOGETHER

There's a hero in each one of us, and we all have a role to play.

Everything begins with a story. Joseph Campbell believed this, and he knew a few things about stories.

Campbell lived from 1904 to 1987 and was considered one of the world's experts on mythology, the stories and legends told by human beings throughout time to explain the universe and our place in it. He wrote or edited 20 books that have influenced writers, artists, filmmakers, scholars, and students, including George Lucas, who credited Campbell's ideas as a key inspiration for the "Star Wars" saga.

Campbell's most influential work was "The Hero with a Thousand Faces," a book published in 1949. In this, he introduced the concept of the hero's journey, a universal narrative pattern found in myths and stories from cultures worldwide. Campbell identified common stages and archetypes in these narratives, highlighting the underlying unity of human storytelling. These timeless archetypes continue to have a powerful influence on the choices we make and the ways we live.

We are at a critical point in human history. We also are at a critical point in the history of Minneapolis. Especially when it comes to public safety and having



By **Eric Ortiz**



Minneapolis needs all hands on deck to create a connected city that works for everyone. (Daniel McCullough/Unsplash)

a healthy city for all. Minneapolis Community Safety Commissioner Cedric Alexander is retiring after one year on the job. His appointment was lauded as a "seminal" moment in the city's history. But after Alexander earned \$334,000 in annual salary as Minneapolis' highest-paid staffer — more than Mayor Jacob Frey and Gov. Tim Walz combined — is the city making progress?

While some crimes are down, according to data tracked by the Minneapolis Police Department, 4,700 vehicles were reported stolen across the city in 2023 (as of July 16). That's about 24 per day, a 70 percent increase from 2022 and double the average of the past three years by July. At this pace, Minneapolis will exceed last year's record-high 6,100 car thefts, the Star Tribune reports. Meanwhile, across

the river in St. Paul, car thefts are down 32 percent from a year ago, the result of proactive policing tactics and taking repeat offenders off the streets.

Many of the repeat offenders are kids. Many of them are stealing Kias and Hyundais, the preferred car of choice for thieves. One reason for the trend, authorities say, is the "Kia Boyz," a social media challenge that encouraged teenagers to steal Kia and Hyundai cars and post the results on TikTok, Snapchat and YouTube for social media clout.

Minneapolis is taking steps to curb this destructive behavior. Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara has instructed officers to request that underage suspects be held in custody and face a judge instead of being released pending charges. In June, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty announced the launch of a new collaboration with local police to combat youth auto theft.

"We cannot ignore early warning signs that a child is headed down the wrong path," Moriarty said. "Youth stealing cars and driving dangerously puts lives at risk and is unacceptable. But what we adults have been doing is not enough. This initiative gets the system and community working together to help kids and families who are at risk, and to intervene early before a kid hurts themselves or someone else."

Targeting individuals stealing cars (or committing any crime) can reduce offenses. Taking measures to intervene and create accountability are steps in the right direction, but what else can we do as a community to address the root causes of negative behavior? How can we work together to help prevent crime from happen-

ing in the first place?

The struggle between right and wrong is nothing new. All humans deal with this struggle. For youth, the struggle is more pronounced since they are still developing. Social media has compounded the problem.

How can we do more to create environments and opportunities that encourage youth to make the right decisions, where youth get "clout" for strengthening their communities instead of hurting them?

As Joseph Campbell said in "The Power of Myth," his beloved conversations with journalist Bill Moyers, "Our life evokes our character, and you find out more about yourself as you go on."

We all have the power to change the story. We can create the community we want to see. It's a choice.

The dark side is greed, the fear of change, the inability to let go. Holding on to things leads to anger and hate. This leads to suffering. The light side brings calmness and peace.

The hero's journey is a metaphor for personal growth, self-discovery, and the universal human quest for meaning. It represents the trials, challenges, and transformations we encounter in our own lives as we embark on our individual journeys of fulfillment and self-realization.

There's a hero in each one of us. We just have to awaken our higher nature.



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.

WOE IN THE WEDGE

Residing in the same block as 2312 South Lyndale building burned last Dec. 3, I'm growing increasingly appalled at repeated mishandling of incident. Taking out recyclables, literally glad to smell rotting trash instead of presumptive flesh from burnpit nearby. Current council member hasn't responded to inquiries, but MFD's public report suggests handful of individuals sheltering there unaccounted for. City, meantime, has made no outreach to update, or apologize to, neighbors who witnessed conflagration.

Now learn it's waiting for owner to remove rubble, whose neglect in first place led to blaze. Having torn down shell after snowstorm Jan. 5, this makes little sense. Might we not respectfully clear debris, mindful of potential victims, and bill back insurer half year later now, full year after condemnation?

Intersecting multiple issues, from bad landlords and lack of affordable housing, to ineffective policing reveals manifold inability to address urban problems. Gap in cityscape signals gap in governance fellow Minneapolitans can see passing by,

yet reelection looms. Altogether avoidable catastrophe here almost predictable, given history of tentfires at encampments.

Ward overseen should not come to resemble wartorn wasteland, overlooked, while de facto allowance for cremation of unsheltered is not progressive policy toward ending homelessness.

Should end campaign, however, "Viva Warsame"?
Doug Bjostad (Social Democrat)

POLLINATOR GARDENS

A really neat pollinator-friendly garden on the Greenway (2841 5th Ave. S.) is the Urban Ventures Farm; six beehives, cherry orchard, one-acre organic vegetables for the community and chickens.

Keep up the good work!

Yours,

Mark-Peter Lundquist
Urban Ventures staff and Kingfield resident



LETTERS

BUS CHANGES COMING

Metro Transit just announced its bus service improvements going into effect Saturday, Aug. 19 2023. (Service changes always start on a Saturday to get the kinks out before Monday.) Thanks to success in hiring new drivers, the driver shortage is alleviated and more service is being added to routes that need it most. The following routes in the Southwest Connector readership area will see more buses soon:

- The Orange Line will run every 15 minutes instead of every half hour on weekdays until 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

- Route 2 will run every 10 minutes instead of every 15 minutes between 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

- Route 9 will run every half hour instead of once an hour in the early mornings and early evenings on weekdays, and all day on Saturdays.

