# SOUTHWEST COLOCION

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Urban farm vision growing stronger, report youth



Have you noticed home sales are down but prices are up?



eni de Mik is one of seven people nominated by neighbors and named Linden Hills Treasures this month. de Mik was nominated by Tara Lund, who wrote: "Leni has lived on [41st and Drew] for at least 30 years... Leni has made building community a priority,. She revamped her garage into community space and has hosted yoga, Ted Talks, sing-alongs with neighbor musicians, and more. All are welcomed. She truly cares for all people and about the future for children. This is just Leni in the neighborhood and says nothing about those she has cared for as a psychologist, volunteering, supporting immigrants, as an author, artist and more. Leni defines a neighborhood treasure!"

### TENSIONS RISE AT CITY WORKSHOP AMID CALLS FOR POLICE REFORM

Some push for city-led meetings on George Floyd Square to focus first on vision instead of streets

By **Jill Boogren** 

More than 100 people packed The Square event center (3737 Chicago Ave.) on Sept. 24, 2024, for the city of Minneapolis' fifth and final visioning workshop for George Perry Floyd Square (GFS). While attendees enjoyed dinner and fellowship with their neighbors, tensions were high as many in the room voiced frustration with the city's process and lack of demonstrable police reform.

As in previous workshops, the evening was split into breakout groups to separately address road reconstruction, memorials, the Peoples' Way and racial

healing. This time another group was convened by resident Marcia Howard to discuss the ongoing protest for the 24 demands of Justice Resolution 001 (bit.ly/georgefloydsquare-a), created by community in 2020 in response to the question by city leaders, "What does justice look like"?

"Everything we are considering here has to be considered within the context of everything we are," Howard told the room. "Because you did not just fall out of a coconut tree, you fell into the middle of a protest."

In the road reconstruction breakout room, transportation consultant Craig Vaughn presented three concepts for reconfiguring the right-of-way at 38th and Chicago: Flexible-Open, Transit Mall and Pedestrian Plaza. Susan Heineman, a member of the former Co-Creation Team (CCT), pointed out that a bus

shelter on the map was placed directly on the memorial for Dameon "Murphy Ranks" Chambers,



# WHO YA GONNA CALL – A GHOSTBUSTER?

Kenny resident Echo Bodine uses her psychic abilities to help spirits move on

By Tesha M. Christensen

There's really no way to "bust" a ghost. It's more like ghost counseling than busting, according to Kenny resident Echo Bodine.

Bodine was 17 when she discovered her psychic abilities. One of her brothers saw a spirit in their house and that led their mom to contact a spiritual medium in St. Paul. "We had to find out why this happened to our family," explained Bodine. "The psychic was a wonderful woman from England who told us that all

four of us kids and our mom were born with psychic abilities and that I also have the gift of healing. She said we would be well-known psychics, write several

and lodge program. The res-

olution was authored by council members Emily Koski, Jason

Chavez and Andrea Jenkins.

books, be on radio and TV and travel throughout the world teaching people about their gifts. She also said a teacher would be coming along soon and would teach us how to identify and develop our

gifts."
That was 1965.

"That night our lives changed forever," recalled Bodine. "We were Christians. Went to Presbyterian and later American Baptist church, and we had never delved into anything supernatural so this was all quite a shock to us."

But they found the medium was right, she said.

A spiritualist minister called one day and said she was to teach





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### Please read my column

in this edition of the Connector & give me a call!





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Participants at the fifth city visioning workshop on Sept. 24, 2024, review materials in a breakout room addressing reconstruction of the right of way at 38th St. and Chicago Ave., George Perry Floyd Square. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

#### ▶1 GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE

who was killed in 2020. Three of the 24 demands relate to investigating his death and holding police accountable for "impeding EMS response, mishandling and compromising evidence, and refusing to treat the site of his death as a crime scene."

In discussing transit access, an attendee expressed that it was "at odds that you're actively putting transit in a memorial site."

"We are trying to bring transit back into the Square in some way, shape or form," said Vaughn. "It's feedback we've heard from many members of the community."

