

# SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • MAY 2024 • VOL. 3 • NO. 6 • 25,000 CIRCULATION



**9** Home and garden projects affect the local watershed

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## FAST, FREQUENT, ALL-DAY SERVICE

Construction on two Bus Rapid Transit Lines affects Lake, France, Upton and Hennepin this year

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Street projects on Hennepin Avenue from Lake to 26th, West Lake, France and Upton mean that getting around southwest Minneapolis is challenging right now, but traveling by bus will get faster when the work is done in 2025.

Met Transit is currently working on two Bus Rapid Transit lines in the area. It is year two of B Line construction along Lake Street. Year one of a two-year construction project for the E Line began in April.

BRT is part of a focus on “fast, frequent, all day service,” according to Met Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras.

“Everyone benefits when we invest in better bus service,” said Kandaras. “Riders get to their destinations faster and more reliably, streets become safer and less congested, and access expands to jobs, entertainment, shopping and other destinations.”

Ridership on the Bus Rapid Transit routes have been growing, and the lines are among the most popular offered. “On A, C and D, ridership grew significantly after improvements,” stated Katie Roth, director of arterial Bus Rapid Transit projects at Metro Transit.

Combined, nearly 220,000 people live within a 10-minute walk, bike, or roll of B Line and E Line stations. More than 1 in 10 households on these corridors do



Drew Kerr, a Linden Hills resident who works for Met Transit, stands near the closed main intersection at Upton and 43rd. It will be fully closed for about 10 weeks as the city completes a water and sewer project at the same time as Met Transit does work on the E Line. After the city’s work is finished, the intersection will be partially closed. Local businesses have maps available to show where customers can park. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

## WASHBURN TWINS EARN FILM AWARD

Five-minute documentary on public safety in Minneapolis earns honorable mention in national C-SPAN competition

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Creating a five-minute documentary about public safety in Minneapolis was “eye-opening” for a pair of 18-year-old twins from Washburn High School.

“You’ve Dialed 911: The Future of Public Safety from Minneapolis,” by Hale residents Andrew Wesson and Jacob Wesson earned honorable mention in the na-



Drew (at left) and Jacob Wesson explored public safety in Minneapolis in their award-winning documentary.

tional C-SPAN 20th annual StudentCam competition - an exciting accomplishment during their senior year.

“My sons explored a very complex subject and frankly, it’s a subject that conjures up many emotions and strong opinions in people,” remarked their father, Matt Wesson. “Despite that, they presented their story and experience with the police

## RISING COSTS, DECLINING REVENUE BRING TROUBLE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL BUDGET

MPS plans to address \$110 million shortfall by reducing staff and programs. No school closings in plan.

By **Cam Gordon**

Lisa Sayles-Adams, the new Minneapolis Public School (MPS) Superintendent, has been on the job for less than three months and has already participated in two major contract negotiations. Plus, she is facing a 17% budget reduction next year, from this year’s budget of \$643,890,246.

In March, the MPS school board re-

ceived details of declining revenues that will result in a \$110 million shortfall next year due to decreased enrollment and an end to federal aid. District staff predict that 413 fewer students will enroll next September, compared with enrollment from this February. Increasing costs in salaries and benefits, transportation, special education programming, implementing the state’s new reading education requirements, utilities, software licensing and English learning support to students new to the district make the problem even worse.

“It’s very frightening,” said school board director Adriana Cerrillo. “I fear for our children and our city, everyone in this city.”

Cerrillo is running for reelection this year and represents the school system’s 4th district that







A water line and a sanitary sewer line that are over 100 years old are being replaced at Upton and 43rd, closing the intersection for 10 weeks. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

**▶1 MET TRANSIT**

not have access to a vehicle.

The B and E Lines will run every 10-15 minutes, seven days a week during the day and most of the evening. They aim to make travel time 20-25% faster along the routes.

**TRANSIT, WATER AND SANITARY SEWER**

The E Line is a story of partnerships, according to Roth. Of the 34 stops, 25 platforms are being constructed in partnerships with others, including Hennepin County and the city of Minneapolis. Timelines were aligned by Hennepin County and the city of Minneapolis to install

fiber optic communication infrastructure and additional pedestrian, traffic signal, bikeway and intersection improvements during the E Line construction. This results in lower costs overall and less impact, pointed out Roth.

"We and our local partners are doing everything we can to make the most of these generational investments while limiting impacts on those directly impacted by construction today," said Roth.

The intersection at Upton and 43rd in Linden Hills wouldn't have been completely closed to car traffic if it was just for the E Line work, pointed out Metro Transit Communications staff member Drew Kerr, who



**MET TRANSIT**

- Annual ridership increased 16% from 2022 to 2023, to more than 45 million rides on bus, light rail, and commuter rail.

- Overall reported crime declined 7.7% from the first quarter of 2023 to the first quarter of 2024; the most-serious crimes, including assault and robbery, declined by 16.4%.

- Nearly a year into her role as general manager, Lesley Kandaras has committed to riding every route. Met Transit leaders and staff receive employee passes, and must meet minimum ride requirements.

- Met Transit has introduced Transit Rider Investment Program (TRIP) Agents who are riding light rail vehicles to help customers feel more comfortable and to inspect fares. Since February, TRIP Agents have had more than 31,000 interactions with riders. The team will be expanded as recruitment efforts continue this year.

- There is an increased focus on cleaning and repair, including efforts to clean buses between trips at Brooklyn Center and Mall of America transit centers. Signs encouraging riders to report facility issues have also been posted at all light rail and bus rapid transit stations.

- More visible decals have been installed that help light rail customers know what vehicle they're on when reporting issues through Text for Safety and the expanded use of onboard monitors that show real-time security footage,



reminding people on buses that cameras are in use.

- The first agency Code of Conduct has been adopted, and an expanded security contract approved. Supplemental security officers continue to work at several light rail stations and transit centers.

- The starting hourly wage for bus and train operators is \$27.59 and the starting hourly wage for mechanic technicians is \$37.80. Met Transit hired more than 400 operators in 2023 – the most in the agency's history. Higher wage rates are provided to second- and third-shift workers and a 4.5% increase will take effect for all represented employees in August. Hiring bonuses of up to \$5,000 are provided for many positions.

- Metro Transit leadership is inviting customers and community members to a series of May events that will inform future priorities.

# FOOD

★ ★ ★

# MUSIC

★ ★ ★

# FUN

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**HENNEPIN AVE. PROJECT**

The city will reconstruct Hennepin Ave. between W. Lake St. and Douglas Ave. Construction will be phased over 2 years. Phase 1 will be from Lake St. W to 26th St. occurring in 2024. Phase 2 will be from 26th St. to Douglas Ave. occurring in 2025.

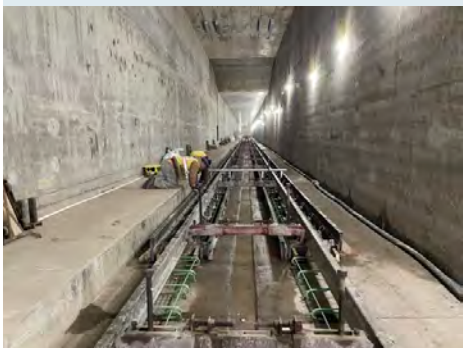
A weekly stakeholder meeting is held every Friday, 10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Metro Transit buses will be detoured over to Lyndale Ave via Lake St. or 31st and 24th St.

**DAILY USERS BY THE NUMBERS**

- 770-3,400 pedestrians
- 6,600 transit riders
- 220-280 bicyclists
- 400 buses
- 15,000-31,500 motor vehicles

Visit the project page: [www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/hennepin-ave-s/](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/hennepin-ave-s/)



**LIGHTRAIL PROJECTS**

**GREEN LINE EXTENSION**

The METRO Green Line Extension (also known as the Southwest light rail project, or SWLRT) adds 14.5 miles to the existing METRO Green Line. It moves from downtown Minneapolis through St. Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka to Eden Prairie. Over the last two years of construction, the project has encountered several construction challenges that have increased costs and caused delays. Work began in 2019 and the majority of construction will be done in 2025, followed by two years of testing and systems construction. The line is now expected to open in 2027.

This year, there continues to be significant construction at the Kenilworth LRT tunnel (shown above). The construction is primarily focused on excavation, cutting of metal sheets, and concrete placement.

**BLUE LINE EXTENSION**

The METRO Blue Line Extension is proposed to operate on 13.4 miles of light rail track connecting downtown Minneapolis at Target Field to North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park. 2024 will be a big year for the METRO Blue Line Extension project. Project staff will be working on more detailed plans for local review and approval.

**DEVELOPMENT NEAR TRANSIT LINES**

In analyzing building permit data between 2009 and 2022, the Met Council found more than \$16 billion in development occurred within a half mile of high-frequency bus and rail transit, accounting for 37% of all the development in the seven-county metro area.



Katie Roth, director of arterial Bus Rapid Transit projects at Metro Transit, talks about the BRT construction in Linden Hills on April 24, 2024. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

**2 MET TRANSIT**

lives in the area.

The city of Minneapolis timed improvements to 200 feet of a clay sanitary sewer and water main lines in Linden Hills at the intersection of 43rd and Upton to align with the E Line construction, according to Minneapolis senior transportation planner Katie White. The intersection will be completely shut down to traffic for about 10 weeks, and work began on April 15, 2024. The sanitary sewer line dates to 1919, and the water line to 1901. "We're taking the opportunity to consolidate the work and to consolidate the impact on the community," said White.