- Route 17 will have fewer stops, improving the speed of the line. The confusing 17C and 17D branches in the Saint Louis Park/Hopkins area will be simplified. All buses going to the area will be 17D, and they will all stop at Knollwood Target and the part of Hopkins on the other side of



By **John Wilson**

Highway 7 in both directions. Currently, the 17D crosses Highway 7 without going to Target outbound, and only the infrequent 17C actually goes to Target, though both branches stop at Target inbound. This lunacy will be no more!

- Route 18 will run every 10 minutes instead of every 15 minutes on weekday from noon to 6:30 p.m. as far as 66th St.

- The Route 46 trip which starts at Vernon and Eden in Edina at 7:30 a.m. will leave two minutes earlier.

I am planning a new series for the "Transit Connector" on where specific bus routes in the Southside Pride readership area go, and on how to ride the bus. If you have specific questions for me, please email news@swconnector.com.

Quality public transit depends on two things: the transit agency, which in the Twin Cities is Metro Transit, and the people, including Southwest Connector readers. Just like almost everything else, Metro Transit suffered during the pandemic. Then, to add insult to injury (or maybe just to add more injury), the sudden rise in crime and violence on Metro Transit vehicles and property caused many people to avoid the buses and trains. Then they had a driver shortage and a hard time hiring new drivers, even after major wage increases. Now that things are turning around, it is up to us, the people, to give Metro Transit another chance to be the public service it was before 2020. Please learn what you can, make suggestions for improvement when you can, and use Metro Transit when it makes sense to.



We want to hear from you.
Email news@SWconnector.com

Send us letters, press releases, events listings, and notes.

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.

Owner & Publisher:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-345-9998,
tesha@swconnector.com
Editor: 612-255-1181,
news@swconnector.com

Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the Connector. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@swconnector.com.

Unsigned letters will not run.

Advertising & Marketing:

Suzie Marty, 612-255-1180,
ads@swconnector.com

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183,
denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Sandra Mikulsky, 612-260-7967,
sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com

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.

The Connector is for profit and for a purpose

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

All rights reserved. The contents of the Connector cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2023.

Sister publications: Midway Como Frogtown Monitor and Longfellow Nokomis Messenger.



5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis,
MN 55417 • 612-345-9998

SWconnector.com

www.facebook.com/swconnector/
[Instagram: southwest_connector](https://www.instagram.com/southwest_connector)



TALKING HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES WITH U OF M

All students in the state of Minnesota will get free breakfast and lunch starting this next school year. With more children now likely to eat two meals a day at school, many parents are grateful for the provided food, while simultaneously wondering how to ensure their kids are getting good nutrition and healthy options away from home.

Leonard Marquart, Ph.D., director of graduate studies for the Master of Professional Studies in Applied Sciences Leadership in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies and associate professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, answers questions about how school leaders, caregivers and community members can come together to make healthy school meals a priority.

Q: How can I know if my child is getting proper nutrition when eating school meals?

Dr. Marquart: We all know how important it is for children to get enough calories for growth and development, but it's important to consider the quality of those calories too. The best thing parents and caregivers can do is talk to their children and find out what they're eating when away from home. What did they eat for breakfast and lunch? What foods did they enjoy and what foods did they avoid? Did they have any fruits, vegetables or whole grains with their meals? These are great questions for car rides to and from school or extracurricular activities. Finding out what your child is offered and what they choose to eat can help you better advocate for nutritious choices in the cafeteria. It's also important for caregivers to educate children about how they can choose healthier options.

Q: How can I advocate for healthier cafeteria food in my school?

Dr. Marquart: Parent advocacy is best done through an understanding and communicative relationship with the food service director, who is your friend and advocate. They are responsible for the production of nutritious and delicious meals in the cafeteria, while also adhering to all governmental regulations. As you can imagine, it's an extremely complicated job with many different factors dictating the food that ultimately ends up on the lunchroom table. To complicate things further, food service directors must also balance offering meals that are both nutritious and palatable for children. For example, adding more whole grains is beneficial for kids because whole grains include fiber, vitamins



Providing healthy school lunches requires collaboration from the entire food system, points out Dr. Leonard Marquart, of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences.

and minerals, and promote digestive health and well-being. Unfortunately, most children don't enjoy 100% whole grain products. So a potential solution could be to offer bread that is 50% whole grain and tastes similar to familiar white bread, then gradually increasing the amount of whole grains as student tastebuds adjust.

Q: What barriers do schools face when providing healthy meals for kids?

Dr. Marquart: Providing healthy school lunches requires collaboration from the entire food system. Schools must have access to healthy foods that fit within their budget. Staff must have the knowledge to choose healthy offerings and the skillset and equipment to prepare these foods in a way that kids will actually eat. However, we as community members, businesses and society must all believe and care enough to allow school meals to be all that they can be. The next big breakthrough in nutrition will come when we figure out how to intentionally work together toward food security. How to allow the healthy choice to be the easy, affordable and tasty choice. By identifying and breaking down those barriers, we can allow the right food to be in the right place at the right time.

Q: How can parents work with school leaders, local farmers and community businesses to prioritize healthy school breakfasts and lunches?

Dr. Marquart: Families can educate their children about healthy options and advocate for changes with school staff, but

they can not make impactful change alone.

Major sectors including government, industry, academia and major disciplines (biological, behavioral and technological) must work together to successfully impact this area. This necessitates new mental models of how to work together in creating, delivering and serving healthier school meals. The ultimate quality of food delivered into the school cafeteria all depends on the intentions and working relationships of those who grow, process, deliver and serve the food.