Jenny Jones, a nearby resident who participated in most of the Learning Table groups at Sabathani and subsequent meetings, interjected: "There's a significant segment of those groups that wanted pedestrian only," she said. "So you're saying it's based on feedback, but it isn't based on all the feedback."

Several members of the CCT were present. Appointed by the city, the CCT met for more than a year to discuss the 38th St. and Chicago Ave. right-of-way capital improvement project before disbanding in order to broaden the scope to include memorials and the Peoples' Way. According to its former co-chair Jeanelle Austin, neighborhood resident and exec-

utive director of Rise and Remember, the CCT voted unanimously for a community-led vision before starting construction on the streets.

"What you all are doing from my understanding is the construction of the streets are to begin first, before we even know and crystallize what the Peoples' Way will even become," said Austin at the workshop. The city purchased the Peoples' Way in 2023 and issued a Request for Proposals (RFQ) on Sept. 23, 2024, to develop the site.

"When you have this driving force, 'We have to do the streets, we have to do the streets,' transit is leading this and not the community," said Austin. She said the community asked for a lot of things that would bring equity into the neighborhood, but redoing the streets was not among them.

"Rather than letting the community lead, you still created these spaces and [are] leading with transportation and not with the fact that we've got hundreds of names of Black people who are killed by systemic city violence," she said. In its investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), Austin pointed out, the U.S. Department of Justice found civil rights violations by both the MPD and the city of Minneapolis.

There's a strong feeling by some that the city was being dismissive of the CCT's recommendation by hosting these workshops, which have taken place in parallel to the Community Visioning Council (CVC) that meets on third Saturdays at Belfry Apartments/Calvary Church (3901 Chicago Ave.).

"I worked my butt off to even just create the Community Visioning Council so that the community could take that over and have a space [to talk]. And then what does the city do? Sideline that with other meetings," Austin said.

As Austin spoke to the need to make real investments in the neighborhood, another attendee expressed that the city hosting these public meetings was an investment.

"I wanna live in a city that works for me," he said. "I chose this community because of this."

"This is an investment in the Square," he added, pointing to the concepts displayed on easels. "I want to bike to work. I want to take the Metro Transit."

"And I wanna live. Period," responded Austin, who is Black. "I wanna live."

A resident of 11th Ave. said that other transit hubs in Minneapolis make the place feel "a little seedy," "not safe" and don't serve the residents around it.

"I've never seen it done well. And I've never seen it done where it actually respects the actual residents that live there," she said. "It has never made a place feel safer." Another resident was distraught over people loitering under the bright lights of the bus shelter in front of her home.

"It's brought a lot of problems to the neighborhood," she said. "It's partly because it's a big ol' huge bus stop with a huge bright light that encourages all sorts of... dangerous behavior at all hours of the morning."

#### A PROJECT IN NEED OF A VISION

Art Serotoff, also a member of the former CCT, expressed concern about the city leading the workshops.

"The thing that gets me is the city controls the questions. If the city controls the questions, your perspective is narrow," he said, and explained that the CCT repeatedly called for the creation of a vision for the area.

"A vision is not five different plans slapped together. The five different plans need an overall idea," said Serotoff. He read one of the metrics on a Concept Evaluation Matrix handout, that states: "Acknowledge the significance of GFS as a sacred space visited by nearby residents and people from around the world by designing areas that support daily living, gatherings and communal activities and celebrations. ...

"To me that stands out as at least a guide to what a vision might be. But this stuff...?" said Serotoff, pointing to the easels. "Why is it stalled? There's no vision. There's no unified view of what this area could be."

While the city has held many community meetings in a variety of formats over the last few years and has summarized public sentiment in each, these 2024 workshops are covering a lot more ground in a lot less time than the CCT. They have held five workshops that last 2.5 hours each, minus time for dinner and mingling. That equals 10 hours this year for people to process concepts and provide feedback. If participants have attended each meeting but gone to different breakout groups (right of way, memorials, the Peoples' Way and more), they will have spent less time on each area.