After the city's portion is done, the intersection will remain partially closed while Met Transit completes its work.

During the construction period, parking on 43rd St. and Upton Ave. will remain available up to the road closure area. Other street parking off the main node will remain open.

The Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC) and Southwest Business Association are encouraging people to Walk, Bike, Roll to Linden Hills, with weekly drawing for gift cards and prizes.

**LINDEN HILLS AFFECTED**

While construction will restrict road access, new Wild Rumpus Books (2720 W 43rd St.) co-owner Timothy Otte is looking forward to the long-term benefits. Otte sometimes uses the METRO C Line and Route 6 to commute to and from the bookstore, located in the Linden Hills business district, where parking is limited.

"As someone who has relied on transit to get around the region, I always roll my eyes when people say it's going to be disruptive," Otte said. "Well, sure. But it's short-term pain."

Jen Belleflour of New Gild Jewelers (4300 Upton Ave. S) said, "This should be our busiest season, and instead, we've had to cut everyone's hours by 20% and cancel our attendance at an industry trade show at the end of the month. We're trimming everywhere, but it's a dramatic downturn, and I feel scared for us and also concerned about other small businesses." New Gild recently celebrated its seventh anniversary. "It's unbelievable how much three weeks of ghost town can beat your business down. We are trying to stop the bleeding, but the worst case would be letting all of our employees go and doing the work ourselves," stated Belleflour.

Karen Binkowski of the Southwest Business Association observed, "There was no official communication to the businesses that there would be three construction projects going on simultaneously at that intersection - the sewer work, the E line work, and the water main work - all of which have required an enormous amount of street parking to be taken away during their busiest shopping season." Local businesses have created a map showing where parking is available to distribute

to customers.

"The business owners are working together to try and survive this disruption to their businesses during their busiest season," said Binkowski. In addition to the parking map, they donated gift cards to the Walk, Bike, Roll campaign, and are promoting the campaign through flyers and social media posts.

**3 BRT LINES OPENING IN 2025**

The Metro E Line will operate in the Route 6 corridor along University Ave./4th St., Hennepin Ave. and France Ave. from the University of Minnesota to Southdale. E Line service will begin in 2025. It will cost \$60 million.

The existing 12-mile Route 6 bus will be simplified to travel from downtown Minneapolis to Minnesota Drive and France Avenue primarily via Hennepin Avenue and Xerxes Avenue, running every 20 minutes most of the day.

The line is estimated to serve between 13,400-14,200 riders by 2040, according to a corridor study done by Kimley-Horn and Associates from January 2020.

The Metro B Line is in the Route 21 corridor along Lake St. and Marshall/Selby between Uptown and downtown St. Paul. Work east of Hiawatha was done in 2024, and work west is being done this year. Service will begin in June 2025 (it was initially projected for 2024).

With this project, Lake St. will go from a four-lane road to three lanes, with red bus-only lanes in one or two directions, a move Met Transit transportation planner Adam Smith said is being done for safety. Lake Street has the highest number of crashes in both the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. There will also be some new left-turn lanes. The total cost is \$65 million, with \$12 million for the Lake St. Improvements coming from a RAISE grant.

"Because Lake Street sees such a high share of our deaths, we made it a priority," said White. "It wouldn't have happened without the federal grant."

Route 6 is the region's sixth highest in terms of ridership, and Route 21 is the city's busiest bus line.

Also coming on March 22, 2025 is the Gold Line, a 10-mile bus rapid transit line connecting St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Woodbury generally along I-94. It will operate primarily within bus-only lanes. Park and ride lots will be in St. Paul, Oakdale and Woodbury.

When the 12-bus rapid transit network is complete, 625,000 residents (20% of the regional population) will live within a half-mile of a bus rapid transit station. Many of those lines will intersect and connect to existing or planned light rail stations.

"We're building an integrated system of fast, frequent and reliable transitways that only gets stronger with each additional line," said Nick Thompson, deputy general manager of capital projects for Metro Transit. The vision is to have 11 new lines open by 2040.

**E-LINE STATION CONSTRUCTION**

- 2024:
- Upton & 43rd (along with city sewer and water utility improvements. The intersection will be completely closed for an estimated 10 weeks. The annual Art on the Edge street festival is being moved.)
  - France & 44th \*plus pedestrian safety
  - France & 47th \*plus pedestrian safety
  - France & 50th \*plus pedestrian safety
  - France & 54th \*plus pedestrian safety
  - France & 58th
- \* Hennepin County is installing the additional pedestrian safety improvement at these intersections

- 2025:
- Hennepin & Gateway
  - Hennepin & Groveland
  - Richfield Road & Bde Maka Ska South
  - Southdale Transit Center

**B-LINE STATION CONSTRUCTION**

Stations at Lake & Nicollet, I-35W & Lake, and Lake & 4th/5th Avenue were mostly constructed as part of the METRO Orange Line project in 2020-2021.

Construction of stations at Lake Street / Midtown Station is being coordinated with Hennepin County's Hi-Lake Improvements project in 2024.

2023: Stations east of Hiawatha

- 2024:
- Lake and France
  - West Lake St. (at intersection with Green Line LRT)
  - Lake and W Bde Maka Ska Parkway
  - Lake/Lagoon and E. Bde Maka Ska
  - Lake/Lagoon and Hennepin
  - Lake and Lyndale

**FEATURES OF BRT**

- Faster, frequent service
- Pay before boarding for faster service
- Enhanced security
- Low-floor buses and raised curbs at stations, plus wider bus doors and boarding from the front and back, speed up boarding
- Extending the curb at stations saves time. Buses can merge more easily into traffic after serving a station
- Signal priority allows buses to move through traffic lights faster
- Larger & specialized vehicles

**5 EXISTING BRT LINES**

- Orange Line follows I-35W between Burnsville and downtown Minneapolis (2021).
- Red Line travels on Cedar Avenue between Apple Valley and Mall of America (2013).
- A Line along Snelling Avenue and 46th Street, linking Rosedale with the METRO Blue Line's 46th Street Station (2016).
- C Line travels mainly along Penn Avenue, linking downtown Minneapolis with Brooklyn Center Transit Center (2019).
- D Line links Brooklyn Center Transit Center and Mall of America, through downtown Minneapolis (2022).

**BRT LINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

- B Line on from Uptown to downtown St. Paul, along Lake Street and Marshall and Selby avenues, scheduled to open in 2025.
- E Line on Hennepin and France, from Southdale Transit Center to the University of Minnesota, planned to open in 2025.
- Gold Line through St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury generally along I-94, scheduled to open in 2025.

**BRT LINES BEING PLANNED**

- F Line from Northtown in Blaine to downtown Minneapolis on Central and University avenues.
- Purple Line from downtown St. Paul to Maplewood.
- G Line on Rice and Robert streets.



# THE POWER OF COOPERATION

With cooperation, we can do more with less.

Our brain grows every time we make a mistake. Really, it's science. In that case, the world should be filled with geniuses at every turn.

So why does it feel like we're surrounded by a confederacy of dunces?

We're not talking about the comic novel by John Kennedy Toole, which went unpublished until 1980 and then won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1981.

His failure to publish the book is why he killed himself at the age of 31 in 1969.

Fifty-five years later, "A Confederacy of Dunces" is one of the most loved books in America.

That just goes to show don't judge a book by its start.

As my old college friend Jeff Salzenstein at Stanford University says today:

*Your past doesn't dictate your future. You have the power to create a new story.*

*It's about turning every "no" into a "not yet."*

*And every failure into fuel.*

Salzenstein was a two-time tennis All-American, national champion, and team captain at Stanford. He went on to become a former top 100 world-ranked pro tennis player. Now, he is a performance coach and trains others how to find their "Zone of Excellence."

But even he suffered setbacks along the way and had to learn resilience.

Let this be a reminder:



By Eric Ortiz

*No matter where you are,  
Your story isn't over.*

*Rebuild  
Reinvent*

*And reclaim your future.*

It's not too late for us, as human beings (and a few bots), or Minneapolis, or any community, to learn from our mistakes.

## FROM MONTY PYTHON

If we can't learn from our mistakes, at least we can learn from Monty Python and the "committee meeting" mentality in "Life of Brian."

REG: Right. Now, uh, item four: attainment of world supremacy within the next five years. Uh, Francis, you've been doing some work on this.

FRANCIS: Yeah. Thank you, Reg. Well, quite frankly, siblings, I think five years is optimistic, unless we can smash the Roman empire within the next 12 months.

REG: Twelve months?

FRANCIS: Yeah, 12 months. And, let's face it. As empires go, this is the big one, so we've got to get up off our arses and stop just talking about it!

COMMANDOS: Hear! Hear!

LORETTA: I agree. It's action that counts, not words, and we need action now.

COMMANDOS: Hear! Hear!

REG: You're right. We could sit around here all day talking, passing resolutions, making clever speeches. It's not going to shift one Roman soldier!

FRANCIS: So, let's just stop gabbing on about it. It's completely pointless and it's getting us nowhere!

COMMANDOS: Right!

LORETTA: I agree. This is a complete waste of time.

*bam*

JUDITH: They've arrested Brian!

REG: What?