▶ Leonard Marquart, Ph.D., is the director of graduate studies for the Master of Professional Studies in Applied Sciences Leadership in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies and an associate professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. His teaching, research and outreach have focused on whole grains and health via food systems approaches connecting the food value chain, food environments and community settings.

Prepare FOR A GLOBAL FUTURE

MANDARIN CHINESE IMMERSION SCHOOL
K-8 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
TUITION-FREE, IN NE MINNEAPOLIS
OPENED IN 2006
FREE BUSING IN MINNEAPOLIS

Named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in 2015

英華 | YINGHUA ACADEMY

1616 Buchanan St NE | Minneapolis, MN 55413 | www.yinghuaacademy.org

Experience Excellence:
 Top Immersion School,
 Nurturing Global Citizens
 for a Bright Future!

To learn more or schedule a
 tour, contact Claire Little,
claire.little@yinghuaacademy.org

Apply NOW!
 Accepting 4th, 5th, & 6th graders for Fall 2023

lakecountryschool.org

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE of ART and DESIGN

Explore Lifelong Learning for All

Expand your career skills or deepen your creative practice. Classes include graphic design, UX design, illustration, printmaking, painting, and much more. Register between August 1-14 for a \$25 early-bird discount.

CONTINUING_EDUCATION@MCAD.EDU

MCAD.EDU/CE

BIKING WITH PURPOSE

like the Lynx and held a ride for the Lynx home opener on Friday, May 19. The club also hosts donation-based rides for back to school supplies, cold weather supply drive, housing insecurity and more. Their hope is to continue working and partnering with the community to meet needs and foster joy on their bike rides.

"We always make people smile when you have a big ol' group of bikers roll past," Stephenson said. "And then the music adds a new spontaneity to it because then we might get people dancing."

BLACK BIKERS OF MINNESOTA

Slow Roll MSP is another local biking organization that cultivates community through movement. St. Paul resident Anthony Taylor brought Slow Roll to Minnesota in 2015 after a trip to Detroit, Mich. An avid cyclist, Taylor belonged to the Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota, which was founded in 1999. The group centers itself with the Black community, and focuses on the sport of cycling. Slow Roll, also centered on Black community, offered a difference in pace and purpose.

"It really is not a bike ride," Taylor said. "It happens on a bike, but it really is a program to reintroduce people to the community, experience new art, restaurants and find some freedom."

A large aspect of Slow Roll is about encouraging people, specifically Black people, to have autonomy over their bodies through movement. Taylor curates the rides so that the pace is slow and consistent. Ride leaders are stationed at the front and the back of the group. Traffic is blocked off to ensure safety, and gestures like raised fists, and vocal cues like "Hole on the right!" communicate to the group when to stop or move.

"The struggle for Black people has always been around mobility," Taylor said. "It has been that historically White supremacy has been about controlling Black bodies, controlling their mobility and their ability to move freely."

The beginning of the pandemic and the murder of George Floyd were a turning point for Slow Roll. The group grew in



Joyful Riders Club DJ, Eric Moran puts his headphones on for the DJ dance party ride on Saturday, June 17. (Photo by Talia McWright)

[▶ MORE PHOTOS @ SWCONNECTOR.COM](#)



On Saturday, June 17, 2023, the Joyful Riders Club gathered at the Minnesota State Capitol before leaving for the DJ dance party ride at the Frogtown Fair. (Photo by Talia McWright)

size and relationship as the community mourned together. During that time, the group had its first "Blackout Ride," intend-

ed solely for Black community members to join together in solidarity. The goal of the "Blackout" ride was to care for the



Joyful Riders Club member Mario Macaruso high fives Joyful Riders kids on Saturday, June 17. (Photo by Talia McWright)

emotional needs of the community.

"I mean it was literally crazy," Taylor said. "And we had 300 Black people show up."

On Thursday, June 29, Slow Roll MSP held a Hotter than July Southside Late Solstice Roll. Bikers started on 3rd Avenue in Minneapolis, traveled around Lake Harriet, and returned to 3rd Avenue. Bikes and helmets are provided to those who need them. Before each ride, The Slow Roll team reviews bike safety measures. During the ride on June 17, the team even gave a demonstration on how to change a flat tire.

No one knows the entire route except for Taylor and his Slow Roll team. The reason is because for Slow Roll, the ride truly is about the journey and not the destination. Doing so ensures safety by tailoring the ride to people that need support but, more than this, it promotes relationships and a sense of togetherness, said Taylor. The only rules are that everyone has to meet someone they don't know, and see something in the neighborhood they've never seen before. The ride always starts and ends at the same place. At the end of the ride, food is served and prepared by a community chef using produce grown from community gardens. Riders gather to eat together as the DJ plays music.

"The bike ride is fun," said Shonda Thomas of Plymouth, a Slow Roll member since 2022. "It doesn't feel like exercise, and I always walk away meeting someone I would have never crossed paths with in my regular life."

At some point during each ride, Taylor will stop to explain



DO THE MATH!

It costs 50¢ /piece to mail a promotional flyer to local residents letting them know about your business, organization or upcoming event.

That does not include design, production, and printing charges.



For only **14¢/piece** you can have a 4-color flyer **PRINTED AND DELIVERED** with the *Connector!*

Contact Suzie at Ads@swConnector.com | 612-255-1180



Elevate Your Eyewear
Find hand-crafted quality from around the world, right in Linden Hills. Family owned and operated by eyewear fanatics since 2012.
4318 Upton Av S, Minneapolis
owloptical.com • 612-367-4106



THE PESTO'S YET TO BE!

Weekend Brunch
SAT. & SUN. 9AM-4PM



CORNER OF LAKE & IRVING
PINOLI-MPLS.COM

Rooftop Patio Open!