#### NEXT UP

According to Alexander Kado, Office of Public Service, reconstruction of the right of way will begin in 2025. The city is hosting a "Dinner Dialogue" at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at Belfry Apartments/ Calvary Lutheran Church (3901 Chicago Ave.). Project leaders expect that the summary provided at that meeting will be reported to the City Council Committee of the Whole on Nov. 12.

Proposals for developing the Peoples' Way are due Nov. 22, and a recommendation to award development rights is scheduled to be provided to the city council and mayor in April or May 2025.

The Community Visioning Council meets again at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Belfrey Apartments/Calvary Church.



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Brinn.Krabbenhoft@lssmn. org for more information and to make an impact in your community.





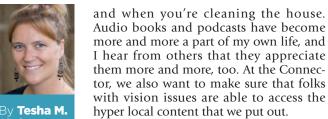
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Tesha M. Christensen lives in south Minneapolis and owns the Southwest Connector, as well as the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor. Drop her a line at tesha@ swConnector.com.



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#### **STORIES & JOURNEYS**

I'm experiencing anxiety.

As I begin to write this Stories and Journeys column, I am aware that I am without Internet service. That has just been confirmed with the over the phone help from my senior community services



tech support person Gilbert. As of now, once I get the column written my intention is to get it printed and in the hands of Eric Hart. He is my longtime friend and neighbor who helps me each month to get the Stories and Journeys draft in shape before I send it as an attachment to an email I send to Tesha M. Christensen, owner and publisher of the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and the Southwest Connector where Stories and Journeys gets published. For the record, Eric is the lead author of "Neighborhood by the Falls, a look back at the history of the Greater Longfellow neighborhood.

It's beginning to look like I might need a new internet service provider. Digital and tech are not my natural habitat. At times, I need a lot of tech support. And at the moment I have a growing list of tech issues. And now add to the list "no internet service." It is nearly impossible for me

### **ANXIOUS, CURIOUS, ANGRY WITH NO INTERNET SERVICE**

to imagine my life without internet service. I feel so isolated, disconnected. My desktop computer, my laptop and, for that matter, my iPhone are almost totally use-

If you have read this far you have taken the plunge into the river (flow) of life experiences which is Stories and Journeys. And by the way, dear reader, do you have any idea how to live your life without internet connection? I don't! I'm freaking out. Tell yourself, tell others or tell me via tesha@tmcpub.com

#### MORE IS MINNEAPOLIS FOR A LIFETIME? **DEBATABLE**

I'm experiencing ongoing curiosity.

I'm arriving at Westminster Presbyterian Church for my second time attending a meeting of the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging. City council member Katie Cashman is wrapping up her conversation with the committee. When I sit down the first thing I notice is a copy of the September Messenger belonging to the person next to me. Turns out that several people have read either in print or online what I wrote about my first visit to this committee meeting. I'm starting to conclude that if I keep showing up (which I intend to do), I'm going to learn things.

Some of my takeaways from this meeting: I'm learning that while this committee does not have power it can wield influence. However, that doesn't mean that city council members and the mayor are interested in being influenced. I'm starting to wonder what would trigger their being influenced? I shared my fantasy that one day the city council chambers will be filled with seniors showing support for an action that will make Minneapolis age friendly. Maybe one way to wield influence is to just show up. Only problem is I don't go out at night anymore.

I learned that there are vacancies on this committee. However, it appears that my Ward 12 is well represented by Shelly Jacobson.

I'm learning that the Minneapolis for a Lifetime: Age Friendly Action Plan is undergoing some revisions which should be finished by the end of the year. A letter to the mayor and city council was reviewed and finalized regarding city budget items impacting seniors.

The next meeting of the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging is Oct. 10, 2024, 1-3 p.m., at Westminster.

#### CORPORATE GREED ENTERING THE SCHOOL **LUNCH ROOM**

I'm experiencing anger. When I am connected to the Internet, I get emails from The Lever. This is

an online publication to which I sub-

scribe. It was started years ago by David Sirota, a progressive practicing what he calls accountability journalism. The Lever published recently an article by journalist, Katya Schwenk. It's headlined "The Corporation is Stealing Your Kid's Lunch Money." But not in Minnesota, thanks to free lunch legislation passed by the 2022-23 session. Legislation keeping parents from paying corporate processors making huge profits collecting their children's lunch money. I just went into my iPhone to find the article again and got the following message: Safari cannot open the page because the server cannot be found.

