

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • FEBRUARY 15, 2024 • VOL. 3 • NO. 3 • 25,000 CIRCULATION



6 SUMMER CAMPS: Begin planning summer rec now

5 COLUMN: Getting the paper to your front door got harder

9 Your property values went up if you live by Bryant bike lanes

10 Here's the highest-value construction developments



Over 10,000 view art on Lake Harriet during opening weekend – bringing kites, skates and curiosity

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Lady Bear with her human pal, Meg Juedes, were a popular team on the ice during the Ice Shanty Projects at Lake Harriet on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. The bear got into roaring contests with fest-goers. Juedes' dress showed the decline of the polar ice cap by year. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

After opening one week late to wait for ice to build on Lake Harriet, the 20th annual Ice Shanty Projects closed after only one weekend. "It's sad for artists like us, who were hoping for eight days on the ice with the

projects we'd worked so hard on, and only were able to enjoy two," remarked Robin Garwood of St. Paul. "I probably put in more than 100 hours of effort to prepare our project this year, and we only got to share it with folks for 12 hours, open

and on the ice. So we're feeling some real heartbreak. For myself, I also just loved those 12 hours that we were open, seeing how much joy our project helped create, and I'm sad that more people won't get to see



TASK FORCE CONSIDERS HOW TO REFORM MET COUNCIL

The five proposals include directly electing Met Council Board Members, and creating new body that seven-county elected officials sit on

By **Cam Gordon**

On Feb. 1, the Metropolitan Governance Task Force issued its final report on how to reform the Metropolitan Council.

It offered not one or two recommendations, as some members had hoped for, but five different proposals for how the Twin Cities regional planning and service agency might operate in the future. "I certainly understand that not coming up with one recommendation, or two, is concerning, but I think it does reflect the reality about this," said task force chair, State Representative Frank Hornstein (61A). "This is different from previous task forces. I think the extent of public engagement was different. I think the diversity of views was different. I think the legislative presence to have equal members of



'WE ALL HAVE THE ANSWERS WITHIN US'

By **Eric Ortiz**

Following your dreams is not always easy. Sometimes, those dreams don't align with society's conventions. But doing something unconventional can lead you to your ideal life.

That's what happened with Lana Gendlin Brooks and Karina Muller, the owners of HeartCentric Divine Creations and the first



Lana Gendlin Brooks (at left) and Karina Muller (at right) of Heart Centric talk with Eric Ortiz at the Let's Connect event in January at Everett & Charlie. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

LET'S Connect COFFEE TIME

▶1 'WITHIN US'

"Let's Connect" guests of 2024. They started their coaching and spiritual tools and jewelry business in 2021 and have never been happier.

"We decided to follow our own intuition, and amazing things have been unfolding," said Lana, whose professional journey started in museums and also included working in brand marketing in the corporate world.

Karina worked with data for years in a corporate career, and this was a big switch for her. "We let go of other's expectations, and we tapped into our own intuitive wisdom," she said. "We chose to follow that intuitive wisdom to build HeartCentric, and we are still every single day walking that road and really listening to our hearts and what it is that we're hearing."

Intuition is your inner wisdom, and Lana and Karina help people connect to theirs. The way they do this is with a pendulum. Pendulums are weighted, portable tools that translate intuitive wisdom into answers.

"There are so many different ways that you can use a pendulum, but at a really basic level, you have to program or calibrate a pendulum to your own yes and no movements," said Lana.

Calibration takes about 30 seconds. Once you determine what your yes and no movements are, you can ask yes or no questions.

"The pendulum actually bypasses your



The Let's Connect series is hosted by the Southwest Connector with the goal of bringing people together. Left to right: Southwest Connector owner Tessa M. Christensen, Eric Ortiz, Lana Gendlin Brooks, Karina Mueller and Suzie Marty.

Speakers from HeartCentric say that when you follow your intuition, amazing things can happen.

conscious mind and connects with your subconscious mind, which is where about 90 to 95 percent of everything that we've ever learned, all of our feelings, anything we see on TV. It's like this repository and database of information about you," said Lana. "It's all inside of you. So the power of the pendulum is really that it's able to just tap into that and extract what's buried deep down inside of you and bring it to your awareness in the physical world."

If this sounds a little out there to you, you are not alone. But there is a science to pendulums, and Lana and Karina encourage everyone, including skeptics, to keep an open mind and view pendulums as another form of self-help or self-care, no different than meditation or yoga or breath-

ing exercises. A pendulum is a simple tool to help you find balance, heal, and clear your mind and body from unnecessary clutter. When used properly, pendulums can help you make decisions, solve problems, and get unstuck from any situation.

"This is actually a tool that's been around since pre-recorded history," Lana explained. "This is an ancient tool and so many people don't know about it."

SET INTENTIONS THIS YEAR

They offered tips on how to start a new year off by being in tune with yourself.

"As you think about what it is you want to accomplish in this coming new year, whether you set resolutions or not,

WATCH THE WHOLE INTERVIEW

You can watch the "Let's Connect" conversation with Lana Gendlin Brooks and Karina Muller on the Southwest Connector website, www.swConnector.com, and on our YouTube Channel.

WHAT'S NEXT:

Our March "Let's Connect" is with Gina Rautenberg and Karen Binkowski on Friday, March 8, 9-10 a.m. at Everett & Charlie art gallery. Rautenberg is the executive director of the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council. Binkowski is the manager of business development and marketing for the Southwest Business Association. Let us know if you want to be an event sponsor.

we really believe that you will be able to accomplish your intentions if you tap into yourself and tap in for wisdom and guidance," said Karina. "If you are really, really clear in terms of what you want to achieve, you can ask, what are the optimal ways for me to get there? And if you allow your inner guidance to have a voice and follow the steps that your inner guidance is telling you, you will get there, and your results will be even greater than you can imagine."

"So what we recommend is just listen to that voice. Don't go in there with any kind of expectation and allow the miracles to show up because what shows up might be so much greater than anything you could ever wish for."

You never know what you will learn. "It may not be how you expect it to show up," added Lana. "It can show up in all sorts of different ways, but really, we like to often say, and this is so hard to do, it's



WE KNOW CARS

Over 50 Years of Experience!

Repairs | Maintenance
Restorations | Custom Work

All Makes and Models

CONTACT YOUR AUTO REPAIR EXPERTS TODAY

20 W 38th St | Minneapolis
(612) 824-4155 | quality-coaches.com

An educational series

Walker-Talks

All talks are free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 5 P.M.

Classic Cars and Overdressed Duo Opera

5 p.m. cocktail hour; 6 p.m. "Do What You Love! Have a Good Ride!" by Mark Brandow of Quality Coaches followed by poet Elmer Lovrien and opera.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 | 5 P.M.

Honeybees and National Poetry Day

5 p.m. cocktail hour; 6 p.m. "Sweet Secrets of Honeybees; Owning and Operating an Apiary with Scott Nelson of AARP followed by National Poetry Day readings by the Writers of Walker Place.

SATURDAY, MAY 11 | 11 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

Walker Place Garden Party

Welcome spring at Walker Place with flowers, ice cream, open-air 60s bands, Pedicab rides to the Lyndale Park Rose Garden, honeybee, birding and green energy booths, crafts, lawn games, apartment tours and a downsizing presentation.

RSVP to 612.827.8508

Walker Place | 3701 Bryant Ave. S | Minneapolis, MN

Walker Place features high-rise premier apartments for adults 55+ with a youthful spirit and a zest for life.

▶1 MET COUNCIL

the parties involved, regional interests represented and having the townships here was very valuable. We are advancing five proposals that have not been advanced in previous reports and they are significant proposals.”

The task force that was created by the state legislature in 2023, has met 15 times and held four additional meetings to hear from the general public.