Anthony Taylor and Slow Roll members started and ended at 3rd Avenue and 38th St. and then rode around Lake Harriet during the Hotter than July Southside Late Solstice Roll on Thursday, June 29. Taylor spoke about the area's history at points during the ride. Riders know the start point but not the route of rides and take it slow together. (Photos by Talia McWright)



6 BIKING WITH PURPOSE

the historical significance of a community, business or organization and how it relates to historically marginalized communities in Minnesota. Doing so allows community members to gain new knowledge and perspectives of the neighborhoods. "It changes the way that they [riders]

understand the community," Taylor said. "Cars inherently never put you in community. They move you through community, and bikes put you in community where you can feel the texture of the road." Slow Roll often partners with art, health and youth initiatives and organizations across the state. The group has also held rides with other Minnesota biking or-



TAKE A BIKE RIDE

SLOW ROLL

Slow Roll typically meets in different locations of St. Paul and Minneapolis on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Ride dates and locations are posted on Facebook @Slow Roll MSP.



JOYFUL RIDERS MSP

The Joyful Riders Club typically meets once monthly at various locations in the Twin Cities.

Ride dates and locations are posted on Facebook @Joyful Riders Club, and Instagram @ Joyfulridersclub.

At Slow Roll events, there are bikes for those who need them, and the June 29 event included a demonstration on how to change a tire. The event ended with an outdoor picnic at 38th and 3rd. (Photos by Talia McWright) [▶ MORE PHOTOS @ SWCONNECTOR.COM](#)

ganizations. One ride included Major Taylor, Biking with Baddies, Slow Roll, and the West African Bike Club on a ride that provided information on how sickle cell disproportionately impacts Black lives. "I think the idea of connectedness for a cause really brings people together," Taylor said. Taylor is also in connection with the

Joyful Riders Club, and referred to the group as a good friend of Slow Roll. "I think Slow Roll is absolutely amazing, and especially love that it's a complete community-building experience that includes local food, local music, and even lender bikes for folks who need a bike for the ride," Stephenson said.

FUN CITY DOGS
Where a dog can be a dog!
Daycare & No cage boarding
Webcams 24-hour supervision South Mpls
15,000 sq ft of indoor and outdoor space
612-722-3647 • www.funcitydogs.com

SOLD!
TED BERGSTROM
Ted@TedBergstrom.com
612-723-5444
RE/MAX ADVANTAGE PLUS
THE MINNESOTA REAL ESTATE TEAM
This Kenny neighborhood Mid-Century Beauty sold in 1 day!
CALL/TEXT US FOR DETAILS!

WANT TO REACH 48,000+ PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? YOU CAN - WITH EACH EDITION OF THE CONNECTOR.

2023 Minnesota Renaissance Festival
Open Weekends Aug 19 - Oct 1
Plus Labor Day Monday, September 4th & Festival Friday, September 29th
9am - 7pm • Rain or Shine
Park & Ride Recommended
Prepaid Parking Passes Required for Onsite Parking
See Website for More Information
952.445.7361 • RenaissanceFest.com

Create a personal & professional life you love
Get started with a FREE 20-minute consult.
Michele Rae
TRANSFORMATIONAL COACHING
the Center Within
Michele@CenterWithin.com
612-465-9775 CenterWithin.com

Volunteer In Your Community
Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers age 55+ in your area to provide companionship to older adults or mentor school-age children. Volunteers commit to regular weekly hours for a tax-free stipend and mileage reimbursement. Please contact Tina at 651-310-9425 or Tina.Voss@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community.
AmeriCorps Seniors
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

CREATIVE AND CURIOUS @ ART ON THE EDGE



Angela Zabel leads a psychic gallery reading followed by a Divine Spirit Connection Class and VIP Reading on Saturday, July 22 during Art on the Edge in Linden Hills. The second annual festival was co-hosted by Everett & Charlie and The Edge magazine. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Art meets metaphysical during the second annual Art on the Edge festival in Linden Hills on July 22. (Photo courtesy of Daisy Simpson)



Christie Umboh was one of 50 vendors, showcasing visual art to transformative holistic practices. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Capturing the festival in the moment was artist James Turner. (Photo submitted)



Chalk artist Sandy Forseth works on her street mandala with nine-year-old Archer Mandelman of northeast Minneapolis. Sponsoring this year's event were the Southwest Connector, Linden Hills Dentistry, Larue's, Heart of Tibet, Lakes Area Realty, the Harriet Brasserie, Heartfelt, and Linden Hills Neighborhood Council. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Cousins Ruby Binkowski and Elliot Craig enjoy the festival with Ruby's mom, Karen Binowski of the Southwest Business Association (not shown).



Bouzoukist Greg Herriges was among the musicians who played at the second annual Art on the Edge. "This festival is a great community event," said festival organizer Suzie Marty of Everett & Charlie. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

THE PESTO'S YET TO BE!

Weekend Brunch *Happy Hour*

SAT. & SUN. EVERY DAY

9AM-4PM 3PM

pinoli

CORNER OF LAKE & IRVING
PINOLI-MPLS.COM

Expand your Universe with THE EDGE MAGAZINE

We curate information and resources that support individuals and organizations on the journey of enlightenment and self-discovery.

Now Available for Delivery!

Satisfy your curiosity with print issues of *The Edge Magazine!* Discover exclusive new content which explores all aspects of holistic living, higher consciousness, health and wellness, and the mysteries beyond.

SUBSCRIBE

What are you Curious About?

the Edge

Visit edgemagazine.net WHAT ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT?

▶1 IN THE MOMENT

"They both nurtured my creativity," White said. "It wasn't a particularly practical household."

Her father's side of the family is Greek Orthodox, and White was raised in the Christian faith. It wasn't until after her maternal grandmother passed away that her mother began to lean into her Jewish heritage. White now identifies as a Jewish woman, which greatly impacts her art and spiritual life.