COMMANDOS: What?  
JUDITH: They've dragged him off!

They're going to crucify him!

REG: Right! This calls for immediate discussion!

COMMANDO #1: Yeah.

JUDITH: What?!

COMMANDO #2: Immediate.

COMMANDO #1: Right.

LORETTA: New motion?

REG: Completely new motion, eh, that, ah – that there be, ah, immediate action –

FRANCIS: Ah, once the vote has been taken.

REG: Well, obviously once the vote's been taken. You can't act another resolution till you've voted on it...

JUDITH: Reg, for God's sake, let's go now!

REG: Yeah. Yeah.

JUDITH: Please!

REG: Right. Right.

FRANCIS: Fine.

REG: In the – in the light of fresh information from, ah, sibling Judith –

LORETTA: Ah, not so fast, Reg.

JUDITH: Reg, for God's sake, it's perfectly simple. All you've got to do is to go out of that door now, and try to stop the Romans' nailing him up! It's happening, Reg! Something's actually happening, Reg! Can't you understand?! Ohhh!

*slam*

REG: Hm. Hm.

FRANCIS: Oh, dear.

REG: Hello. Another little ego trip for the feminists.

LORETTA: What?

FRANCIS: *whistling*

REG: Oh, sorry, Loretta. Ahh, oh, read that back, would you?

## ENOUGH FRANTIC DISCOURSE.

Enough stagnation. The current state of affairs is not sustainable.



Metro Transit bus driving on 1st Avenue in downtown Minneapolis. (weston m/Unsplash)

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, labor productivity decreased in 37 states and the District of Columbia in 2022. In 2023, labor productivity also decreased in 60 of the 86 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) four-digit manufacturing industries and in three of the five mining industries.

We need action. We need innovation. We need growth.

We can snap out of this productivity crisis if we get rid of our "committee meeting" mentality and work together to get positive things done.

"You know, clarity, accountability, measurement were OK when the world was simpler. But business has become much more complex," said Yves Morieux, a consultant at BCG, in his famous 2015 Ted Talk about cooperation.

It is difficult to create value with ineffective structures and systems. We need to simplify. We need to cooperate.

"This is math. ... With cooperation, we can do more with less."

Are you ready? Let's grow.



**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.

## STORIES & JOURNEYS

### IS THERE A RIFT BETWEEN THE MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL RETIREES COUNCIL (AFL-CIO) AND ALL ELDERS UNITED FOR JUSTICE?

"Building power through unity: All Elders United for Justice aims to bring power to elders through relationships and discussion."

That was the headline in a feature article written by Chloe Peter that appeared in all three TMC Publications CO newspapers back in May of 2022. It included interviews with myself (a member of the All Elders Steering Committee at the time and Greater Longfellow resident), Vic Rosenthal (primary facilitator of All Elders and St. Paul resident) and Leif Grina, (president of the Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council and Uptown resident).

"Elders from diverse backgrounds are becoming more aware of the importance of working together to build power," said Vic Rosenthal. He went on to say, "For many elders, because of race or lack of resources, there are significant inequities and that everyone must work together to change the status quo."



By Donald L. Hammen

## POTENTIAL RIFT AND RETIREMENT

It's been one year ago March of this year that Vic died from cancer leaving it up to others to build the organization of All Elders and carry out his vision. All Elders member Johnathan Rose felt called to fill the void. Today he is executive director. There is now a board of directors. There are the following committees: housing, care, and broadband.

In that same article, Leif Grina is said to be an All Elders member and MRRC leader who mentions that the MRRC has had difficulties including voices from people of color, but wants to heavily pursue that with All Elders. Elsewhere in the article Grina stated, "I think that's what's exciting about All Elders is that other communities are being brought in."

And (not to be left out in the same article), I stated, "Building relationships by telling our stories and using the truth contained in those stories for the purpose of building power to shape public policy whenever and where ever possible will potentially result in a world of All Elders United for Justice." I went on to say, "And when that happens, we all benefit. We all do better when we all do better."

Given all this I was stunned and surprised when I recently heard Leif Grina

state during informal conversation leading up to a Zoom meeting of the Elders Legislative Coalition that he was done investing his time and energy in All Elders given his apparent belief that All Elders was not living up to its promise. This suggests to me that there is a rift between MRRC leadership and All Elders that I will be exploring going forward.

If you have read this far you have taken the plunge with me into the river(-flow) of life experiences that is Stories and Journeys.

### CONFIRMED: METRO TRANSIT ROUTE 23 BUS DRIVER MELANIE IS RETIRED AFTER 47 YEARS

What began as a where is Melanie conversation between me and my neighbor Gary Lagendorf as we waited for the number 23 bus, usually driven by Melanie Benson, ended up with confirmation that Melanie has retired. Gary heard this from a bus driver. I got confirmation in the form of a Sunday Star Tribune column written by Jennifer Brooks (April 14, 24). The column I read focused on remembering Melanie's life as a Metro Transit bus driver mostly on route 23.

Once while riding with Melanie, I

shared with her that if I had my life to do over I would be a college-educated Metro Transit bus driver. In response, she revealed to me her identity as a college-educated Metro Transit bus driver. That established my sense of connection with her.

Melanie left me a legacy of sorts. She recommended a watch repair shop near 53rd and Chicago as a place where I could get a new battery for my pocket watch. She also drove me to where I needed to go many times. For this, I thank her for her service and wish her well in retirement.

So, dear reader, is there a chance you have ever ridden Metro Transit bus route 23 with Melanie? If you have stories to share tell yourself, tell others or tell me via tesha@tmcpub.com.

### ELDER VOICES (TELLING YOUR STORIES, SHARING YOUR JOURNEYS)

Meets the last Friday of the month, 10-11a.m., at Turtle Bread, 4205-E. 34th Street. Look for the table with the All Elders sign. Note: there will be no meeting in May.

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

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– 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.

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# THE START OF SOMETHING BIG FOR LOCAL NEWS

## Congress must follow New York's lead



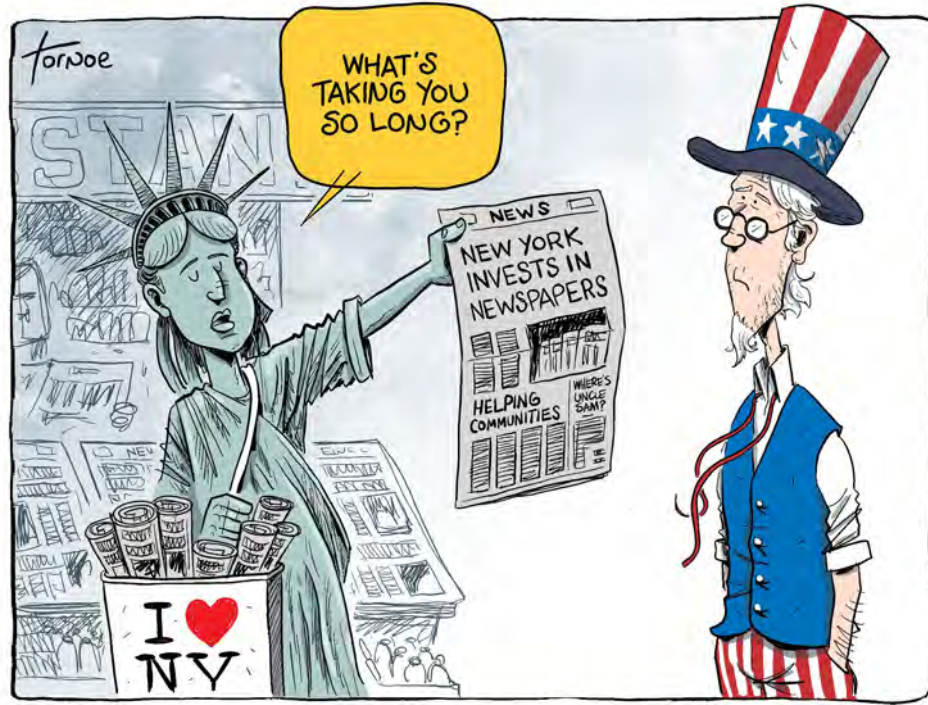
By Dean Ridings

The state of New York, led by a powerful coalition of local publishers, has just approved game-changing legislation in the fight to preserve local news outlets and community journalism. By including a \$90 million payroll tax credit for hiring and retaining local journalists in the state's 2025 budget, New York has become the nation's first to take such a major step to protecting this vital industry. This is a commitment to local journalism that the U.S. Congress should urgently build upon.

The Empire State's legislation is built from the framework of the Community News and Small Business Support Act that would provide similar incentives at the federal level. Much like the New York program, the proposed tax credits would provide critically-needed sustainability for local news organizations, and would ensure that its local citizens continue to receive the news and information they need from credible sources.

As smaller publications shutter by the hundreds and news deserts across the country multiply, the decline of the local newspaper threatens civic engagement. A recent study found that just one in four Americans has access to a local daily newspaper – a dire reality that impacts voter participation, local corruption, policy debates and even affects bond ratings in the affected communities.

Yet local newspapers remain the prime driver of civic knowledge and engagement. The data is crystal clear – com-



munities with robust local news ecosystems have higher voter turnout, better governance, coordinated emergency responses and more engaged citizens. Investing in local journalism pays exponential dividends for society.