Six of the 17 task force members, including Hornstein, live in Southwest Minneapolis. This includes Sam Rockwell, Executive Director of Move Minnesota; Myron Orfield, from the University of Minnesota Law School; Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene; Mary Pattock, a former chair of the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association; and State Senator Scott Dibble (61) who was pivotal in the creation of the task force.

“I have to say that I am disappointed that we are not advancing a recommendation,” said Dibble. “I think some of what we saw was folks becoming more and more entrenched in the perspective they brought to this table initially.”

The Metropolitan Council was established by the state legislature in 1967 as the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of some essential services for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area that includes 181 cities and townships. It is managed by a governor-appointed 17-member board, and oversees Metro Transit’s bus and rail system, Metro Mobility, wastewater treatment, regional parks, and affordable housing projects. It relies on funding from user fees for wastewater treatment and transit services, state and federal sources, and a seven-county property tax.

THE PROBLEM IS ACCOUNTABILITY

While the task force did not agree on a specific new model of governance, they did agree that the current one is not working.

At its Jan. 17 meeting, the task force unanimously voted to affirm that “there is widespread confusion and widespread disagreement about who is and who should be accountable for Met Council vision, planning, execution (construction and operation), and performance evaluation,” and that “the basic issue the legislature should address in any Metropolitan Council reform or governance changes is how the council should be accountable to the public and to state and local governments.”



There is a problem and it is accountability.”

Mary Pattock



On Jan. 24, they also approved principles to “serve as a guide for the legislature as it considers the task force’s governance reform proposals and other recommendations.” This included proportionality, regional orientation, compensation, clarity of accountability, credibility, accessibility, transparency, and collaboration.

DIFFERENT IDEAS

They reviewed different proposals from task force members that ranged from maintaining the governor-appointed board but altering the nomination process, to replacing it with an elected board, to replacing it with a larger council of governments with local elected officials, or a combination.

Greene’s proposal was to keep the number of members and districts the same as the current Met Council, but to have them be elected by voters within their districts instead of appointed by the governor.

“This proposal for an elected Met Council came together in an effort to design for accountability, transparency and

simplicity, proportionality and regional vision,” said Greene. “There is not another appointed body that even comes close to having a budget of \$1.4 billion.”

State Senator Erik Pratt of Prior Lake offered two versions of his proposal that would create a 40-member Council of Governments (COG) with seven seats representing each county chosen by their respective boards, and 33 seats proportionally allocated for currently elected officials from cities or townships.

Edina Mayor James Hovland proposed keeping the governor-appointed board, but increasing the number of local elected officials on a nominating committee.

Both Dibble and Pattock proposed creating two governing bodies, one a COG and the other directly elected.

Pattock’s included changing the Met Council into a COG made up of mayors, county board chairs and township chairs appointed by the governor. The second governing body would be an elected Metro Area Transit Special Services District board of directors. They would be responsible for building and operating a metro-wide transit system consistent with the goals of the new COG Met Council.

Dibble called his directly elected body the “Metropolitan Regional Civic Council.” Sixteen of its 19 members would be elected to represent districts, and three would be appointed by the governor. It would have taxing and bonding authority, provide public services (transit, sewers, etc.) and share planning responsibility equally with his proposed COG.

The COG he proposed would be comprised of locally elected officials from the seven counties, cities and townships and selected by a caucus of those groups with the number of members to be at least as large as civic council. They would be consulted on major policy decisions, be responsible for evaluation of services provided and have the power to require

the civic council to reconsider decisions and veto them with a two-thirds vote. Any veto, however, could be overridden with a 2/3rds vote of the civic council.

“The proposal I developed was in direct response to a lot of what we heard from town council members, city council members, county commissioners and the like,” Dibble said. He added that it “takes the power out of the hands of an opaque and unelected bureaucracy and puts it squarely in the public sector and the public square for open discussion and debate, whether that is through the direct election of elected officials on the one council or through the highly valued collaboration that is driven through the power that is given to local elected officials.”

LEGISLATURES NEXT TO REVIEW

Looking ahead to the legislative session, Dibble said, “The debate will continue, and I am looking forward to that.”

“I hope that the legislative members of this task force will take what we have learned from around the country, from around the region, from each other, and bring that to the table as we try to address this critical issue,” said Hornstein. “I hope we take these ideas into the legislature and advance one or more of them, or come up with some blend of ideas, that can achieve our goal of bipartisan support for some real attention to the governance of this issue.”

“We have given the legislature some useful tools for solving a very difficult problem,” said Pattock. “The progress we made was most of all was to have a unanimous vote on what the problem is. We agreed with the legislature that, yes, there is a problem and its accountability. The second thing we are giving the legislature is a set of recommendations. I think that is a lot of help if the legislature chooses to use it and I trust they will, because this is an important problem and it’s their job to fix it.”

▶2 ‘WITHIN US’

easier said than done, but surrender. Surrender to what is meant for you. We all have a mission and a purpose here. And so we like to set intentions. I don’t set resolutions. I set intentions at the beginning of the year. But it’s really about just following and guiding yourself. Because again, when you’re guiding yourself versus letting any external factor do that, you’re just

gonna be in alignment with yourself. So, you know, things just show up in so many different ways.”

More than just spiritual guides, Lana and Karina are jewelry makers and handcraft one-of-a-kind pendulums and other jewelry. They find unique pieces, many of them vintage, to create pendulums. They use real crystals and gemstones in original combinations.

Lana and Karina wrote a book, “Pen-

dulums and Intuition” to teach others how to choose pendulums, care for them, and get the practice started with exercises and resources. The book will be released in June 2024.

“The journey has been full of joy, full of excitement, and all kinds of miracles,” summed up Karina. “Every single day, we’re curious what’s going to show up today, and the universe just keeps surprising us.”

▶ [ENTIRE INTERVIEW @ SWCONNECTOR.COM](http://ENTIREINTERVIEW@SWCONNECTOR.COM)

JAN. 12 SPONSORS:



LET'S Connect COFFEETIME

9-10am @ Everett & Charlie Art Gallery
2720 W 43rd St, Mpls 55410

WANT TO BE AN EVENT SPONSOR?
Email EricOrtiz@gmail.com
Call 860-751-9771

SOUTHWEST Connector
www.swConnector.com

March 8: Gina Rautenberg & Karen Binkowski

Meet two dynamic Southwest leaders on International Women’s Day.

Gina Rautenberg is the new Linden Hill Neighborhood Council Executive Director.

Karen Binkowski is the Southwest Business Association manager of business development & marketing.



A SOLUTION FOR SCHOOL DISENGAGEMENT

Create a culture where parents and students are treated like customers.

The world has changed. Our education system has not. As a result, school is broken.

It's so bad that many kids don't go to school anymore. Chronic absenteeism was an issue before the pandemic. It's gotten worse.

The data tells a grim story. According to the Minnesota school dashboard, the number of students in the state attending class consistently (more than 90 percent of the time they are enrolled during the year) dropped from 85 percent in 2019 to less than 70 percent in 2022. In Minneapolis Public Schools, the overall attendance rate has fallen from 79 percent to 46 percent. In some schools, fewer than 25 percent of students show up on a regular basis.

There are over 30,000 students in 97 MPS schools. That means over 15,000 of them are not engaged in school. Over 32 percent of students are from economically disadvantaged communities, compounding the impact. The 74, an education news source, reports that while White students in Minnesota attending school dropped from 90 percent to 59 percent, the number for Black students fell from 71 percent to 32 percent. Latinos went from 78 percent to 44 percent. Native Americans dropped from 44 percent to 24 percent. And children getting special education services dipped from 63 percent to 37 percent.



By Eric Ortiz



Youth and elders brainstorm ideas during a community solutions workshop at Walker Library on Feb. 3. (Photo by Eric Ortiz)

Every day is an opportunity for students to learn. Every day they miss school is a missed opportunity. Those daily missed opportunities turn into persistent missed opportunities. Before long, opportunities disappear.