White has had many adventures throughout her life. At MCAD, she studied painting and drawing, and traveled to Maine through her studies. She visited Austria and Spain in 1969. After graduating, she visited England, and then lived on an island off the west coast of Ireland. She's also been to Mexico and Romania. In each place, she developed her craft.

"It was kind of a wonderfully forlorn creative life," White said. "I placed myself in a situation that was very beautiful and inspiring, but also kind of challenging."

For 38 years, White taught art to elementary school students. Her teaching career began in 1982 in California. After she and her husband moved back to Minnesota, she continued teaching across the state.

Her drawings tell stories. White has many collections of moments and memories from her past and personal life, along with drawings of people and places. Many of her drawings are labeled with words and quotes that describe the moment. She also inserts her thoughts, and memories in between moments. Much like a story, her documentary-style drawings often have a beginning, middle and end.

"I would just say that I let life tell the story," White said.

LOVE AND LOSS

At 26 years old in 1980, White worked at Morningside Cafe in Edina as a baker. One day, a seven-foot man named Josh Bialik entered the cafe starting work as a dishwasher. Two years later he'd become her husband, as they'd fallen in love on the job.

During the last years of Bialik's life, he suffered with many health issues. The two of them spent a lot of time at HCMC. Though many of her drawings at the time were of her husband, White also engaged with many others in the hospital, drawing their unique experiences. In 2017, White held a showing of her work at the hospital called, "Dancing Through Crisis with Courage and Humor." Bialik was there to support her.

"It was really hard because I knew I was losing him," White said. "It was kind of like a slow moving thing, but art helped me."

To persevere, she imagined herself as a mountain goat. She'd routinely draw variations of a mountain goat climbing mountains, like "Mount Medical Concern," "Mount Optimism" and "Mount Prayer." The goat was sure-footed and tenacious, and helped her envision how she could hold on.

"The mountain goat represented being able to cope," White said. Her husband died at HCMC in April of 2019.

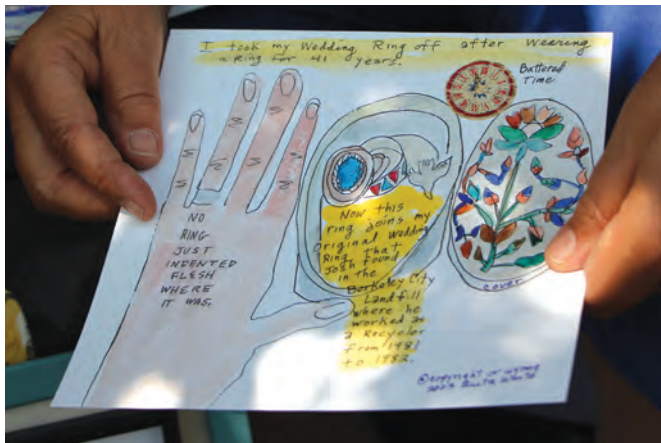
"I looked out," White said. "It was nighttime. In the whole horizon was our life together; and considering all the stress



Anita White draws Anda flamenco dancers performing at the Lake Harriet band stand on Sunday, June 25, 2023. At the end of the show, she gifts the dancers with her drawings. "It's fun to be eccentric," said White, who resides in Longfellow. (Photos by Talia McWright)



Anita White sits outside of her house, the "Amaranth Studio," flipping through drawings she's made over the years, of everyday life moments, including one of the four wedding rings she's had and lost over the years. She made the drawing because she felt her husband telling her it was time to take off her wedding ring and move forward. (Photos by Talia McWright)



they'd enjoy together. She drew his spirit as a vapor. Linger in the air above her in the drawings are Bialik, reminding her to sort out her tasks with the bank, and telling her that it's okay to take off her wedding ring and move forward.

"I miss also his intellectual presence," White said. "And he completely supported me on all of these paintings."

White continued to return to the hospital they'd spent so much time in. She'd get permission to go into different areas of the hospital, drawing members of staff, babies in the NICU, and even end-of-life hospice patients. While looking at a drawing she made of a kitchen staff member, White explained that she likes to draw those who often go unnoticed. "He's celebrating Ramadan and making cookies for everyone," she said. Being in a hospital was no longer traumatic – instead she viewed her art as meaningful work.

"I showed my work to a doctor a week ago, and he was really moved," White said. "He was like, 'I see all of this, but moving so fast.'"

MOMENTS OF JOY

Flamenco dancing captured White's attention during a family trip to Spain. White fell in love with the movement, the colorful clothing and the energetic expression. "Ole!" White types at the ends of emails, a response she also yells while watching flamenco dancers stomp their feet and fan their arms during a performance by Anda Flamenco at Lake Harriet. The entire time her fingers capture the movements with a pencil and watercolor paint.

"It's fun to be eccentric," White said after asking strangers for water for her paint. After the show, White gifts the dancers her art. "Look I drew you!" she says, flipping through the pages.

White's favorite things to draw are the beach, flowers, people and her inner feelings. While daydreaming, she often draws herself in mermaid form. The mermaid persona developed because she loves to swim. On the beaches of Lake Nokomis, White Bear Lake and Cedar Lake, White draws the people she sees, takes a photo of them with her drawing, then gives the drawing away.

"Swimming is very balancing for me," White said. "My summer nickname is Aqua Nita."

White is on the board at the Vine Arts Center (2637 27th Ave. S.). She occasionally teaches drawing classes at MCAD, writes poetry and plans to write a book about how art has helped her through difficult times. She hosts art sales on her front yard each month, from her studio she named, "Amaranth Art Studio" (4524 Minnehaha Ave S.). She also sells her work at Vine Arts Center and the Nokomis Beach Gallery (2726 E 50th St.). White describes the life she lives as "vivid," and her personality as "eccentric."