How was the New York legislature able to pass such meaningful legislation? First, a strong coalition of local publishers came together to demonstrate the value their newspapers deliver to their communities. And, government leaders recognized the value of a vibrant local newspaper in their hometown and acted in a bipartisan manner to make a difference.

Now it's time for Congress to follow the New York lead and take action to support the local media industry nationwide. The Community News and Small Business

Support Act is a unique piece of legislation where everyone wins. Local businesses benefit from advertising credits and local citizens benefit by having professional reporters covering the most important topics impacting their lives. Incentivizing local outlets to hire and compensate reporters through tax credits is a fiscally smart way to support newsgathering and watchdog capacities without compromising editorial independence. The tax credits would provide a much-needed lifeline to local newspapers while also empowering new entrants and news startups aiming to revive media entrepreneurship.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have a prime opportunity to build on the momentum from New York by supporting the Community News and

### MINNESOTA BILL THREATENS SMALL NEWSPAPERS LIKE US

A proposal to create a statewide recycling program financed by paper and packaging producers is included in the House & Senate Environment Omnibus bills (HF 3911/ SF 3887). However, unless there is an exemption for ALL news publications, this bill will affect the Midway Como Frogtown Monitor with its circulation of 23,500 and its sister publications, the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger (circulation 22,000) and Southwest Connector (circulation 25,000).

The Minnesota Newspaper Association secured an exemption in the Senate version for ALL news publications from the requirements, but the House version only exempts publications with circulations lower than 20,000. PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS TO LET THEM KNOW YOU SUPPORT NEWSPAPERS AND SUPPORT THAT EXEMPTION.

Small Business Support Act. Congress must recognize what New York's leadership already has: Local journalism is a public good worth supporting. The time to act is now. For more information visit [www.supportcommunitynews.com](http://www.supportcommunitynews.com)

▶ **Dean Ridings** is the CEO of America's Newspapers. On behalf of its approximately 1,700 newspaper and Solutions Partner companies, America's Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. They put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: [newspapers.org](http://newspapers.org).

## THE PROBLEM OF RISING HOMELESSNESS

Is homelessness a bad thing? In our community, yes, it is.



As a student in Minneapolis, I see homeless people every day on my way to school. I see encampments and officers forcibly removing homeless people from these encampments, and worst of all, I can't stop it alone.

The thing about homelessness is that it hits fast and hard, leaving families devastated and without their basic needs cared for. Many people already live on the poverty line, and those who don't are considered the "High and Mighty."

In my opinion the mighty are the ones who are able to survive off of minimum wage with a family, as it's harder.

How many homeless people do you see daily in Minneapolis? There's more than that. The average city has around an eighth of its population because of homeless people, and in fact, they aren't homeless.

Minneapolis is their home. They just don't have a house.

If Minneapolis is their home, then why are the capable not doing anything to help them?

Can you help them?

After all, they're your neighbors.

**Lyric Rogers, Minneapolis**

*This article was first published in Ella Baker News, the online school newspaper for Ella Baker School. Lyric Rogers is an eighth-grade student at Ella Baker School.*



Southwest Connector owner Tessa M. Christensen speaks with students at Ella Baker School about community newspapers on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Students in an after school program there are publishing the online school newspaper, Ella Baker News.

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## WASHBURN TWINS

ride-along and subsequent interviews in a clear and concise manner leaving the viewer with much to consider which, I think, was intentional and effective.”

“Part of the reason that I thought it was so well-done was because I could see the planning and thoughtfulness that went into creating such a potentially divisive piece. I was pleased that the story was told from several different angles and through different lenses to create a more holistic piece. That’s not easy to do when you are limited to five minutes,” observed their mother, Kristy Wesson.

“When I first realized we had won, I was incredibly excited,” recalled Jake. “It was quite the honor to have an opportunity to tell the world about the historic happenings in Minneapolis – let alone receive an award for it.”

“I learned at 7 a.m., and I was so happy. I couldn’t believe it really,” said Drew. “We were the only award winners from Minnesota. To be recognized among so many great students from all around the country was exciting and amazing.”

C-SPAN is funded by America’s cable television companies, who also support StudentCam. In Minneapolis, C-SPAN is available locally through Comcast.

The annual StudentCam competition is sponsored by the C-SPAN Education Foundation. Videos were evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives based on the thoughtful examination of the competition’s theme, quality of expression, inclusion of varying sides of the documentary’s topic, and effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming.

“Comcast is excited to honor Andrew and Jacob in the 2024 StudentCam competition,” said Comcast Midwest Regional Senior Vice President Kalyn Hove. “We

are proud to partner with C-SPAN to help provide a platform for students across the country to share their voice on the issues important to them as they work to be informed and active citizens. Congratulations!”

The 150 winning videos can be viewed at [studentcam.org](http://studentcam.org).

### SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

The twins had never worked on a documentary before, but had developed various videos for their school, including some for freshman orientation. They also help out with the school news production, the Washburn Weekly Webcast. A few years ago, they created school virtual tour videos for Field, Hale and Northrop.

“I really developed a passion for making videos – along with my brother – throughout high school, but we didn’t realize how far we could take it until this year,” said Jake. They gave a shout-out to Jean Zimmerman, who advises the school news production, as well as media center specialist John McCreary, and Global Politics teacher Patrick Scanlon.

“I appreciate everyone who took the time to share their experiences for our project. I admire the important work being done in public safety amid many challenges,” remarked Jake.

When they began discussing what they wanted to do, the twins knew they wanted to go beyond the typical interview, while still maintaining opinions from different stakeholders. They wanted to incorporate a ride-along to show the topic firsthand. As they worked more on the documentary, they came across all the different moving parts and agencies that are involved. With their council member,



Emily Koski (whose father was also a Minneapolis City Council member), they toured the Minneapolis Emergency Management Center and sat in during a

911 dispatch shift. They also did a ride-along with the Airport Fire Department.

“I’ve also been interested in the BCR teams, and I would commonly see their vans roaming around my neighborhood – but I really didn’t know what they did,” acknowledged Drew. “So when I saw this documentary opportunity come across, I thought it would be a great way for me to learn more about public safety in Minneapolis.” He also used some of his experiences for a high school class paper.

Jake handled much of the planning, while Drew did most of the filming and editing, using some of the school’s filming equipment. They did their first ride-along in December and wrapped things up in January.

“What I found so interesting was that you could spend hours just looking into the changing face of public safety in Minneapolis,” said Jake, who has been interested in the realm of public safety since he was young. “The documentary we created only scratched the surface of what happens every day, and we spent 25-30 hours on it.”

“For me, the interviews and ride along were such great experiences. I learned so much from them and it was interesting hearing their perspectives and roles,” stated Drew. “This experience opened my eyes to what is happening here in Minneapolis.”

Jake is proud to live in Minneapolis, and believes that documenting the changes happening in the city is vital to implementing effective change.

“I value the opportunity in general. I never thought, that as a teenager, I could

get this close to what’s happening. You hear about it all the time on the news, but I had the chance to witness, firsthand, what was happening ‘beyond the news.’ Developing your opinion by reading an article is one thing, but experiencing it in person can shift your perspective,” observed Jake. “It was truly eye opening.”

Kristy and Matt are proud of the effort their sons put into the documentary, and value what they learned while working on it.

“This experience has given them more confidence in the understanding that the youth voice is not only important, but crucial when it comes to shaping policies in our local and greater communities,” remarked Kristy. “It has opened their eyes to the world around them, that their viewpoints combined with action, can help to make real change. In addition, the experience has provided them with an opportunity to connect with leaders, raise their knowledge and visibility, and have the confidence to know that their voice and the voices of their peers matter.”

Matt pointed out that this experience has elevated his son’s level of confidence in executing and completing a complex project and following strict guidelines in doing so. “I think this project has greatly prepared them for college and the rigor, attention to detail, and organizational skills required to succeed,” he said.

As Jake leaves high school, he plans to pursue a major in international relations, focusing on international and domestic security with the goal of a job in government. He intends to keep honing his skills in journalism and videography, as well. “It’s a perfect way to push yourself out of your comfort zone and explore what is important,” he remarked.

Drew is considering a career in news/public affairs or public safety field/emergency management/homeland security field.

## SCHOOL BUDGET

includes the neighborhoods of Bryn Mawr, Kenwood, Cedar Isle Dean, East Isle, Whittier, Lowry Hill, and Steven Square Loring Heights. “I don’t see enough people fighting,” said Cerrillo. “I’m not going to sit down for solutions. We need to go to the governor; it’s just that simple and the federal government needs to step in, as well. We have money for war, we have money for everything, but we don’t have money for education?”

The proposed budget cuts \$47 million and includes reductions in staff and some programs but no school closings. Staff propose to cover the remaining costs by using \$55 million from the district’s fund balance reserves, as well as not hiring people for currently funded but unfilled positions to save another \$13 million. The proposal also calls for increasing the class size by three students, in those schools where fewer than “70% of the students are on free or reduced meals.”

“Superintendent Dr. Lisa Sayles-Adams has only been in MPS for two months and should not be held responsible for the actions of past leaders that landed us in this devastating financial situation,” said Lara Bergman, who is running for school board for Southwest’s District 6. “However, I am disappointed that those in the cabinet who created this proposed budget did not ask principals, educators, caregivers, or students for input on how to make these historically large cuts. Why did they spend hour after hour in meetings with each other rather than harnessing this moment as an opportunity to draw on the wisdom of the community?”