I'm thinking it's time to wrap up this column. As a reminder to myself and to you Medicare Open Enrollment is Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. I intend to write about it once I get re-connected to the internet.

**ELDER VOICES (TELLING OUR STORIES/SHAR-**ING OUR JOURNEYS) IS SCHEDULED TO MEET OCT. 25, 10-11 A.M. AT TURTLE BREAD, 4205 EAST 34TH STREET. LOOK FOR THE TABLE WITH THE **ALL ELDERS SIGN. IF YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE** ANYTHING, DO SHOW UP.

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

#### I'M VOTING FOR BERGMAN

The voters who live in Minneapolis Public Schools District 6 have a clear choice on Election Day: We can choose a candidate mired in the controver-

sies of the past or we can choose a candidate who represents a fresh start for the district.



I choose the latter which is why I am enthusiastically supporting Lara Bergman.

As a former education reporter for the Star Tribune, I got to know scores of people who serve on school boards throughout Minnesota. I can unequivocally say that you couldn't create a better school board member than Lara Bergman. Here's why:

As an MPS grad and the parent of two elementary-age students, Lara has skin in the game. But after getting to know Lara, I can tell you that she's committed to creating

better experiences for ALL our kids, not just hers.

As an early childhood educator, Lara is a fierce advocate for literacy and will ensure MPS implements stronger evidence-based curriculum and supports which is crucial since HALF of MPS students cannot read at grade level. Lara is ready to make the tough financial decisions that past MPS school board members have treated like hot potatoes, landing our district in its present fiscal crisis.

I think we can all agree that what MPS is doing isn't working. As the former head of the Minneapolis Teachers Union, Lara's opponent had an incredible platform to make the district better. She didn't.

Now is the time to throw our support behind a candidate who will rise above the "us vs. them" tribal politics of the past. Lara Bergman represents a better, hopeful future

Kim Stone

#### LET'S FUND LORING PARK

First I want to say that I am 100% supportive of the North Commons plan. But, with that said I look to the Park staff and board to also remember the other parks in this city, such as but not limited to - Stevens Square, East Phillips, Loring Park, Cedar Field, and Elliot Park. All of which are also deserving of a fully funded neighborhood park master plan.

So, let's make that happen. Let's find foundations and corporations who will partner and ensure that every park master plan is fully funded, starting with the North Commons Plan. But let's not take \$10 million from the NPP/Neighborhood Park Program fund when so many neighborhood have not even implemented their pans or tapped into their allocated funds. Not before we have a fair formula & timeline for distributing any 'projected to be remaining' funds after all plans are implemented.

I know that the NPP master plan amount for Loring fluctuates between \$1.5-\$1.8 million. Loring Park has only

had significant investment through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, 25 years ago now, which was not park funding and then through the hard work of neighborhood volunteers. In Loring Park, even the restoration of Berger Fountain fell on volunteers and tho we have raised \$1.2 million (and thanks to the state legislature for a piece of that amount) and we have \$1.5 more to raise.

Also in Loring Park, we have huge accessibility issues with our paths and a large senior population. Our children's pool has never been replaced and our popular basketball courts are falling apart. There are many many other structures that are aged and need resources to maintain them. The cattails remediation needs to be monitored consistently. \$1.8 million allocated through NPP is a very small amount to thoroughly restore our park. We will need 10x that amount. So, please rethink this proposal, re evaluate, and let's be creative. Think partnerships. Be fair and equitable for future needs of ALL pa

Jana L Metge, Executive Director Loring Park Neighborhood

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#### Story ideas always welcome.

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#### 5

### EAST PHILLIPS URBAN FARM VISION GROWING STRONGER

## The Indigenous community in Minneapolis is on a generational path to physical and financial health.

Good things take time. Look at the East Phillips community's struggle to win control of the Roof Depot site.