White expressed that she values humor, especially when coping with grief and life challenges. She is led by her Jewish faith, and is active in spiritual practices and communities. She is a caregiver for her brother who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, an experience which she is once again documenting through drawing. She explained that some of her truest passions are storytelling and art. Drawing in the moment allows her do to both.

▶ MORE PHOTOS @ SWCONNECTOR.COM

he was under, I was able to be there with him."

Navigating a life without her husband was very difficult and emotional for White. The two were life partners. White ex-

plained that Bialik was very practical and pragmatic, the opposite of her fluid and imaginative personality. After he passed, she drew the grief journey. She drew herself drinking wine and listening to music

documenting through drawing. She explained that some of her truest passions are storytelling and art. Drawing in the moment allows her do to both.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES ARE ON THE BALLOT AGAIN

What has changed since 2022?

Because of the redistricting process completed in 2022, every Minneapolis City Council member will be up for reelection this year to serve a two-year term. In 2025, council candidates will be back on the ballot returning to the traditional four-year term. And this will be the first time the 13 city council members will be elected following major changes to the city charter (the city's constitution).

Charter Amendment No. 184, passed in the municipal election of 2021, has redefined the city structure. Before this process, the Government Structure Work Group described the city "as a complex patchwork of existing laws that has been in place since 1920." Known for years as a "Weak Mayor-Strong Council" system, Minneapolis has been transformed into an "Executive Mayor-Legislative Council" form of government. But what does that mean? What role will the city council play now?

In the 1980s, Mayor Don Fraser failed to pass a Strong Mayor Charter Amendment, after multiple attempts had been made throughout previous decades. He devised a compromise which passed. He proposed an Executive Committee made up of the mayor, the city council president,



and up to three city council members. Together they had a say in hiring or firing department heads. But this was described over the years as an unruly "governance by committee". In 2004, Steve Berg, writing in the Star Tribune, called the city's structure "one that makes no one accountable and puts no one in charge." He called it inefficient and costly. Close to 20 years after that article appeared the situation has changed.

The 2021 Charter Amendment No. 184 has consolidated all administrative authority under the office of the Mayor - the city's chief executive officer - in a single chain of command. The Executive Committee has been eliminated. All department heads are chosen and supervised by the mayor alone. The city council confirms all of these appointments. Previously the mayor had appointed only the chief of police.

Removed from the day-to-day operations of the city's administration, the city council, the city's legislative and primary policy-making body, is charged with enacting local laws and public policies. Council members serve ward constituents as advocate and ombudsman. The city council appoints the city clerk, establishes an independent Audit Committee, and has general oversight authority, holding the Administration to account. Under the charter "neither the city council nor the council committee or member may usurp, invade, or interfere with the mayor's direction or supervision of the administration." Clear lines of authority and responsibility have been drawn.

While the mayor represents the entire city, each council member serves a ward of about 34,000 people. Your council person is your public advocate - a link to your community and its' specific issues. Who you elect can determine the outcome of which policies you care about; policies that are not only heard, but ultimately incorporated into decision making.

Vote local! Your vote matters!

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Learn more at <https://lwvmppls.org/for-voters/> or www.vote411.org.

LOOK FOR THE UPCOMING VOTERS GUIDE IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE CONNECTOR. IT IS BEING PUBLISHED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

CITY BRIEFS

CLIMATE LEGACY FUND

In July, city officials announced the creation of a "Climate Legacy Initiative" that would increase electric utility franchise fees by \$8 to 10 million each year by raising the average annual fee for each household an estimated \$8-12. The funding, that still needs to be approved by the city council, would be used to make energy efficiency improvements. The CLI will help fund the City's Climate Equity Plan, which the City Council approved July 20. This plan marks a historic investment in climate action and triples the city's current climate funding.

HUMAN RIGHTS SETTLEMENT

A Hennepin County District Court judge has approved the settlement agreement between the city of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. In the weeks ahead the city and state will reviewing proposals and select an independent evaluator who will report on the city's compliance and provide technical help. The city and MDHR will hold two public meetings about the independent evaluator finalists and a webpage will be set up to take comments about police policies and practices. The city will also hold several sessions on each the mission,

values and goals of the police, on non-discriminatory policing, use of force and, stops, searches and arrests. The first community engagement sessions will be held on Aug. 15.

COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY RETIRING

Commissioner Cedric Alexander has announced that he will retire in September from his position as community safety commissioner. He was hired as the first commissioner approximately one year ago.



NICOLLET AT LAKE STREET

The city is seeking feedback to help make design decisions about the new street and future redevelopment at Nicollet and Lake Street. The city plans to demolish the former Kmart building in March 2024, and begin the road construction in 2025. Take a survey and learn more at <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/new-nicollet/>.

AIRPORT PLANNING

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has opened a comment pe-

riod on the 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 Monday, Aug. 21. To learn more, visit www.msppairport.com/long-term-plan.

RETHINKING I-94

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is looking for input about the future of I-94. It has said that "MnDOT recognizes the actions 60 years ago devastated communities, and those impacts are still felt today," and initiated an Rethinking I-94 effort to help reconnect neighborhoods and revitalize communities. MnDOT has drafted several alternatives and will develop details for its plan in the months ahead. See the alternatives and take survey through fall at <https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/rethinking-i94/>.

Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.

PARK BOARD PROPOSES 5% TAX LEVY INCREASE

At its July 19 meeting, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners voted unanimously to support a tax levy increase request to the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) of 5.51 percent. If passed, the levy increase for the MPRB will result in a 0.97 percent increase in city property taxes overall, which amounts to an approximate \$18 annual increase in property taxes for owners of a median \$329,000 value home.

"Taking care of the park assets we have is a priority for this Board of Commissioners. We need to continue providing park services that Minneapolis residents use and

that have made us one of the top park systems in the nation," explained Meg Forney, MPRB President.