District 6, which includes all of Southwest south of Lake St. and areas north of Lake St. near Lake of Isle and Cedar Lake, has been represented by Ira Jourdain, who is not seeking reelection. Bergman and Greta Callahan, who is the current Minneapolis Federation of Teachers President, are both running to replace Jourdain.

“We must look at both what we can

do at the state level and the local level when it comes to funding” said Callahan, who recommends that at the state level the district should “start recovering the funds we have lost since 2003 when there was a substantial change to per pupil funding.” She also wants to see Special Education mandates fully funded.

At the local level: “Right now we are outspending similarly sized districts, with similar demographics, when it comes to district administration, transportation, and outside contracts. We need to take a good look at those three areas and dive into how we can spend smarter,” said Callahan. “If we are outspending peer districts on anything, it should be on student instruction.”

### PER PUPIL BREAKDOWN

Under the proposed budget, funding for individual schools varies depending on the number of students and a few other considerations including the Title 1 funding the school qualifies for, support of English language learning, special education and if the school qualifies for the district’s “racially isolated school support.” In two examples shared in March, per pupil allocations ranged from \$7,912 to over \$19,000.

As a point of reference, two popular private schools with campuses located in Minneapolis, Blake and Minnehaha Academy, charge \$40,607 and \$28,900 respectively for 9-11th graders.

In the proposed MPS budget, the per pupil allocation will be reduced for all MPS schools next year, including those in Southwest. Washburn, for example, will be reduced by 8.38% from \$9,829 to \$9,083. Southwest High School will continue to have the lowest high school allocation, going from \$9,094 to \$8,331. The largest reduction, however, will be to the magnet school allocation, which is going down 22.74%, from \$17,507 to \$13,968. Camden High School is going from \$19,740 to \$16,393 – a 20% reduction.

“I’m concerned about any schools, including ones in Southwest Minneapolis, that don’t have enough enrollment, and therefore revenue, in their building to be

### 100 DAYS WITH NEW SUPERINTENDENT

In April and May, Superintendent Sayles-Adams convened a series of tours and listening sessions at six Minneapolis public schools, including Northeast, Folwell, Bethune, Sanford, and Anwatan. The last one will be held at Justice Page school on May 20 from 6-7:15 p.m. These are part of her 100 day plan and will help inform priorities for the future of the city’s public schools.

To learn more about the new superintendent’s 100 day plan and take a survey visit: <https://www.mpschools.org/about-mps/administration/100-day-plan>



able to provide robust programming, create safe environments and get our kids the outcomes they deserve,” said Bergman. “I started hearing from families in Southwest area schools the week the budget cuts came down. The things they’re worried about are larger class sizes and cutting programs that make their kids excited about going to school.”

“I am afraid for the northside,” said Cerrillo. “I’m concerned about everything but more than anything it is academics. I am really concerned about not having the one-on-one support for our kids. The interventions are very costly but very effective and I don’t know if we are going to have the money to do them.”

### 42 PERCENT OF CITY STUDENTS DON’T ATTEND MPS SCHOOLS

School board members have raised concerns that may result in changes to the proposed budget. This includes centralizing the magnet coordinators who are currently located in the magnet schools, cutting assistant principals in elementary schools, and eliminating fifth grade band. Objections have also been raised to the proposed \$777,120 new investment in

“breakthrough teams” that are intended to reduce academic disparities by providing professional development at racially isolated school sites.

“I’m worried that instead of taking this as a moment to start bringing people into the conversation about the long-term financial health of MPS and what needs to happen in order to be financially sustainable, the district may lose out on an opportunity to build trust with families and give them some really good reasons why they should stay and/or choose MPS for the long run,” said Bergman.

“I hope that we get a plan to attract and retain families, that this administration continues to work well with the workers who make MPS happen, and that MPS becomes a destination district once again,” stated Callahan.

Callahan noted that 42% of eligible MPS students are not enrolled in MPS schools. She said that the district needs “guaranteed programming that attracts and retains families, like fifth grade band and orchestra.” She also supports maintaining programs like High 5 and K-8 schools which were “almost completely obliterated during the Comprehensive District Design.” She said, “Teacher retention is critical for school stability and establishing deep relationships between schools and families.”

“I’m very anxious, honestly,” said Cerrillo. “I am sick and tired that the kids are not a priority for the system. As a state, we need to start thinking differently and truly putting our children in the forefront.”

“We need courageous leaders that are committed to be student-centered in their decision making,” said Bergman. “I have a tremendous amount of hope that with a new superintendent and a board made up of new faces, that they will have the political will to do things differently by truly engaging everyone in the community and being transparent with how decisions are made.”

The official presentation and reading of the superintendent’s final recommended budget has been set for May 28, with the vote on approving a budget for next year scheduled for June 18.



People are getting back into our yards and gardens, with pent-up demand following a long winter. University of Minnesota Extension Educator Jon Trappe has tips for yards that accomplish multiple goals, including promoting pollinators, climate action and a lovely look.



## TALKING LAWN CARE WITH U OF M

Many people enjoy working in their yard as a hobby or as a connection to the outdoor world.

There are environmental benefits behind the turf that make up our yards. They protect surface and groundwater by serving as living filters. They grow well in suburban and urban areas that are often dominated by impervious surfaces, while helping cool these areas that tend to hold heat. Yards are incredibly efficient at storing carbon in the soil as organic matter, playing an important role as a carbon

sink for greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide and methane.

**Q: What about watering, especially if we have a dry summer?**

Trappe: Many of the grasses that grow in Minnesota or the upper Midwest can get by without any extra water beyond what nature supplies. The lawn may get a little dry and the turf may get a little tannish, but this is likely the grasses going dormant. If we go more than 30 days or so without rain, consider watering to keep

the lawn alive until the next rainstorm. When the lawn is stressed from lack of water, try and stay off it to reduce stress and it should be able to bounce back just fine. If you are going to water, don't do it by a set schedule. By watering "deeply and infrequently", you can actually train the grass roots to go deeper into the soil. This just means that if you are going to water, it is better to do it less often but with a higher amount. If you have an irrigation system, look into using a smart controller that can adapt to local weather conditions. It will save you water and make your lawn more resilient.



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Tips on small choices in your yard that add up to big differences

By Margie O'Loughlin

What is a watershed?  
 What is our local watershed called?  
 Where does it begin and end?  
 What is the largest watershed in the U.S.?

According to board chair of the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region, Mary Ellen Miller, "We all know our zip code and our area code. We should all know our watershed."

Everybody lives in a watershed, and ours is called the Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR). The League held an educational session where listeners could learn more about UMRR on Tuesday, March 26 via Zoom.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AT WORK

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in American democracy. Additionally, they work in and around these other four key issues: the environment, health care reform, the census, and immigration.

Members of the League of Women Voters advocating for environmental issues this year are focused on reducing nutrient pollution in the UMRR. They are concerned about both surface and ground water in the Mississippi River, and the threats posed to the environment and to human health.

Miller said, "Some issues are best understood and dealt with on a regional level that transcends political boundaries. That's especially true for water issues, because water contamination doesn't stop at municipal or state lines. What goes into the Upper Mississippi River is determined by decisions, actions, and choices made by many people over a very large region."

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

According to the U.S. Geologic Survey, a watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or point along a stream channel.

The northern-most boundary of our watershed starts at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park, Minn. It extends south to Cairo, Ill., where

# A WATERSHED MOMENT



A rain barrel collects roof runoff so you can save the rainwater for later use. Reroute downspouts away from pavement and onto grass, a rain barrel or a rain garden. (Photo courtesy of the University of Minnesota Extension)

the Ohio River enters the Mississippi River channel. Along the way, it gains strength from major tributaries including the Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, St. Croix, Chipewewa, Black, Wisconsin, and Kaskaskia rivers, and creeks and streams too numerous to name.

UMRR is made up of five states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. It is the largest watershed in the US. Its network of streams, floodplains, lakes and uplands comprise the largest area of contiguous freshwater wildlife habitat in the central United States.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The Mississippi River Valley is a vital migration corridor for 40 percent of North America's waterfowl and 60 percent of its bird species.

It provides habitat for more than 125 fish species and 30 species of freshwater mussels.

More than 30 million people live and work in the UMR basin and rely on it for food, transportation, power production, and drinking water.

WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM

The cumulative effects of water pollution in the UMRR (and everywhere) are overwhelming. What can individuals do to improve the health of our watershed?

Whether urban, suburban or rural,

our homes and yards are all connected through water. The effects of how we steward the places we live show up far beyond our property lines. Our small choices add up in the big scheme of things. As the gardening season approaches, consider doing one or more of the following:

1. Plant native plants to help keep soil in place. To get through Minnesota's hot summers and (usually) cold winters, prairie grasses like big bluestem grow deep roots to reach nutrients and water below. These roots act like an anchor for garden soil. Native plants and grasses are more drought tolerant, benefit pollinators, are beautiful and low maintenance.
2. Aerate your lawn once a year to break up the soil so nutrients and water can more easily reach roots. Mulch your leaves or "leave the leaves" in place in the fall.
3. Install a rain barrel to collect roof runoff, and save the rainwater for later use. Conserving water and preventing runoff into the storm water system is a double-win. Reroute downspouts away from pavement and into grass, a rain barrel, or rain garden. Conserve water indoors too by fixing leaks, turning off faucets when lathering hands and brushing teeth, and generally being more aware of water consumption.
4. With climate change accelerating, when it rains now – it pours. If you have a



Both Minneapolis and St. Paul are part of the Upper Mississippi River Region watershed and what happens in individual yards affects the entire watershed area. The Mississippi River flows through the Ford Dam, just north of the confluence of the Mississippi and the Minnesota rivers. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

lawn, you can help reduce runoff by keeping rain where it lands. Mow your lawn to 3' inch high, or more. The taller the grass, the deeper the roots; the deeper the roots, the more water absorption there is into the soil. Leave lawn clippings in place to encourage richer, more absorbent soil.