For a decade, a broad coalition of East Phillips neighbors and supporters have fought for the right to convert the vacant Roof Depot warehouse into a so-



lar-powered, community-owned, indoor urban farm and community hub.

On Sept. 21 at Cedar Field Park in Little Earth, the community came together for the East Phillips Urban Farm – Harvest Moon Block Party, a celebration of community victories, voices, and solutions, including the incoming collective stewardship of the contested Roof Depot site.

The community saw community solutions in motion and learned about the upcoming renovation of the Roof Depot warehouse, as East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) and community partners continue building toward the long-fostered East Phillips Urban Farm vision.

All were welcome to this free event, put on by and for the community. There was food, presentations, live muraling, drum circles, Aztec dancing, and plenty of activities for kids and adults, including the creation of a community newspaper called Little Earth News.

Cassie Holmes, an EPNI board member and Little Earth community leader who works at the Indian Health Board, participated in the event and has been a key voice in the East Phillips community's Roof Depot struggle.

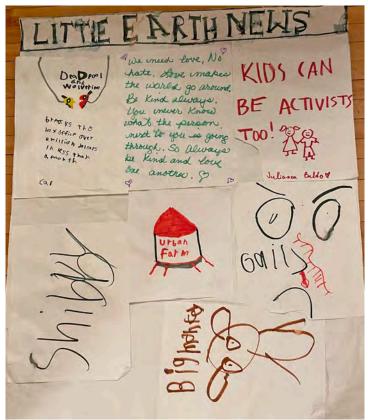
"Our community has had to fight for the basic human rights of clean air and clean water in an urban area," Holmes said during the October episode of "Youth Community Journalism" on making public health better. "When we first started, it was just community members coming together and recognizing that we were living in a very toxic, polluted community. ... The knowledge wasn't out there, and it wasn't shared."

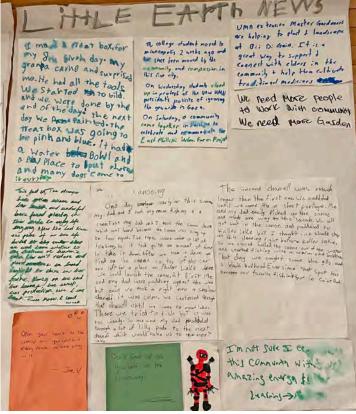
Holmes was born and raised in south Minneapolis and grew up in Little Earth of United Tribes. Like many community members, she didn't know the extent of harm with the arsenic triangle in East Phillips, the area at the northwest corner of 28th Street and Hiawatha Avenue that was heavily contaminated with arsenic due to past pesticide manufacturing activities.

"I didn't know that people in hazmat suits came and picked up over 600 homes and businesses, their dirt as deep as six feet under because it was so toxic," Holmes explained. "We talked about life. We heard about the life expectancy for Native Americans. Our elders are 55 because our life expectancy isn't being an elder at 65. In our community, when our kids get asthma or have asthma attacks or diabetes or heart conditions, that was just kind of like life for us. That's just something that happened. But we're realizing that we were living in this polluted community."

Holmes lost a son who was 16 to a heart condition he wasn't born with. Her best friend lost a daughter to a heart condition she wasn't born with.

"We've lost lots of kids to asthma attacks, and now that we know what's going on and what was against us, I feel like having that knowledge, it's already better. The fact that we're fighting and coming togeth-







On Sept. 21 at Cedar Field Park in Little Earth, the community came together for the East Phillips Urban Farm – Harvest Moon Block Party, a celebration of community victories, voices, and solutions, including the incoming collective stewardship of the contested Roof Depot site.



er as one is already better, and it's going to take years. But with the community vision, I feel like we're going to be on a really good generational path of not only physical health but financial health and just better opportunities."

Little Earth and the East Phillips community continue to show what is possible. By turning toxic harm into an urban farm, they can be a model for community

That is what the East Phillips Urban Farm is all about. When everyone focuses on solutions, it's easy to envision a better future.

We need more of this kind of teamwork everywhere.

The East Phillips Urban Farm project is an example of people working together to preserve and strengthen a community. It is bigger than an urban farm. It is a movement to build a better future where



everyone can grow and thrive. It is a movement for a fairer, healthier, and better world. A world that works for everyone.