The proposed tax levy includes two distinct elements that combined provide for the 2024 maximum property tax levy request. The first is to maintain current service levels, including \$681,700 for inflationary pressures impacting the MPRB budget and \$226,000 for increases in fees MPRB pays to the City of Minneapolis. The second element is \$372,000 to support the board-adopted Strategic Direction to care for park assets to meet evolving needs and practices. This investment will provide pro-

fessional staff, two project managers and one systems analyst, to identify and implement asset lifecycles to maximize maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and capital investments.

"We provide parks and facilities to enrich the lives of every Minneapolis resident. With more than 30 million visits to the park system each year, we need to maintain current service levels and invest in how we track, assess and care for park assets within almost 200 parks located throughout the city," said Al Bangoura, Superintendent for the MPRB.

Currently, of every dollar homeowners pay for property taxes, 7.8 cents go to the

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS INTERVIEW PROJECT SEPT. 14

The Minneapolis Interview Project in partnership with Hennepin History Museum will present an evening of real-life stories about social justice in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Interview Project was started in 2016 by Anne Winkler-Morey, a writer, historian, activist scholar and Southside resident. Her goal was to interview one-hundred people of different ages, races, genders, economic classes, migration experiences, as well as living in different parts of Minneapolis. She invited people to tell their life-stories that reveal hidden histories of inequity and the struggle for social justice in Minneapolis. On Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, Winkler-Morey and many of the people she interviewed will read from their interview transcripts. The evening will also feature photographs by Minneapolis-based artist, photographer, and teacher, Eric Mueller, who joined the project in 2019, volunteering his expertise to photograph interviewees in locations that are important to them. The event will be held at The Capri Theater, 2027 West Broadway, at 6 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required.

ART DROP & SHOP

Don't miss the Art Drop & Shop at Moon Palace Books (3026 Minnehaha Ave.) on Friday, Sept. 8 from 4-8 p.m. The artist market with free art, swag, music and food is hosted by the Lake Street Council. Find free hidden artwork by local artists on the first Thursday of each month this summer (Aug. 3 and Sept. 7). First hint at 6 p.m.

FRESH, LOCALLY GROWN MARKET FOOD

Visit JD Rivers' garden for your summer and fall produce needs. The market (cash only) is open to the public and full of fresh, seasonal produce, straight from the garden. Market hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Mondays through Wednesdays, and 2-6 p.m. on Thursdays through the month of August. Located at 2900 Glenwood Ave.

TRASH PLAN IN DRAFT STAGE

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is inviting residents of Hennepin County to provide input on 70 recommendations for reducing waste across the Twin Cities. For more information on the draft Metro Solid Waste Policy Plan, contact Kevin Gaffney at kevin.gaffney@state.mn.us or 612-414-6139. Find the plan online.

STREET WORK ON 36TH AVE.

Public Works has been installing quick-build safety improvements along 36th Street in Kingfield. This work is part of the Vision Zero Program with the goal to increase the safety of all roadway users by encouraging safe driving behaviors, decreasing vehicle speeds, reducing crossing distances for people walking, and improving visibility at intersections. The majority of safety improvements in this project will be bollard bumpouts and hardened centerlines.

MPRB.

As required by State Law, the BET sets the maximum tax levy for the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Municipal Building Commission and the Public Housing Authority on an annual basis. The BET is scheduled to set these maximum property tax levies on Sept. 20, 2023.

If approved by the BET, the Superintendent will present a balanced 2024 recommended based on a 5.51 percent property levy increase on Oct. 18, 2023. The Board will consider the Superintendent's budget and adopt the 2024 tax levy and 2024 budget on Dec. 5, 2023.

WANT TO REACH 48,000+ PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? YOU CAN - WITH EACH EDITION OF THE CONNECTOR.



Chileen Painting
Serving Lakes Area Since 1952

Family Owned for Over 60 Years

Insured | References



Free Estimates

greg@chileen.com 612-850-0325

Interior & Exterior Painting
Insurance Claims • Patching
Wood Finishing • Carpentry
• Exterior Wood Restoration
Water Damage Repair • Enameling



LANDSCAPING SERVICES

We complete jobs, both big and small, to help you and the community. We provide quality work and design, every time.

Excavation, Turf and Tree Services, Hardscapes, Softscapes, Outdoor Maintenance, Delivery, Haul Out & More

(651) 276-3100
NORDMANSLANDL.COM
SALES@NORDMANSLANDL.COM



- Interior & Exterior Painting • Plaster / Sheetrock Repair
- Wood Stripping & Refinishing • Ceiling Texturing / Repair
- Wallpaper Stripping / Wall Repair / Skim Coating

FREE ESTIMATES

(612) 827-6140 or (651) 699-6140
WWW.PAINTINGBYJERRYWIND.COM

STEVE'S PAINTING 651-207-2249

Whole House Painting Specialists

Interior and Exterior - Repairs done also!

Professional Preparation and Painting ♦ Ceilings ♦ Brush & Roller ♦ Windows
Spraying ♦ Trim Work ♦ High Work ♦ Neat, Experienced Crews

Steve Polta e-mail: Stevepaintsm@gmail.com

MEET YOUR SALES REP



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

CONTACT SUZIE TODAY!

Ads@SWconnector.com
612-255-1180

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.

HOME | MONEY | HEALTH **BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED WORD AD AT \$1/WORD @ www.swconnector.com or call 612-345-9998.**

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

CHIMNEY REPAIR
CHIMNEY REPAIR. Owner operated with 30 years experience. Chad 763-482-9464

HEALTH MATTERS
Are you 420 Friendly? If Yes! Link for Details!
<https://o-trim.co/2jxIHh>

MONEY MATTERS
FREE easy home business? Link for Details:
<https://o-trim.co/xlgpML>

Download this FREE App; it pays 5 plus ways. Earn more as an affiliated (\$19.95 per year). FREE link: <https://refer.tapestri.io/a/cynthia>
Affiliate link: <https://tapestri.io/partner/cynthia>

PAINTING
Painting, wallpaper patch. Interior, exterior. Small jobs wanted. Jim. 612-202-5514.