The National Library of Medicine finds that school disengagement, or a student's lack of involvement in education, can lead to many detrimental outcomes, including chronic mental health difficulties, conduct and delinquent behaviors, criminal involvement, and unemployment in adolescence and adulthood.

This is a crisis. But it is solvable.

The Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation, a youth and family development organization where I am executive director, is working on a solution (as are others with attendance strategies). We had our third community solutions with youth workshop at Walker Library in Uptown Minneapolis on Feb. 3. The topic of the day (chosen by youth) was disengagement in school.

Eleven students, from fourth to eighth

grade, participated, along with 15 community elders. They included teachers, educators, parents, police officers, a musician, mental health expert, neighborhood support specialist, artist, finance director, fisherman, and retired leadership consultant. They all shared their thoughts on why we have an epidemic of disengagement and ideas for solutions:

- "I see student struggling with paying attention or not wanting to go into class. It makes me sad thinking how much they're missing."
- "Students would rather skip school than go."
- "It's harder to teach with so many absences: I'm worried about learning."
- "No family support."
- "Issues of sickness in a COVID world."
- "Teach topics that are happening now."
- "Have a modern curriculum that engages students, with various ways of learning, including internet."
- "More fun activities, not just learning."
- "Less teacher talk and more students leading."

We had an intergenerational talking circle with young and old community members talking solutions. Then, we split up into two breakout sessions to drill down on solutions using a knowledge to action framework.

One of the most enlightening moments was when a youth said school needs to teach more relevant lessons on practical subjects, and a mother of seven (including two workshop attendees) and grandmother of five said that schools need to listen to students more to make school more engaging.

In business, customer discovery is the process of understanding customers' situations, needs, and pain points.

What if we created an educational culture in schools that treated parents and

students as customers? The primary customer is the parents, the ones who pay for school, either indirectly through taxes for public school or directly for private school. The secondary customers are students, the learners and source for feedback on results.

Could teachers, department heads, school administrators, and district leaders see parents and students as customers to help identify problems, gather data, form hypotheses, and implement solutions?

Focusing on the customer has worked for many successful businesses. Jeff Bezos built Amazon into one of the world's largest companies by putting customers first.

From the beginning, Amazon focused on three things:

- 1) What can we invent for customers?
- 2) What can we do differently?
- 3) How can we make the customer experience better?

Imagine if our educational system worked this way. Start with the customer and work backward. Find out what parents and students need. Then provide that.

Focusing on the customer is hard to do. It is worth the effort.

Today, Amazon has a market cap of \$1.76 trillion, behind only Microsoft (\$3.02 trillion), Apple (\$2.91T), Saudi Aramco (\$1.99T), and Alphabet/Google (\$1.79T). Customer obsession is how Amazon prospered.

Education can win, too, by putting customers first.



Eric Ortiz lives in the Wedge with his family. When he's not bonding, he is community building with the Strong

Mind Strong Body Foundation and writing bilingual children's books with his kids. Their first book, "How the Zookalex Saved the Village," is available in English and Spanish.

WINTER MUSINGS

STORIES & JOURNEYS

Welcome to the start of year three for Stories and Journeys. Welcome to the start of year eight of my retirement journey including Medicare plus supplement. Another reader has told me their take on Medicare via Tesha@longfellownokomisessenger.com. Matthews H. writes, ".....UCare, UnitedHealth and the rest keep buying every media slot to brainwash the public. ... It was Minnesota that got the Nixon Administration to approve Medicare HMOs, leading to 30 years of what is now 'Medicare Advantage.'"



By Donald L. Hammen

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF LIGHT WHILE EMBRACING SILENCE AND DORMANCY

Solstice. When I was founder/coordinator of Minnehaha Avenue Community Garden, there were several years when some of us gardeners would gather at Gandhi Mahal restaurant. We celebrated

the return of light as the beginning of a new growing season. We told our stories of the recently completed season while sharing our visions for the upcoming season and, in the meantime, how we were surviving winter. Last evening, Christmas Eve, I checked my Weather Guide Calendar to see how many minutes of daylight we were supposed to have gained since Dec. 21.

Christmas Eve Past. My brother and I are awakened by our parents. It's time to go to church for the midnight candlelight service. My favorite time during the service was when the lights were turned down. We would bring back the light by lighting each other's candles.

Christmas Eve Present. I perform my candlelighting ritual. I remember the animals that have blessed my life, six cats and a Cocker Spaniel. I say their names. And I say the names of my brother, Richard Allen Hammen, and my parents, Ruth Mae Yount Hammen and Peter Henry Hammen III. I am very aware that I am the only one left out of that family that used to get up and travel to the midnight candlelight service. I'm experiencing a moment of grief at the loss of that experience. I go to sleep with music of the season playing on classical radio MPR.

And if you have read this far you have taken the plunge into the river(flow) of life

experiences which is Stories and Journeys.

SALUTING LOUISE SUNDIN, DESIGNER OF THE MINNEAPOLIS FLAG

I first became aware of Louise, a Southwest Minneapolis resident, when she was hosting her radio show devoted to education matters on AM 950. After I retired in December of 2016, I started attending the monthly meetings of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council (AFL-CIO). I discovered that Louise was part of the MRRC leadership. At one of those meetings, as a reader of the Southwest Connector, she outed me as the writer of Stories and Journeys. Recently, she showed up in a Star Tribune article as the designer of the Minneapolis flag when she was a Southwest High School student. And even more recently a writer of a Star Tribune opinion called for a re-design of the Minneapolis flag. I'm thinking I would be flying it if I knew Minneapolis had a flag.

In the meantime, dear reader, did you know the Minneapolis had a flag? Have you ever seen it flown? Would you fly it? What are your thoughts? Tell yourself, tell others or tell me via Tesha@swConnector.com.

SHOWING UP AT THE MET COUNCIL, METRO TRANSIT LEADERSHIP LISTENING SESSION

While writing this column I learn that Listening Sessions on light rail trains and at select train stops are happening (1-8-24 through 1-12-24). I decide to go to a session at the Lake Street/Midtown Station. There I got to speak with Lesley Kandaras, Metro Transit General Manager, and Charlie Zelle, Met Council Chair. I have been a bus/train rider for a long time. I have never known Met Council/Metro Transit leadership to do anything like this. It seems like a really good idea.

For now I'll just share my first impressions. I feel like Lesley is the "real deal" - like she is the right person in the right position at the right time. Even better she lives in Messenger territory. There is a good chance I made my points. I observed Lesley taking notes. She gave me copies of the revised Rider Code of Conduct. Charlie seemed to be enjoying being away from meetings and interacting with some of the people who make Metro Transit go - riders. Hopefully this listening session week is not a one and done. I suggested doing one when it isn't winter. Another one of my musings.

In gratitude always.



Donald L. Hammen is a longtime south Minneapolis resident, and serves on the All Elders United for Justice leadership team.

SOUTHWEST Connector

The Southwest Connector is a 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.

Advertising & Marketing:

Suzie Marty, 612-255-1180, ads@swconnector.com
 Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183, denis@longfellownokomisessenger.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 © 2024.
 Sister publications: Midway Como Froggtown 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



GETTING THE PAPER TO YOUR FRONT DOOR JUST GOT A LITTLE HARDER

Being a small business owner has its good and bad days. In late December 2023, we got some tough news.

Independent Delivery Service (IDS), a staple in the Twin Cities for 40 years, was shutting down effective almost immediately.