5. Spend time in and along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Learn to love what is too easy to take for granted.

WATERSHED RESOURCES

Want to learn more about UMRR or get involved with organizations working to protect water resources in the Twin Cities? Here are three of the approximately three dozen watershed organizations at work in the metro area:

- St. Paul's Capitol Region Watershed District: [www.capitolregionwd.org](http://www.capitolregionwd.org)
- In Minneapolis, the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization: [www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org), and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District: [www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org)

Gretchen Sable is the League of Women Voters communications director. She said, "Water is the most important resource on our planet. The League of Women Voters works at all levels of government to build public awareness and understanding of water-related issues, so that citizens can engage in promoting positive solutions."

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# TRILINGUAL CINEMA OFFERS INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SHOWS

**Founders build community over movies in multiple languages, including English, Spanish and Hmong**

By JAN WILLMS

Trilingua Cinema is about bringing together lots of different kinds of people who maybe wouldn't mingle in their everyday lives. And they are brought together to share the experience of film.

The nonprofit offers films in English or Spanish or Hmong on the east side of Saint Paul, since those are the predominant languages spoken in the neighborhood.

"I started Trilingua Cinema back in 2019," said Geordie Flantz. "Sid Stuart and Ismail Khadar joined a little bit later." The three are now co-directors of the nonprofit.

Flantz said he moved to the East Side in 2018 with his partner and a couple of friends. "We all bought a house together," he said, "because we loved this neighborhood. And I also loved to go to movie theaters and did not find any currently in the area."

After doing some research, Flantz found that there had been a theater on Arcade that now is an antiques and auto parts store.

"From the 1920s to the 1970s, there had been three theaters in the area," he said. Over 1,000 movie seats were available.

However, when Whirlpool and 3M moved out of the neighborhood, things went into decline, according to Flantz, and the theaters closed.

"So I was thinking about that, and I had an idea," Flantz continued. "This has always been kind of an immigrant community, and it would be good to focus on films with languages for the people who live here."

He was put in touch with Ben Werner, who at the time was working at the Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street. The organization showed its first movie in the summer of 2019. In winter of that year, Flantz received a grant from the Metro Regional Arts Council.

"Then COVID hit, and we collaborated with the Freedom Library and held a screening outside on its front lawn," Flantz explained. "From the beginning we have tried to collaborate with social action groups on the East Side," he continued. "Partly because I was new here and didn't want to jump in and do something others were already doing."

Early on Trilingua connected with Mary Anne Quiroz from Indigenous Roots and did a festival of short films by local filmmakers on East 7th. Dayton's Bluff



The co-directors debate about what films to show, and other times field suggestions from their audiences. The films can range from current top movies such as "Past Lives" and "Oppenheimer" to a 2015 film about the Amazon, "Embrace of the Serpent?" which featured up to 10 different languages. "Every event is an ongoing experiment, and we keep evolving our theory of what people want to see and what works," said Geordie Flantz. (Photo submitted)

Housing Services had a parking lot where films were shown.

"From there, we slowly grew every year," Flantz said. "We connected with Sia Vang who puts on Hmong American Day, and we have been collaborating for the past three years. Last year we showcased Southeast Asian film directors."

Stuart said she came on board Trilingua Cinema while she was working part-time at Freedom Library. "I talked with Matt at Caydence Coffee and Records about a car show they were collaborating on," said Stuart. "I told Ben, and he said I should meet Geordie. I thought I would do this movie thing, too. We all were just friends with Ben." Although he has moved to New York, Werner is a member of the board of directors for Trilingua Cinema.

"Last summer we showed films twice a week at Sculpture Park near Swede Hollow. We brought hot dogs and lemonade and gave away free food with every screening. It was a nice way to meet the neighbors and show films," Stuart said. "Sometimes we had a deejay come out and play music pre-screening. There was a graffiti festival, and we set up to show a movie."

Flantz added, "We tried to host a hip hop festival at the Arlington Library. It was a great way to build a following. Early on, we would put on these elaborate events and then get people to watch a movie afterwards."

Stuart said films were shown every other week last summer. This winter there

were screenings twice a month indoors at the Freedom Library, which continued into spring.

"We show films in a variety of languages," Flantz commented. He said the type of audience is dependent on the type of movie being shown.

He said the films shown last summer, with grilling outdoors and families and children in attendance, drew a very diversified crowd of all ages.

"Folks from Cambridge 55 plus apartments came out and sat across the street and watched movies," Stuart said.

Because Spanish, English and Hmong are the predominant languages on the East Side, Flantz said the organization has focused on films in those languages. "It is a little harder with Hmong, because there are fewer films, but there are a lot of local Hmong filmmakers," he stated.

Stuart said the co-directors debate about what films to show, and other times field suggestions from their audiences. The films can range from current top movies such as "Past Lives" and "Oppenheimer" to a 2015 film about the Amazon, "Embrace of the Serpent?" which featured up to 10 different languages. "Every event is an ongoing experiment, and we keep evolving our theory of what people want to see and what works," Flantz said.

"I don't know if we have met our goal of building community," Martin noted, "but every time we show a movie and people come, it is an awesome experience. We



(Left to right) Sid Stuart, Ismail Khadar and Geordie Flantz co-direct Trilingua Cinema, a nonprofit that offers films in English, Spanish and Hmong on the east side of St. Paul. (Photo submitted)

see what it's like to watch a movie with other people as opposed to streaming it at home. You react to something with other people in the room, and that's kind of special."

Flantz said the ultimate goal of Trilingua Cinema is to open a brick and mortar theater on the East Side. "We've talked about starting a youth job training program to help youth learn what it's like to work in a theater," he said. "We have also talked about the idea of having an employees cooperative. We have a lot of ideas. We're always trying to get the word out and build a bigger audience."

Stuart said the nonprofit is always trying to do things collaboratively with other organizations from the East Side.

Flantz added that Trilingua Cinema is all made up of volunteers. "We can always use more financial support," he said.

Stuart said that Ismail grew up on the East Side, and she and Flantz reside there, so they feel it is important to be doing something that can benefit the community.

## NEW BLUE PAINT AT LAKE HARRIET BANDSHELL

The Lake Harriet Bandshell roof was repaired in sections over the fall and winter. Other first phase repairs included remodeled bathrooms, upgraded electrical systems, and a new blue color for building side-walls that closely matches the color of the Bandshell in the 1990s and early 2000s. In 2024, the building next to the boat launch and covered pavilion area next to the concessions building will be repaired in the spring and fall.



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# Southwest runners aim for 50-mile trek around Lake Harriet on May 19 to raise funds for Special Olympics

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Two Southwest runners are making a difference one step at a time.

On May 19, 2024, Jake Lepak and Patrick Larson will run 50 miles around Lake Harriet to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics Minnesota (SOMN). They expect it to take about eight hours.

"Both Jake and I are former collegiate runners (Luther College and Macalester) who have continued to train and run marathons/ultramarathons after college. We are really excited about this opportunity to not only raise money for SOMN, but to also do it right in our backyard," said Larson. "Lake Harriet feels like such a fitting venue given the amount of foot traffic on nice days in May."

Look for the runners wearing custom singlets that have Special Olympics on them. A table will be set up near the bandshell so people can get more information and make donations. "Additionally, we are encouraging any and all people to run with us for any distance," said Larson. Special Olympics athletes will join in for portions of the run. Wait by the table for them to pass by every 24-30 minutes, and then join them.

Learn more and donate at <https://fundraise.somn.org/campaign/50-around-the-lake/c576206>.

On the day of the event, follow their Instagram accounts (@patrickml22 and @lepakchopra) where they will be doing some live streams, Q&As, and song requests.

# RUNNING FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

## WHY SPECIAL OLYMPICS?

Larson's uncle has lived at 47th and Aldrich his whole life, and so he's spent a lot of time around Lake Harriet. Five years ago he moved to Linden Hills, and then relocated to Lynnhurst, where he serves on the neighborhood council. He suggested that the two run around Lake Harriet.

"I'll be honest, this was definitely my idea because I love Lake Harriet," said Larson. "I live just two blocks south of Lake Harriet and in my personal opinion, it is the best lake in Minneapolis. I recently got a dog and named him Harriet."

Lepak moved three blocks away from Bde Maka Ska in 2023.

The two friends met through their mutual involvement in the Special Olympics Minnesota Young Professionals Board.

"The board is comprised of young professionals in the Twin Cities area and act as an extension to the executive board of directors and help raise awareness for SOMN through fundraising, events, and entrepreneurship," Lepak observed. Their group works to support goals tied to major milestones within the broader organization, like helping support the 2026 USA Games, which will be held in Minneapolis. They hold various events throughout the year, invite guest speakers to meetings, and volunteer at Special Olympics events.