SERVICES
Gutter cleaning. Let the Rain Drain Away. Call Larry 651-635-9228.

Snow . Tree . Shrub . Lawn
Get same day service. Premier Lawn & Snow. Call or text 952-545-8055.

WINDOW WASHING
Window washing, inside and out. "You will see the difference." Call Larry. 651-635-9228.

BE SEEN HERE, TOO. BOOK AN AD. DISPLAY OR WORD CLASSIFIED. BOTH ARE AFFORDABLE OPTIONS.

IDEA: REACH OUT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO ARE TIRED OF THE COMMUTE AND WANT TO WORK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. PLACE A HELP WANTED AD.

NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, Aug. 28 | PUBLICATION: Thursday, Sept. 7

WACSO COMMISSIONS AVAILABLE. HOUSES, CABINS, PETS ETC.



www.WacoWasHere.com waco@mac.com

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING

CERTIFIED ARBORIST

Matthew Molinaro
FREE ESTIMATES
612.239.2508
MolinaroTree.com

lic&insured | certified arborist MN-4551A

AFFECTED BY THE BIG QUIT?

Advertise here for great talent who want to live and work in the neighborhood.

Suzie: Ads@swconnector.com
612-255-1180

Roofing Gutters Windows



40+ years experience, licensed and insured.
Greg Johnson
(612) 791-3630

Buying

★ Free Appraisals ★

Memorabilia Sports Card Collections

★ Consignment Available ★

Info@minnieandpaul.com
612-208-6405

ADVERTISE WITH THE **TRUSTED SOURCE** YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Had enough of Facebook? So have more than 500 national brands that don't want their ads placed next to hateful, divisive or fake content.

These respected businesses have had an alternative all along: **The local newspaper.**

Local newspapers are focused on delivering the news fairly and accurately and have a proven track record of delivering results for advertisers. It's why they are trusted in their communities.

In print or in their many digital products and marketing strategies, advertising in a local newspaper works.



DRAGONS WYND
Environmental Entomology



For hire: Presentations, parties, insect safaris, garden consult & more

www.etsy.com/shop/DragonsWyndInsects
jessica@dragonswynd.com

YOUR GUIDE TO HAPPY, HEALTH LIVING 50+

Aging Well

Quarterly in September, December, March and June.

CONTACT US TODAY!
Ads@SWconnector.com
612-345-9998





YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LANDSCAPER!

Gardening Angel Garden Design

Design • Install • Maintain



Still scheduling jobs for August and September

Margi MacMurdo 612.206.7089 gardeningangel612@gmail.com



MN Lic. BC750502



BRING NEW LIFE TO YOUR ORIGINAL WINDOWS

- Sash cord repair and tune-up
- Weatherstripping
- Restoration and refinishing
- Putty and glass repair



hayeswindows.com 612-259-7855



NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.
7 out of **10** newspaper readers who read an **automotive ad** took action after seeing the ad.*

- THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>**
- >>> Gather more information regarding the product
 - >>> More favorable opinion about the advertiser
 - >>> Visit advertiser's website



NEWSPAPER POWER.
Print, Digital & Social Solutions for our advertisers.

*Source: Corbis Ventures Newspaper Ad Effectiveness Services

Share an E-Edition with an out-of-town friend. Available@
WWW.SWCONNECTOR.COM



Create ♦ Collaborate ♦ Communicate



HANSON

REMODELING
design • build

(612) 655-4961

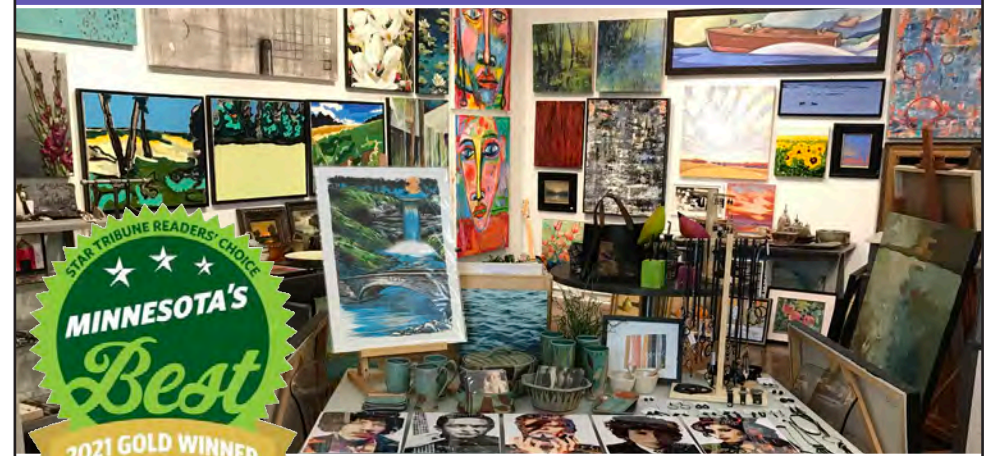
hansonremodeling.com

Lic #BC633225

Everett & Charlie

a gallery where art meets experience

FEATURING ONLY MINNESOTA ARTISTS



2720 West 43rd St, Linden Hills

◇◇◇◇ everettandcharlie.com ◇◇◇◇

KELJIK'S RUG WASH

AREA RUG CLEANING ♦ ORIENTAL RUG SALES

SINCE 1899

NOW OFFERING

"Clean Clear Through Wash" for heavy soil, pet odors, overdue cleaning
ALSO OFFERING: RUG PADS & REPAIRS

4255 Bryant Ave. S., Mpls. • 612.823.6338 • WWW.KELJIKS.COM

HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30-5 • SAT 10-2

20% OFF

RUG CLEANING

Bring in your rugs with this coupon good thru 9/15/2023.