Founded in October 1973 by Mike Depe, IDS offered an alternative delivery for third class mail and newspaper inserts. They moved to 440 W Minnehaha Ave. in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul in 1989, occupying a 18,000-square-foot building that provided garage space for 20 fleet vehicles, warehouse space for deliveries, and office space for sales and other staff. At one time, IDS was among the largest alternative distribution services operating in the country. They had more than 50 employees and subcontractors delivering over 50 million pieces per year. Account representatives Mike Tierney and Paul Overson worked at IDS for decades, as did operations manager Brian Amundsen.

Mike Depe (shown at right) died in October 2020 at age 71, and his daughters Bridget Teigland, Heather Favre, and Charlotte Snegosky took over the operation of IDS on top of their other responsibilities.

Last year, MyVillager newspaper in Highland Park decided to stop using IDS to deliver to front doors. They dropped down their print circulation and opted for paid subscribers who get the paper in the mail.

Previously, they had been delivering 60,000 papers throughout St. Paul and nearby cities of Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights, with a few thousand papers in the Longfellow neighborhood of south Minneapolis. They shifted their focus to their website, as have other newspapers who are adapting to survive.

The MyVillager shift came on the heels of a string of local newspaper closures over the years that included North St. Paul-based Lillie Suburban Newspapers (folded September 2019) and the Southwest Journal (shuttered in Decem-



By **Tesha M. Christensen**

PICK UP A COPY

If you're anything like me, you love a good local read. Check out these newspapers that still print physical copies (and also have e-editions online). We're collaborating with them with on delivery:

- 1) Northeast, 31,700 copies, every other week, Northeast Minneapolis
- 2) St. Paul Publishing: St. Paul Voice, Downtown St. Paul Voice, South St. Paul Voice, La Latina Voz, 37,500 copies, once a month
- 3) Community Reporter - nonprofit, 13,000 copies, monthly, West 7th Street area in St. Paul
- 4) TMC Publications: Longfellow Nokomis Messenger (22,000 copies) in Minneapolis and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor (23,500 copies) in St. Paul, monthly; Southwest Connector (25,000 copies), twice a month in Southwest Minneapolis

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPERS

- Alley, non-profit, once a month in Phillips neighborhood, Minneapolis; door-to-door delivery and stacks at local businesses

ber 2020). Forum Communications closed papers in Woodbury, Cottage Grove and Hastings, and those have been jump-started online.

There have been other delivery companies that have come and gone over the years, including Lloyd's Delivery, which delivered for the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor for years, and because of that we had hired IDS to deliver roughly half of the Messenger and Monitor newspapers for the last two years. (And they had delivered our newspapers at other times over the last few decades.)

In late fall, IDS learned that the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press were discontinuing their free weekend products, the small editions with lifestyle content, coupons and sale flyers. It was a decrease in about 100,000 weekly deliveries for IDS. The owners decided they couldn't sustain such a decrease in business, and announced they were done as of Dec. 31.

That left four of us neighborhood newspaper in the lurch, those of us still

- Hill and Lake Press, non-profit, once a month in Kenwood, Lowry Hill, Cedar-Isles-Dean and East Isles in southwest Minneapolis; 9,000 copies delivered by mail

- North News, non-profit owned by Pillsbury United Communities, once a month to 14 neighborhoods of North Minneapolis via 400 public bulk drop sites and paid home subscriptions; runs year round internship program for area high school students

- Park Bugle, non-profit, once a month in St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park, St. Paul; delivered to subscribers by mail

- Southside Pride, once a month, 10,000 copies, stacks at south Minneapolis businesses
- Villager, every other week, based in Highland Park, St. Paul; delivered to subscribers by mail

PRINT NICHE PUBLICATION

- Access Press, non-profit, monthly, Minnesota's Disability Community News source, delivered to subscribers by mail and at businesses throughout the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. (*Note: editor is Jane McClure of St. Paul, who also writes for the Monitor and Villager.)

And we do it because we believe it is vitally important.

Newspapers, as my children hear often, are fundamental to democracy, and neighborhood newspapers are a great equalizer. These small little papers are creating community with each issue that comes out.

You might say, they are community. So, when the Northeast, St. Paul Publishing, Community Voices and TMC Publications CO (my group of three newspapers that reach over 150,000 readers each month) heard that IDS was shutting down, we came together.

The Neighborhood and Community Press Association folded years ago as the once-strong group of about 40 papers dwindled. But we're reviving a coalition.

We know we're stronger together.

We're working to keep on some of the carriers who used to deliver for IDS and have walked these city streets for years with a bag of papers slung over their shoulders. For some of them, this has been their main job. For other carriers, it is a side gig meant to add something extra to their household income. We have retired folks working as carriers. Parents and children learning the ins and outs

of newspaper delivery. People appreciate the flexibility of the gig. They like the fresh air and appreciate a job that moves their body.

If you want to join our group of carriers, send a note to tesha@tmcpub.com.

As we work out the kinks of this new system, please be patient with us. Let us know if you got your paper - and if you didn't. Thank your carrier.

Share your thoughts on the neighborhood and newspapers. Email tesha@swConnector.com.

Tesha M. Christensen of TMC Publications CO is a south Minneapolis resident and the owner of the Southwest Connector, Longfellow Nokomis Messenger, Midway Como Frogtown Monitor.



Armitage resident Billy Yount is part of our delivery crew for the Connector.

getting newspapers to people's front doors the old-fashioned way: a newspaper placed door-to-door by a carrier walking from house to house in all kinds of weather.

Why do we still want to deliver this way?

We do it because we want everyone to get a paper, to have the same information and news no matter whether you own or rent, have a big house or a small one, make a lot of money or just get by.

When you blanket a neighborhood like we do, the paper goes to all ages, all races, and all ethnic groups. There is no discrimination. We require no payment. Local businesses support the writers, printing, and delivery through ad sales.

in response to those larger market factors. We believe in the value of print, and want to make sure that we have a sustainable business model that fits this place and time.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR...

a new product, a business directory that we're publishing in July in partnership with the Southwest Business Association. We're also adding more PRINT + DIGITAL offerings, along with sponsored content options so that businesses and organizations can tell their own stories. Find our media kit online at TMCpub.com to learn more.

WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE...

that we're switching to one paper a month for the Southwest Connector, matching it up with our two other publications, the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor. This will enable us to have larger issues, while also cutting costs on delivery and printing. Like our readers and the businesses that advertise with us, we have been hit by inflation and rising costs. Paper plants have shut down although the demand is still there, and the number of printing presses in Minnesota has declined. We're still feeling affects from COVID-19 on the print media industry as a whole, and we are pivoting



MN Lic. BC750502



- Wood combination storm windows
- Sash cord repair and tune-up
- Weatherstripping
- Restoration and refinishing



SCAN ME



hayeswindows.com 612-259-7855

HARMONY VALLEY FARM

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

- ♥ Certified Organic Vegetables, Beef & Pork
- ♥ Thursday Delivery to 14 Twin Cities Sites
- ♥ Friday Delivery to Lunds & Byerlys Stores





SIGN UP AT HARMONYVALLEYFARM.COM

SHARE AN E-EDITION WITH AN OUT-OF-TOWN FRIEND.
AVAILABLE@ WWW.SWCONNECTOR.COM

Be a part of the change.

Host a book drive.

They make a difference.



- Diverse
- Cultural appreciation
- Positive messaging
- Relatable characters
- Leadership development



Virtual or in person events

www.ppgjbooks.com/host-a-book-drive

BEGIN PLANNING KIDS' SUMMER RECREATION NOW

Due in part to high demand, parents who want to place their kids in summer rec programs or summer camps should be vetting such programs and camps well in advance of summer. The following are a handful of tips for moms and dads who want their kids to have fun and fulfilling summers.

others may focus on particular sports. Band camps and art camps may appeal to creative kids. Also, there are plenty of general-interest camps that offer various activities without narrowing in on any particular one.