"It is a really great way for people like Jake and myself to meet other like-minded young people who all care about bettering the lives of people with disabilities," said Larson.

He added, "My mom is a retired pediatric physical therapist so I grew up around people with disabilities and attribute much of my involvement to her incredible work with the community. I also



Patrick Larson and Jake Lepak, both southwest residents, will run for about eight hours on May 19 around Lake Harriet to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. The 2026 USA Games will be held in Minneapolis. (Photo submitted)

love sports having been a collegiate runner so there is such a natural synergy between advocating through people with disabilities and sport. I truly think sports have the power to bring out the best in all people, and it's so evident through what Special Olympics does on a daily basis."

Lepak has been involved with SOMA for about eight years, and has wanted to give back in more ways. He just wrapped up a season of coaching a power-lifting team in southern Minneapolis, The Barbenders.

"It's been rewarding to partner with such a great organization that can make such an impact in so many ways," said Lepak. "Plus, it's a lot of fun."

## MEDITATIVE AND GROUNDING

Larson grew up in a running family and his relationship with the sport has

evolved over time. "I have always loved the competitive aspect of the sport and the ability to constantly strive for better times, even after college. I also truly love the therapeutic element of running. I believe I'm my best self when I'm consistently running and in good shape," he remarked.

For the May 19 event, his training has been a consistent build of miles each week. He's been running between 60-70 miles a week with one long run per week. He did 30-mile and 35-mile runs in preparation.

Previously, Larson completed a 50k trail race in Afton, an experience he said "was incredibly hard given the hilly course. Besides that, I have never done anything like this before, but I think that is the allure of it - continuing to test our limits for a good cause."



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FROM YOUR CENTER WITHIN

When was the last time you reflected on your personal and our community values? Values are principles we care about that guide our behavior. Aligning our personal and community values with our choices provides a powerful positive impact on our physical, emotional, mental, and social health.



By Michele Rae

We are each invited to consider health in all aspects of everyday life, working life, family life, and community life. Absence of disease is not enough. How do we have values that support flourishing individually and collectively?

Let us consider some powerful positive community health values that cultivate thriving and wellbeing.

**Compassion:** affirms the importance, uniqueness and needs of all community inhabitants. The well-being of the entire population is a priority, and all people and living things are treated with respect. This reduces isolation by welcoming others into relationships and our society.

**Inclusion:** all people can be involved in our community's spaces, places, activities, and events regardless of their age, ability, disability, income, beliefs, or ethnic background. Practice being thoughtful with your language, ask questions, remain curious, and challenge your biases and as-

# WHAT VALUES SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH?

sumptions.

**Empowerment:** aims to enable people to take control of the actions and decisions that affect their lives and initiates greater individual and collective control. This emphasizes our shared common interests, concerns, and identity which is health promoting.

**Collaboration:** strong social ties within neighborhoods protect well-being by fostering a sense of teamwork and community care. Participate in neighborhood engagement and social connections. This creates effective relationships which improves outcomes and accountability.

**Equality:** everyone is equally deserving of respect and fair treatment. Even if someone has vastly different opinions and beliefs than you, you can choose to respect them even if you don't agree with them. All individuals have equal rights, liberties, and status, including civil rights, freedom of expression, autonomy, and equal access to public goods and social services.

**Excellence:** every person deserves to have the opportunity to live their best life in communities that are thriving. This includes economic vitality, educational achievement, and housing which directly impacts community health status. This requires a high level of commitment among leaders across sectors and generations to take a systems approach to improving the conditions, outcomes, and resilience of their community.

**Individual choice:** provides autonomy and sovereignty for you to make decisions about all the details of your lives. We are each influenced by past experiences, cognitive biases, age, individual differences, conditioning, and beliefs. Your empowered and authentic choices optimally include consideration of the impact on others in your family and community providing mutual benefits.

**Diversity:** benefits our communities. Examples of diversity include visible diversity such as age, ethnicity, gender, physical abilities/qualities, and race. Invisible diversity examples are sexual orientation, educational background, religion, worldview, and work experiences. We can foster commitment to diversity through leadership, recruitment, workplace culture, education and training, equitable policies and practices, and regular feedback and assessment.

**Family involvement:** combines with community involvement to shape who we are, instill us with values, define what we consider to be normal and abnormal and teach us about what is possible and not possible. An example is parents helping with homework, community members assisting with school events or making decisions with teachers and principals about how to improve student achievement.

**Integrity:** is being honest, having strong moral principles, behaving ethically, and doing the right thing. This breeds

trust and promotes health when consistently present. Consider a workplace that has a set of strong values and principles, such as reliability, honesty, loyalty, and trustworthiness. You can practice integrity by being grateful, communicating honestly, taking responsibility for your actions, respecting yourself and others, helping those in need without sacrificing your own health, being reliable, patient, and flexible.

How else can we positively impact our individual and community health?

Shop local. Engage in community planning, politics, and committees. Assure stable housing options and accessible and affordable health care. Enjoy, create, and sustain outdoor green spaces. Walk when possible. Infrastructure like street lighting, wide sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes, pedestrian-only streets, and clearly marked crosswalks make our community more pedestrian-friendly, and, consequently, health-friendly.

YOU are an integral part of our community health. How can you cultivate and support your community's thriving and flourishing? You count. Everyone counts.

**Michele Rae, RPh, MA, NBC-HWC** is the founder of The Center Within, LLC and author of "Living From the Center Within: Co-Creating Who You Are Becoming." She provides holistic coaching designed to accelerate and support personal, professional, and organizational transformation.

▶10 RUNNING

Running is meditative and grounding for Lepak. "While it's not always easy at times, I feel like at this point it's a lifestyle thing for me and I always feel refreshed and energized after a nice easy run," he stated. "When I'm training seriously for competitions, it's a lot of fun to be able to push myself and see how far I've improved over the course of a couple months, years, etc."

He wrapped up a training cycle before the St. Louis Marathon on April 27. Post marathon, he took a couple of long bike rides. He paired easy runs leading up to the 50 miler on May 19 with a couple 25-30 milers on back-to-back days to get adjusted to the volume.

Lepak has done a handful of ultras-marathons. Two years ago, he attempted to run 12 hours around Bde Maka Ska. It was early December. The temperature was 6 degrees with 15 mile-per-hour winds. "I made it about 5.5 hours, and 35 miles before pulling the plug," he said. "Definitely learned my lesson, and my winter ultra days are far behind me."

Lepak and Larson are excited for their May 19 fundraising run, and encourage anyone and everyone to come out and run/jog/walk with them.

"We are going to accommodate our pace to be inclusive of whoever wants to join us," said Larson. "At the end of the run, we'll be having a small gathering of people just north of the bandshell that will include pizza that is being generously donated from Broders." They expect that to occur at about 2:30 p.m.

## CLARE HOUSING HELPS HOUSE VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Beginning in fall of 2023, Clare Housing has been helping people living with HIV and experiencing homelessness move off the streets quickly, thanks to new, more flexible funding from Hennepin County. Numerous clients have successfully moved into hotels temporarily, followed quickly by a move into permanent supportive housing.

Clare Housing's Intake Coordinator Amber Poppe has spearheaded the Hotels to Housing program with the help of collaborative partners at the Indigenous People's Task Force, Hennepin County's Healthcare for the Homeless team, and the Aliveness Project. Clare Housing's Executive Director Phoebe Trepp stressed the community value of continuing this program. "We're meeting some of the most marginalized people experiencing homelessness right where they are and simply working with them to get immediate housing," she said.

The Hotel to Housing program offers safety, cleanliness, privacy, and autonomy, and is available immediately, which

doesn't require lengthy paperwork or screening processes. Although Clare Housing is paying for the hotel rooms through grant funding, they are checked out in the clients' names and are their responsibility. "Giving them ownership is really cool to see. To be able to offer something that's truly for you," Poppe said.

B., the first person Poppe moved to a hotel, had experienced homelessness throughout his life. When they first met to do an intake, he was reserved and quiet, showing very little emotion. But as soon as Poppe took him to check into the hotel, he began to light up, and over time she saw a complete 360 degree turn in his personality.

Poppe stressed the importance of building trust because clients "are in a very vulnerable place, and they're sharing their vulnerabilities and barriers with you."

Poppe also described working with G., someone she had seen move around the community from one encampment to another before she linked up with Clare Housing. G. moved into her hotel room

with the intention of reducing her drug use, something that often happens naturally because substances are less accessible than on the streets. Poppe asked G. what kind of things she enjoyed spending her time on in the past when she was housed. G. loved crafting, in particular crocheting and coloring, so Poppe helped her pick up some supplies while they were buying groceries. Within weeks of moving into her hotel room G. had reduced her drug use and was getting up early on her own to run errands.

Poppe has now helped 14 adults living with HIV move into hotels and transition into a permanent supportive housing placement. Working in this low-barrier framework has allowed the transition into housing to happen more quickly, and in a more individually tailored way versus navigating the County Coordinated Entry system. This program has allowed Clare Housing to work directly with people in need without requiring multiple hand-offs between assessors, coordinated entry, and housing staff.

### CITY BRIEFS

#### NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Timothy Sexton has been approved by the city council as the new Public Works Director. His term ends in January 2026.