- Determine your camp budget. As varied as program offerings may be, camps also can vary greatly with regard to cost.
- Ask for recommendations. Speak with fellow parents and trusted friends about where they send their children. Personal recommendations can be very helpful, providing firsthand insight into a particular camp or program. Schedule appointments to visit camps that fall within your budget. Take your son or daughter along so he or she can get a sense of what camp will be like.

If camp seems out of reach, look into local summer recreation programs at parks or schools. Such programs may not be as extensive as those offered by camps, but they can quell kids' boredom and keep children occupied during the day.

- Explore all options. Camps come in more flavors than ever before. Certain camps may be faith-based ministries while

In addition to camp, remember to plan for some free days so children can just enjoy some downtime. Such days can break up the monotony of a routine and provide kids and families time to relax together.

At MCAD, kids and teens get to color outside the lines. Explore a variety of art mediums and new ideas.

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE of ART and DESIGN

Experiment with Art this Summer



Art classes for ages 6-18. Sign up now! mcad.edu/ce



MCAD

MacPhail CENTER FOR MUSIC



The High Note of Your Summer Summer Camps at MacPhail

All Ages—from 3 to 55+
Beginner and Advanced Musicians Welcome

Learn More at MACPHAIL.ORG
Financial Aid Available



LEARN TO SAIL



MINNEAPOLIS SAILING CENTER

Learn more and register today at sailmpls.org

Full-day and half-day summer camps for youth ages 5-17

Enjoying a mix of adventure and fun, campers build confidence and create lasting memories as they learn to sail on Bde Maka Ska

3010 East Bde Maka Ska Pkwy
Minneapolis, MN 55408

(612) 470-7245

info@sailmpls.org



With her mother Katie, Garen Tuggle, age 3, had high hopes of flying her new kite during the Lake Harriet Kite Festival on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Matthew Hendricks (left) and Angela Olsen help people enjoy the NatureGrafter art shanty on Saturday, Jan. 27 that infused "people with the essence of two Minnesota natural phenomena of their choice." It was built by a team that includes Robin Garwood and Samantha Price. Learn more about what drives Garwood in the sidebar at right. (Photo by Tesha Christensen)



1 ART ON ICE

it (at least this year, on the ice - we may try to reprise it somewhere else, somehow)."

Garwood was part of the team with his wife, Samantha Price, that created the "NatureGrafter" this year.

"Weekend attendance was huge, as big as I've ever see," said Garwood. "People were really having a good time with it, 'getting' it, embracing the opportunity to be 'transformed' into something from Minnesota's natural world."

Over 10,000 people enjoyed the Ice Shanty Projects Jan. 27-28, 2024.

Artistic Director Erin Lavelle said, "We initially made a decision to postpone our program opening date and wait for ice to build with incoming subzero temperatures, and it was the right decision, given the information we had available at the moment." A returning warm spell was behind the decision to take the shanties off the lake. She explained that it was not possible to move into the park (aka Plan Beach) as the ground was not frozen, there was no snow, and they would trample and damage the landscape and make a muddy mess of the shanties. "The safety of artists, visitors and staff, along with preserving the environment and the art, are top priorities for us," said Lavelle.

"I know that ASP as an organization also suffered from going from four weekends to one. The organization relies on donations from visitors for a big chunk of its budget and only having a quarter of the expected time on ice cuts into that significantly," observed Garwood, who has created shanties in 2017, 2020, 2023 and 2024. "I know they're trying their best to put the word out that the organization needs people's help, and I hope folks step up."

According to Lavelle, the shortened event leaves them in a precarious financial position, as they rely on donations from

MORE PHOTOS @ SWCONNECTOR.COM

visitors to fund the program. "People have already shown up with generosity, offering \$33,000 in contributions towards our \$99,000 goal for individual donations," said Lavelle. Of their \$190,000 organizational budget, 79% of expenses are dedicated towards paying people including artists, performers, directors, producers, medics, ASL interpreters, audio describers and photographers. The majority of their income is sourced from individuals and small local businesses. Grants and earned income, including food vendor fees and merchandise sales, make up the remainder.

"I think ASP is incredibly valuable for the community. It's one of the most playful, surprising, engaging public art opportunities in the state," said Garwood.

"I also really love the diversity of expression I've seen at ASP over the years. I've experienced some very deep, introspective projects, which I found pretty moving, alongside projects that were much more about playfulness and fun. Some works have some political content, some are much more about direct sensory experience. I also think it's great that the organizers do such a good job putting together a robust performance program, not related to the individual shanties, that happens alongside them.

"It's wonderful that there is no fee for the audience at each shanty, just a suggested donation at the edge of the shanty village, completely negating any reluctance folks might have to participate fully. It's also wonderful that the artists are paid for our work, enough to not just defray the cost of building the shanties but also some compensation for our time."

He added, "Art Shanty Projects is amazing, and I hope it keeps going for another 20 years and more."



A balancing act, the Poem for Entangled Living invited fest-goers to hang messages on the arms of some common considerations and decisions made in everyday living. Could they be balanced? Sandi Likely added "Extinct" to the end of one arm. (Photo by Terry Faust)

A CONVERSATION WITH ASP ARTIST ROBIN GARWOOD

TOP 3 MOMENTS FROM THE LAST 20 YEARS?

It's so hard to pick just three! From this year, I especially loved interacting with little kids with NatureGrafter. The point of the project was that we'd built a machine that could infuse people with the essence of two Minnesota natural phenomena of their choice. We had a duration meter that people could use to set how long they wanted the effect to last, from one hour to permanent. I remember on several occasions getting down on my knees with kids who had picked, say, a wolf and a loon to be "grafted" with, and explaining the duration choice before them: "would you like to be a loon wolf for an hour, a day, a year, or for the rest of your life?" And more than one kid looked at me very seriously and said "for the rest of my life." I think I'll remember that for the rest of my life.



Projects could be a solution. Having been to a few of the events, I knew a couple of things: first, the whole idea is that they're like artistic ice shanties, and folks show up ready to go inside the space.

Second, and more importantly, folks show up to ASP in a different frame of mind than any other art event I've seen, other than maybe Northern Spark. In other settings, I sensed a certain wariness from audience members: is this guy trying to sell me something?

It's such a major part of the interaction at an art crawl, folks looking at art as something to buy rather than as something to experience. (And, to be fair, artists like me hoping to make sales!) There's also a sort of learned propriety in gallery and art crawl spaces. Folks have been trained not to touch the art - rightly so, most of the time - and that leads to a certain distancing from the art. At ASP, people show up differently. They're there to be surprised, to interact more directly, to play. As I said to the reporter from the New York Times, they sort of leave their sense of propriety at the lake's edge. I thought that sort of mindset would make this project, which I loved, actually work for the first time. So I made a new version of the project, called it Snow Blind, and waited to see if it would work.

As it turns out, that was correct. Folks went inside! They felt free to touch the windowscreens, which changed the moire patterns and gave them a whole new experience. Everywhere else, folks had had a hard time experiencing the piece as I intended. At ASP, it worked beautifully. It was one of the most successful and rewarding artistic experiences of my life to that point, and I was hooked.

My first experience with Snow Blind was pretty amazing. Standing in there and hearing people ooh and aah about something that I'd known, in my heart, was an amazing visual experience, but that I had been unable to really share with others in any other context, was just incredible.

The reaction to our project last year, Self Reflection Shanty, also made a pretty big impression on me. We had etched phrases onto mirrors, and installed tubes to block the light so that folks would be looking at them backlit. Folks had some pretty strong positive reactions, including some people being visibly moved, at some of the phrases, especially "be kind to this person."

WHAT DREW YOU TO SHANTY PROJECTS?

I was first drawn to the Art Shanties back in the years when they were on Medicine Lake. I [joined] Art Shanties as an artist in 2016-17. I'd just completed an installation project for Northern Spark (called Wishing Well), and wanted to continue making that sort of work.