#### MOUNT CURVE AREA RESURFACING

In May, the city approved work to begin, and the special assessments, for the accessibility improvements and street resurfacing along the local streets between Kenwood Pkwy. to Douglas Ave., and Morgan Ave. S to Lyndale Ave. S. These streets were reconstructed in 1994 and have a pavement conditions index (PCI) score of 61 out of 100, which is considered to be in fair condition so that a full reconstruction is not needed. This new surface is expected to extend the street's life, improve ride quality and help slow further deterioration of the street.

#### PUBLIC SPACE FOR NICOLLET DEVELOPMENT

The city has approved a framework for parks and trails for the development planned at Lake St. and Nicollet, which will reconnect Nicollet at the former Kmart site. They have also started work on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Park and Recreation Board to transfer of property for a future park. The approved concept includes the new public park located along the Midtown Greenway, between the new Nicollet Ave and 1st, and a location for an indoor recreation area located on the first floor of a building next to the park, as well as walking and biking connections.

#### AIRPORT RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION

Runway construction work, that includes installation of new pavement markings, lighting, and signs, will be going this summer into the fall at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). People may notice increase in noise and activity over their neighborhood, depending on the flight patterns and runway configurations chosen by the FAA during the upcoming construction. If people have questions or concerns, they can contact

airport at 612-726-9411, or visit <https://metroairports.org/runway-construction>

#### MALL PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS ON HOLD

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has voted to "pause decision making" regarding the new design for The Mall that runs along the Midtown Greenway west of Hennepin to Bde Maka Ska Parkway. On May 7, and the board also directed their staff to "discuss the Mall's entire master plan design" with the city of Minneapolis city engineer and fire marshal. Commissioner Tom Olson was the only vote against the delay. The Southwest Service Area Master Plan, which includes a vision for the future of The Mall Park that is to be implemented as part of sewer construction this year, was approved by the board in 2020. It includes a new trail connection to the greenway, a shared-use woonerf, and reclaimed for green space. Part of the plan that would remove the driving lane and parking between Bde Maka Ska Parkway and Irving Avenue was discussed.

**Briefs** compiled by Cam Gordon.

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## LOWRY HILLS EAST

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY VALERIE BLOMBERG



Valerie Blomberg is the new Wedge Neighborhood Coordinator.

She moved to Lowry Hill East (the Wedge) in 2019. She started volunteering with LHENA soon after, supporting the neighborhood potlucks that summer in Mueller Park. Since then, she's coordinated outdoor music concerts, helped out with National Night Out events, hosted for Porchfest, and participated in conversations around public safety. Most recently, she helped coordinate a neighborhood-wide Trick-or-Treat event for Halloween, which brought hundreds of neighbors and families together to celebrate the holiday.

A digital marketing strategist by day, she's excited to put her marketing savvy to work for LHENA in order to help the organization transition in the face of changes in the funding landscape for neighborhood associations.

Every week, Valerie sends out an e-newsletter with hyper-local social events, reminders about grant applications and funding resources, local business news, volunteer opportunities, social events, and more. Wedge residents are encouraged to subscribe to the e-newsletter at [thewedge.org](http://thewedge.org).



## SAFETY CLUBS BAND TOGETHER

Groups of neighbors across the city have banded together as Minneapolis Neighborhood Safety Clubs, and host weekly walks. The groups around Bde Maka Ska have collaborated to foster community and promote public safety in response to that year's July 4 chaos. For more information, contact Jennifer Herman Spiller at [jennifer@spillerfamily.net](mailto:jennifer@spillerfamily.net). More at [www.mplsneighborhoodsafetyclubs.com/](http://www.mplsneighborhoodsafetyclubs.com/).

Above are Glenda Marsh of East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood, Aileen Johnson of Minneapolis Neighborhood Safety Clubs, Amber Ratner of East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood, Jennifer Herman Spiller of Linden Hills Neighborhood and Leyden Victoria of West Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood.

## WEST MAKKA SKA

## NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BY DYLAN OHM

For the West Maka Ska Neighborhood's third Neighborhood Talk, we are thrilled to host Kate Beane, PH.D! Join us on May 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the Bakken Museum (3537 Zenith Ave. S) as she gives an engaging presentation on the Dakota History of Bde Maka Ska. Dr. Beane, who was instrumental in the restoration of the Dakota name, Bde Maka Ska, promises an engaging and thought-provoking event. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from one of the leading experts on local history!

Beane, Flandreau Santee Sioux, has a PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, is director of Native American Initiatives at the Minnesota His-

torical Society (where she's also part of the leadership team), and an instructor in the American Indian Studies department at the University of Minnesota.

Through her own educational thirst, Beane became aware of her family's rich legacy. Her great-great grandfather, Charles Eastman, was the second Native American medical doctor in the United States. And she's also a descendant of Cloud Man, a Dakota leader who formed an agricultural village in the early 19th century at the lake known then as Bde Maka Ska, later to be named Lake Calhoun.

This event is sponsored by the Bakken and the West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council and is FREE and open to the public.

## MEET DYLAN OHM

Dylan Ohm is on the West Maka Ska



Neighborhood Council. He moved to the West Maka area after graduating from the University of Minnesota - Duluth in 2005. He has spent his career as a pioneer and entrepreneur. Dylan began his career in the music industry at the infamous Pachyderm Studios. Later, he found his own label, took leadership roles at McNally Smith College of Music, and to produced hundreds of national acts at Austin's SxSw Music/Tech Festival.

Learning the power of herbal medicine at the School of California Studies, he later merged his passions for music and medicine to establish an herbal apothecary and alternative medicine practice.

Dylan loves Minnesota's winters, snowboarding the fresh snow, and pond hockey on the frozen lakes.

He joined the council to engage the neighborhood, and bring a sense of community, safety and togetherness.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## GRAMMY RIDES ACROSS AMERICA

Come laugh and learn with 66-year-old Donna Minter (aka Grammy) to discover her Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) to bicycle 3200 miles in Fall 2024 on the GRAMMY Ride - Grammy Rides Across America for climate action. This improv comedy extravaganza will be hosted by Tane Danger and the Theater of Public Policy to learn about Grammy's BHAG to ride her bike from San Diego, CA to Saint Augustine, Fla. from Sep 1-Nov 23, 2024 to raise \$500,000 for five fiscally responsible climate organizations: Climate Generation, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, Third Act, Climate Ride, and Climate STARR - Strategies for Climate Trauma, Action, Resilience, and Regeneration. The fundraiser is planned for Tuesday, June 18, 7-9 p.m. at 2720 E. 22nd Street. Purchase tickets at <https://grammyridejun182024.eventbrite.com>.

## 'NOBODY'S SLAVE' MAY 22

On Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 7 p.m., North Star Journey Live will explore the topic of intergenerational trauma in the Black community with journalist and author Lee Hawkins Jr. at the 3M Auditorium at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. Hawkins, who grew up in Maplewood, will sit down with MPR News host Angela Davis to talk about his new podcast "What Happened in Alabama?" and his forthcoming book, "Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free."

## 'THE RIGHT KIND OF WHITE' MAY 23

A Conversation With Garrett Bucks, author of the new book, "The Right Kind of White," will be held on Thursday, May 23 at 7 p.m. at Minneapolis Friends Meeting (4401 York Ave. S). Garrett Bucks is a practicing Quaker and the founder of The Barnraisers Project, which has trained nearly one thousand participants to organize majority-White communities for racial and social justice. "As we approach the fourth anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, together we can continue to reckon with race and what role we may play in dismantling systems of oppression," say planners. The event is hosted in partnership with Southwest Alliance for Equity (SWAE), Minneapolis Friends Meeting, and Friends for a NonViolent World (FNVW).

## BUSINESS NEWS

## EVERETT &amp; CHARLIE'S 6TH ANNIVERSARY

Suzie Marty, one of Minneapolis' most prolific local-artist advocates, is celebrating the 6th year of Everett & Charlie Art Gallery. She is hosting a fundraiser to support the business, and the more than 50 local artists she represents. The June 6 event takes place 5 to 9 p.m. at the event space above Everett & Charlie and Wild Rumpus, and will feature live music, a silent auction, guest artists, food and beverages. Entrance fee is \$20. More at [www.everettandcharlie.com](http://www.everettandcharlie.com).

## BRUHAVEN TO OPEN SOON

Alex Doering and Glenn Oslin of Minneapolis have acquired Lakes & Legends Brewery. Doering grew up in the Uptown area of Minneapolis and now lives with his family in Crystal. Oslin, who lives near Lake Nokomis, started out as a Minneapolis school teacher and has since worked in startups and corporate technology prior to this venture. Set to open in early summer 2024, Brùhaven will continue to be the go-to spot in Loring Park for craft brews while also adding coffee and a wide variety of craft NA and adaptogen drinks that will appeal to a wide variety of patrons.



## 4 TO 3 CONVERSION ON FRANKLIN AVE.

The key concepts of the Franklin Ave. redesign between Lyndale and Chicago avenues are a three-lane design with center turn lanes and medians at key locations.

Parking will be removed, and there will be dedicated space for people biking and walking along with green space and trees in the boulevard.

The Hennepin County project team

will be refining the preliminary design this year and preparing final plans in anticipation for construction starting in 2025.





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**NEXT AD DEADLINE: Monday, June 10 | PUBLICATION: Thursday, June 20**

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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.

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## 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.



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