Specifically, what drew me to making my first art shanty was that I had a project that I knew I liked a lot, but that had never been as successful as I'd hoped, which I called Blind. It was a small, closet-sized installation that immersed participants in the moire visual distortion effect, which I achieved by layering five sheets of standard window screen material. The problem with the piece was that I could not entice Minnesotans to go inside it, and it only worked from the inside. I tried in several different settings: Walker's Open Field, a gallery show at the Northrup King building, several times outside of my studio (at the old Shasta building in Longfellow) as part of various art crawls (the League of Longfellow Artists and Seward Art Crawl), and as part of an installation art class at the University of MN. It was frustrating, because I had a piece that I thought was really enjoyable, but it just didn't "work" in any of those settings. I realized that the Art Shanty

HOW DID ARTISTS RESPOND TO THE EVENT BEING CUT SHORT?

First, I think it's important to say that all of the staff did a tremendous job working with us to respond to this year's bizarre weather. We installed a week later than we had hoped, because there wasn't ice on the lake until later in January than is normal. They were very communicative and collaborative, and I think all of the artists also did a good job collaborating with them to make the most of this strange year.

One other big response that I had, and I think others had, is that this is just one more negative impact from the climate chaos we have created by burning fossil fuels. Twenty years ago - or 10, even! - I don't think people would have believed that we would be facing a situation where there isn't reliable lake ice in January and February in Minnesota. It's crazy. This is one more thing we love that we have endangered due to our reckless and destructive approach to our environment. We stand to lose so many things that we love, so many things that define our state: loons, lake ice, ice shanties, and these kinds of "only in Minnesota" art events like Art Shanty Projects.



LIMITED-TIME OFFER:
GET 2 MONTHS RENT FREE!
 Offer ends March 31, 2024. More details online.

LUXURY 55+ LIVING IN BRYN MAWR!

The Eloise is an active 55+ community new to the Bryn Mawr neighborhood in Minneapolis. Located next to Theodore Wirth Park, residents enjoy a variety of floor plans, convenient amenities, and beautiful shared spaces to mingle with friends.

- 1-bedroom, 1-bedroom + den, and 2-bedroom/2-bath apartment floor plans
- 9-ft ceilings & large windows
- Patio or balconies in all units
- Luxury finishings
- In-unit washer and dryer
- Pet-friendly
- Guest suite
- Fitness & yoga studio
- Golf simulator
- Club rooms & rooftop sky lounge
- Greenhouse, courtyard, grill, fire pit, and pond
- Underground parking

Residents will also enjoy walking paths connecting to Theodore Wirth Park, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, an on-site playground, and so much more.



**SCHEDULE A TOUR & FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
 TO LEARN ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS**
 TheEloiseApts.com | 612-448-3575

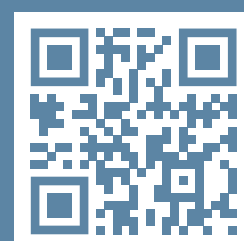


CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

2850 N Wayzata Blvd. | Minneapolis, MN

TheEloiseApts.com | TheEloise@ecumen.org

AN ECUMEN[®] MANAGED LIVING SPACE Copyright © 2023, Ecumen. All rights reserved.



YOUR PROPERTY VALUES WENT UP IF YOU LIVE BY BRYANT BIKE LANES

TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

So the guy says, "Government's job is to build the roads. Our city built this 'bold and transformational' bike-friendly project, and they managed to forget you might need to send a fire truck on it once in while."



By Larry LaVercombe

And I was like: "Okay, sure. Our progressive city council likes 'bike friendly,' and the Minneapolis Public Works Department made some costly mistakes. But Bryant Avenue South is cool."

One-Lane/Bus-Lane/Bike-Lane and Pedestrians, too – The Bryant Avenue Project was good for Minneapolis, and it is great for the first six blocks of homes in either direction of Bryant itself.

And I'm not just talking convenience and dog-walking friendliness. From a real estate perspective, your property values went up if you live near "Bike-Lane Bryant." Just sayin'.

I'M GONNA MAKE SOME PREDICTIONS FOR LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET:

1) We are about to see extreme multiple offer conditions. So, if you want to buy and beat the crowd, you should act within two weeks. Unless we have a ridiculous snow dump, we are just minutes away from the market going nuts.

2) There will not be enough sellers for the buyers that want to buy. (Many will still be wanting to hold onto their 3% interest rates.)

3) That is not the only reason that Southwest Minneapolis values are going up – and why they will stay up.



From a real-estate perspective, bus lanes, bike lanes (like those on Bryant Ave.) and pedestrian-friendly improvements are good for property values.

Minneapolis is going to see "robust appreciation" this year – and into the future. I've mentioned several reasons for that before, but here's another: People are moving from California to Minneapolis in droves.

Why? Because hot, dry inland California is not as nice a place to live as Minneapolis. Plus, Californians lean progressive, and Minneapolis leans progressive. And of course: prices in hot, dry inland California are way higher than prices in Minneapolis. So, Californians are moving here.

And why shouldn't they be? We are cultured, and we are educated. And now, our weather is not as cold as it used to be, nor are the winters as long as they used to be.

Plus: Housing here has always been

under-priced. For years we've ranked among the best cities to live in, but our home prices don't make the top 40.

So: I predict that this spring we are going to have a flurry of multiple offers, and that flurry will "set the values" for the coming year, and then next year, another flurry in the spring will set an even higher value for the future.

But what about interest rates?

Interest rates are gonna "remain around 6" for the foreseeable future. Expect no significant changes in the next years. Six percent is normal. Remember?

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ADVICE?

IF YOU ARE BUYING in a competitive market, choose an agent who can articulate their strategy for making your offer

be the winning offer. My own recent experience is that price is hardly ever the sole determining factor. How will your realtor convince the seller's realtor that your offer might be the best offer? Getting the seller's realtor on your side is key.

IF YOU'RE SELLING – There are several important things to consider.

- Which improvement projects will be worth the time, money, and effort?

- Can your realtor help you get the right ones done fast?

- What methods of comparison has your realtor used to help you in your pricing decision?

And apart from "value," what is your pricing strategy?

- Low, to guarantee multiple offers?
- Assertive, with an agreement to go to Plan-B on a certain timeline?
- One of the others?

One last thing – Choose your loan officer wisely.

In multiple offer situations, your realtor should be able to reach your loan officer and strategize at almost any hour of any day.

Anytime you are simultaneously buying and selling, it's important that you have a seasoned and "powerful" loan officer who can get a VIP on the phone when necessary.

Now go out and enjoy Bryant!

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.

CRIME IN 5TH PRECINCT

Between Feb. 9 and 12, 2024, the 5th precinct had 17 reported robberies. Incidents have mainly occurred in the evenings. In two of these incidents, the victims' cars were also taken, according to a press release from the Minneapolis Police Department. The suspects in all but three of the incidents also showed or implied a handgun when confronting the victims. The loss was cell phones, purses, and money.

REPORTED INCIDENTS

- Feb. 9 – Robbery of Person/35XX Blaisdell Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery/26XX Hennepin Ave. S; Carjacking/25XX Hennepin Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery/East Lake of the Isles Pkwy/22nd; Robbery of Person/1st St. W/Penn Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery/32XX Colfax Ave. S; Robbery of Person/34th/Nicollet Ave. S

- Feb. 10: Aggravated Robbery/37XX Lyndale Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery/26th/Grand Ave. S; Carjacking/30XX/Humboldt Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery 18XX Lasalle

Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery/19XX 2nd Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery 24XX Dupont Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery/23XX Colfax Ave. S

- Feb. 11: Aggravated Robbery/24XX Hennepin Ave. S; Aggravated Robbery/22XX Harriet Ave. S

ASSAULT AT 50TH AND BRYANT

An email from the Southwest Business Association on Feb. 6 alerted people about an incident that happened at Patina at 50th and Bryant on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 2:30 p.m.:

Two female African-Americans in

their early 20s assaulted an employee - they are repeat shoplifters - last visiting this store on Wednesday, Jan. 31. When they entered on Saturday, employees told them to leave and they walked outside with a candle. When a team member followed, one of the suspects hit them in the face with the candle (five stitches required). The suspects yelled "Mom" and jumped into a nearby waiting tan Chevy Tahoe, plate # LUN 258. A police report was filed and surveillance images distributed.

NEW OWNERS AT WILD RUMPUS

Collette Morgan, owner of Wild Rumpus, announced her retirement after 31 years of running the bookstore. Her fans will miss her but she has assured everyone that she is leaving Wild Rumpus in the best of hands.

She said, "It is my great pleasure to announce that Wild Rumpus Books has been acquired by this group of excellent booksellers, Timothy Otte, Jessica Fuentes, Beth Wilson and Anna Hersh."

WATERBURY HOUSE RESTAURANT TO OPEN

The Waterbury House Restaurant has joined the Ward 7 community. The city council approved their liquor license application, bringing them one step closer to opening their doors to guests later in February. Located at 3012 Excelsior Blvd, this new spot "will offer both a coffee bar and bakery, and a restaurant to meet your culinary needs morning, noon, and night."

FACADE IMPROVEMENTS

Southwest Business Association (SWBA) is proud to announce that it will once again be managing grant funds to support the city of Minneapolis' Great Streets Program in 2024. SWBA will work with businesses within the southwest district to plan and implement façade improvements to enhance the neighbor-

hoods. The city has awarded SWBA its full request of \$50,000 (the maximum allowed each grant period). Grant awards are open with a special eligibility period for those who have not previously received a façade grant award through this program. This special eligibility will expire May 31, 2024. Following this eligibility period, the funds will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Improvements usually focus on aesthetic details, but SWBA often works with local businesses to find ways to incorporate energy efficiency improvements, as well.

"The façade of our local establishments is where public space meets private. It is at this point our opportunities to partner flourish. We are proud to be a part of this great program that brings the city, neighborhoods, the business association and our local businesses together as partners to build vital and vibrant communities," said Southwest Business Association President Matt Perry.

For more information, contact Contact: Roger Worm (612-743-0616, rogerworm@yahoo.com). Or, go to <https://swba.experiencesouthwest.com/facade-funding>. Find more information on the city's Great Streets program at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/ba/cped_great_streets_home.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

This publication is participating in a readership survey for the Midwest Free Community Papers Association. We'd love it if you would take a few minutes to answer some questions for us about your readership and shopping habits.

Anyone that completes the survey will be automatically entered into a drawing for a \$250 VISA gift card

NOTE: There is a limit of one entry per household.

Scan the QR code below to be taken to the survey or login via this web address:

<https://www.research.net/r/MFCP24>

HURRY!
Deadline for entering is closing fast!!

All responses will remain confidential, your name will not be added to any list and we will never contact you.

CITY BRIEFS

PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 5

The presidential nomination primary will be held on March 5. The election is partisan and only open to candidates seeking to run with one of the three participating major parties in Minnesota: the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, the Legalize Marijuana Now Party, and the Republican Party. Voters must choose only one party to vote in. Early voting started in January. People can register to vote at their polling place on Election Day by showing proof of residence. For more information, visit www.hennepin.us/residents#elections

FRANKLIN AVE. REDESIGN

City and county staff have shared preliminary design details for Franklin Ave between Lyndale Ave. and Chicago Ave. that is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2025. The plan includes a 3-lane design with center turn lanes, sidewalk and bike or shared use paths on both sides, boulevards with green space, and the removal of parking. It is scheduled to be reviewed by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory committees later this month and the City Council's Climate and Infrastructure Committee on March 14.

SEWER REPAIR

In February, the city will start accepting grant applications to repair failing private sewer pipes and connections to the public sewer. Up to 35 homeowners can receive grants between \$5,000 to \$10,000 to assist with repairs. The Metropolitan Council funds these grants. More information is available at the city's website or by calling 311.

CREEK BRIDGE REPAIR

The city is applying for a federal grant to renovate the Nicollet Ave. bridge over Minnehaha Creek. They reported that parts of the bridge are significantly deteriorated, in poor condition and require repair or replacement to extend the useful life of the structure. This project is programmed for repair in 2026. The application is for up to \$35,000,000 in federal funds through the Bridge Investment Program, and would require a 20% local match (up to \$8,750,000).

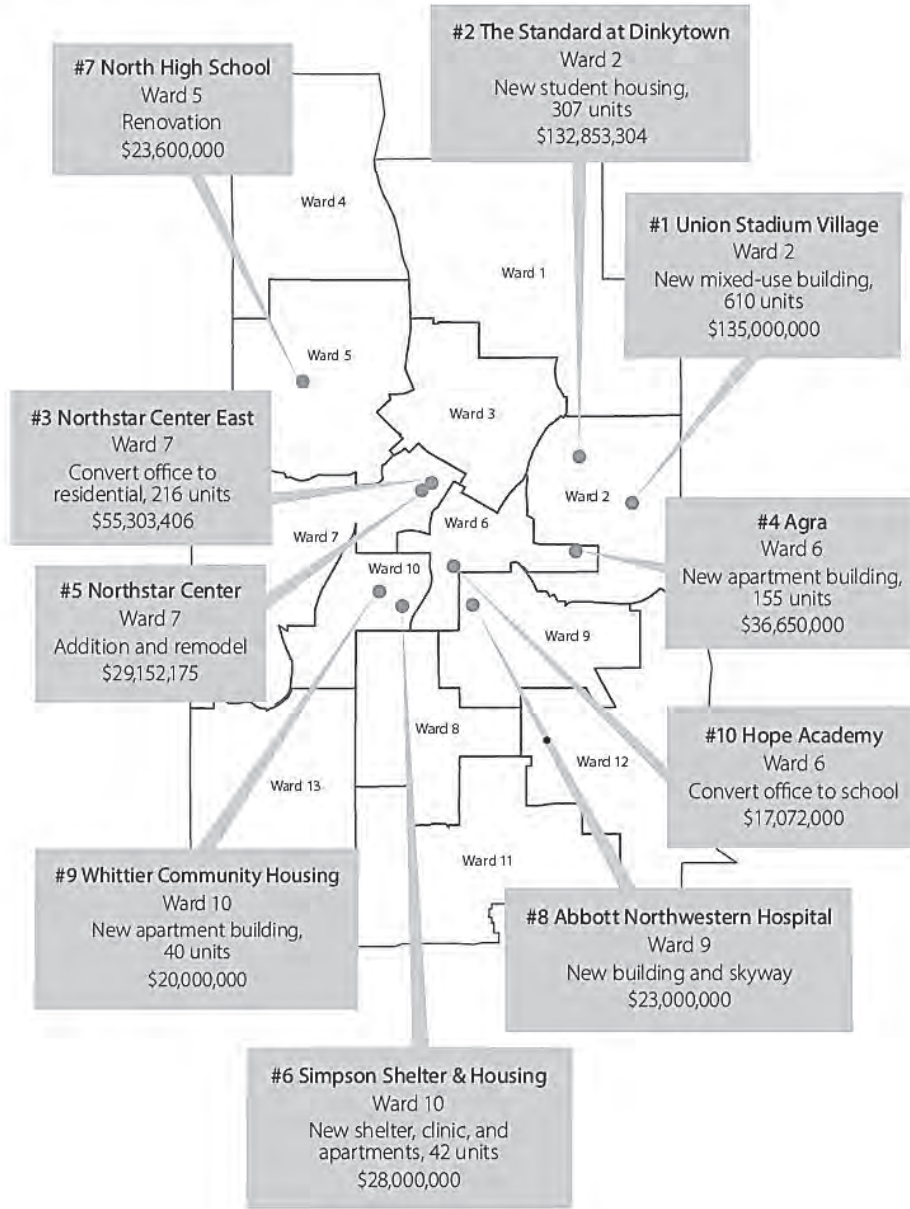
ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE

In January, City Council Members Jason Chavez, Aisha Chughtai, and Aurin Chowdhury introduced three ordinances related to camping and temporary housing. One would develop rules for outdoor sheltering options for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Another would establish a humane encampment response policy, and the last would mandate regular reports about outcomes for those experiencing homelessness related to encampment removals.

TRAFFIC CAMERA PILOT

In January, the city held online and in person meetings on a traffic camera pilot program being planned to help decrease driving related crashes and injuries. The

Highest-value 2023 construction developments



pilot program will have 10 cameras at intersections where there have been reported accidents. Owners of vehicles recorded violating traffic rules would be sent a ticket. They would have a legal status like a parking ticket and would not be connected to a person's driving record or driver's insurance. A state law change is needed before the program can move forward. If the needed legislation passes this session the program would likely start the spring 2025.

RESIDENTS ON CITY COMMITTEES

The city council has approved new appointments to the Heritage preservation committee. The new members from the southwest wards include Kelly Fischer from Ward 9 and Toshihiko Karato for Ward 13, both for a three-year term, beginning Jan 1, 2024, and ending Dec 31, 2026. The council and mayor also approved Madeline Lohman and Brian

Elliott, both from Ward 11, to serve on the Workplace Advisory Committee for two-year terms, beginning Jan 1, 2024 and ending Dec 31, 2025. Katie Severt for Ward 7, Stephanie Randolph for Ward 8, Sonja Mydels for Ward 10, and Jasmine Bloomdahl for Ward 10 have been appointed to serve on the Public Health Advisory Committee for the coming year.

TRASH INCINERATION CONTRACT

The city council has authorized a new waste disposal contract with Hennepin County, for an estimated \$13,065,000, for processing and disposal of solid waste collected by the city through Dec 31, 2025. All the trash is planned to be burned downtown at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center incinerator. The cost is based on a rate of \$74 per ton for the first year, and \$77 per ton for the second year.

Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

SAFETY WORK COMING TO STREETS

Transportation planners with Minneapolis Public Works are co-coordinating traffic safety improvements 26th St./Dupont Ave, 26th St./Emerson Ave., 28th St./Dupont Ave. and 28th St./Emerson Ave. These traffic safety improvements are federally funded through the Highway Safety Improvements Program (HSIP).

KALEY BROWN LEAVES WHITTIER

Kaley Brown has departed from the executive director role at Whittier Alliance "after six deeply meaningful and action-packed years. There really is no way to adequately summarize the full impact of what this role brought to my life; I could never have imagined the unique opportunities, challenges, and triumphs we encountered. I will say that I am profoundly lucky to have worked alongside and learned from a number of incredibly talented, empathetic, and passionate staff members, board members, and volunteers over the past several years. Whittier Alliance is a foundationally strong organization that provides value in so many different ways to our community in no small part because of you."



Brown is now the Ward 7 Policy Aide for council member Katie Cashman.

EXHIBIT AT MCAD THROUGH MARCH 2

On behalf of the Jerome Foundation, Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) presents the 2022/2023 Jerome Foundation Fellowships for Early Career Artists Exhibition. The four fellowship recipients are artists Roshan Ganu, Erika Terwiller, Moira (Miri) Villiard, and Peng Wu. Their works are on view now through March 2, 2024 in the MCAD Gallery (2501 Stevens Avenue).

NEW CHALET BUILDING NAME

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners has voted to change the name of the chalet building at Theodore Wirth Regional Park to "Eddie Manderville Chalet at Theodore Wirth Park." Eddie Manderville was affiliated with Theodore Wirth Golf Course for more than 60 years, and is widely renowned for his contributions to Minneapolis golf.

CARITAS VOCAL ENSEMBLE SHOWS

Southwest Minneapolis resident Anne Carlson and fellow members of Caritas Vocal Ensemble will perform "To Touch, to Kiss, to Die: Love in the Earth and Body" on Sunday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m. at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (5760 Portland Ave. S.). They will perform "Sing, My Soul: Love in Heaven and the Sky" on Sunday, June 2, 3:30 p.m., at Salem Lutheran Church (4150 Dupont Ave. S.). For additional information, visit www.caritasvocalensemble.org or email caritasvocalensemble@gmail.com.

LIVING 50+

Coming in March.
Contact us today.

ads@swConnector.com
612-255-1180

Inogen

CLAIM YOUR **14-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL***

PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE

Call us toll-free at **1-844-716-2411**

*14-day risk-free trial- Return within 30 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price.
PM230469 EN, EX, USA | Rv Only | © 2023 Inogen, Inc. 301 Coromar Drive, Goleta, CA 93117
Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (888) 429-2331 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today
888-429-2331

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (888) 429-2331.

Veteran Car Donations



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

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.

HOUSECLEANING
20/20 Cleaning, Dependable House Cleaning, Family Owned and Operated, Serving the Area for Over 25 Years, 651-635-9228, www.2020cleaningspecialists.com.

RENTAL
1 bedroom apartment, first floor of a 4-plex. Hardwood floors. \$935 per month, includes heat. 4308 46th Av. S. Mpls. No dogs. Non-smoking. Rick at 612-827-7623.

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

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

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




BUY LOCAL, SUPPORT LOCAL.
Grab a discount to Minnesota Stores!
GOODCARTS.CO/MN

NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, March 21 | PUBLICATION: Thursday, March 11



Treating your house like a home.
Painting by Jerry Wind
• 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

IDEA: REACH 50,000 PEOPLE HEREWHO ARE THINKING ABOUT THE BEST PLACE TO USE THEIR TALENTS. PLACE AN AD.



WACSO COMMISSIONS AVAILABLE. HOUSES, CABINS, PETS ETC.
www.WacsoWasHere.com wacso@mac.com



TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING
Matthew Molinaro
FREE ESTIMATES
612.239.2508
MolinaroTree.com
lic&Insured | certified arborist MN-4551A



Roofing Gutters Windows
40+ years experience, licensed and insured.
Greg Johnson
(701) 969-2290



THINK STUCCO



Buying
★ Free Appraisals ★
Memorabilia Sports Card Collections
★ Consignment Available ★
Info@minnieandpaul.com
612-208-6405



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

It's Multiple Offer Season!
Time to call a realtor?

Call us | 612-845-5273



Diane Mach & Larry LaVercombe
REALTORS THAT ROCK!

Locally Owned, Community Focused.
LAKES AREA REALTY
DianeandLarry.com
larry@larrylavercombe.com

Everett & Charlie
a gallery where art meets experience

FEATURING ONLY MINNESOTA ARTISTS



STAR TRIBUNE READERS' CHOICE
MINNESOTA'S Best
2021 GOLD WINNER

2720 West 43rd St, Linden Hills
everettandcharlie.com

Home Improvement

Reach local folks who want to hire locally.

Coming in March.
Contact us today.

ads@swConnector.com
612-255-1180



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 3/16/2024.

Home ownership is within reach.



Let us show you the possibilities.

The team at CorTrust Mortgage is ready to explore available loan programs that can make purchasing a home possible. We'll work to uncover down payment and closing cost assistance programs in your area.



Stop by or scan to learn more. We would love to see you!

CorTrustMortgage.com
Member FDIC • Bank ID 405612
NMLS 458038



KITCHENS • BATHS • INTERIORS



WE SPECIALIZE IN OLDER HOMES



wisedesignremodel.com

612.849.2515



LIC# BC 738242