The East Phillips Urban Farm is a view from the future. It is a food forest where no one goes hungry, no one goes without shelter, and everyone's basic human needs are met. It's a future where we invest in our children, where all future generations have the opportunity to prosper, and where we can live in peace with justice for all.

This view of the future is not an impossible dream. It is the vision of a world where the community decides what kind of community they want.

A few years ago, the city of Minneapolis received 1,063 comments from individuals and organizations opposed to expanding the public works facility into the Roof Depot site at Hiawatha and 28th. Only two were in favor of it.

The struggle to win full control of the Roof Depot site continues. EPNI needs more money to purchase the Roof Depot site and close the deal to make the East Phillips Urban Farm happen.

Power structures and systems do not like to give up their power.

But the power of the community is growing.

Watch the full "Youth Community Journalism" conversation with Cassie Holmes, Dr. Dziwe Ntaba, and Don't Shoot Guns Shoot Hoops founder and CEO Tommy McBrayer on how we make public health better at the Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation's YouTube channel.

Eric Ortiz lives in the Wedge with his family. He is executive director of the Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation, a national youth and community development nonprofit based in Minneapolis.



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### HAYES WINDOW EXPANDS INTO NEW LOCATION, OFFERS STORM WINDOWS

### Locals fix old windows so they work like new

#### By Tesha M. Christensen

Lost your storm windows over the years? Have windows you can't open anymore because they were painted shut? Does the glass rattle in the wind?

These problems don't mean that you need to replace the windows with new ones that are only guaranteed to last 20 years. Instead, Longfellow-based Hayes Window Restoration can solve the problems and give the windows new life.

The business has recently moved off Hiawatha Ave. to 2508 24th Ave. S, which gives it more space to expand the storm window line.

The window plus storm window combination was the original double-pane window, pointed out Joe Hayes. The issues that plague new double-pane windows (broken panes and seals that lead to interior fogginess) aren't found with the window/storm window combination. Plus, they have enough air moving through them thanks to weep holes to avoid condensation and rot.

This style of window can be a key architectural feature of older homes, he observed. They safeguard the primary windows by extending the maintenance cycle, reducing the need for frequent upkeep. Unfortunately, many people have misplaced their storm windows over the years.

New wood grown in 10-20 years is prone to rot in 10-20 years. It is comparatively softer and weaker, and less dense. Old growth lumber that grew slowly over hundreds of years has a tighter grain and resin that resists decay.

Hayes didn't want to jump into the storm window business and offer another product with a low service life. As he researched options, he found Accoya modified wood, a sustainably harvested timber with a fifty-year warranty based in the Netherlands. This wood undergoes a non-toxic process, resulting in exceptional resistance to rot, and superior dimensional stability. Essentially, the soft wood is pickled - it is treated with a vinegar (acetic anhydride), which turns it into a hardwood by preventing the cells in the wood from being able to absorb water. This stops the wood from expanding and contracting seasonally. "As a small company, it took a pretty long time to get an order in," said Hayes. The wood comes from Chicago

The wood storm windows and screens have traditional mortise and tenon joinery, ensuring longevity and durability, and authentic putty glazing for a traditional aesthetic. Pick from customizable colors and divided-lite configurations.

Those who dread carrying the entire storm window down the stairs are glad to learn they can swap out the screen for the glass pane or vice versa at the turn of a button.

Southwest Minneapolis resident Ann Erickson is a float tech at Hayes Window, and helps manage the glass they buy by the pallet from Minneapolis Glass. She pointed out that many storm windows are caulked and screwed in place, which makes it challenging to perform maintenance as well as trap moisture. She installs sill bulbs and turn buttons to help solve those issue on the windows restored at Hayes Window.

#### STEADY GROWTH AT HAYES

Hayes Window Restoration officially began with one staff member, Joe Hayes. He had restored the windows in his South Minneapolis bungalow and discovered a passion for the work. He left his teaching career and started a new business in the summer of 2017.



Woodworker Bill Dossett (left) and Joe Hayes look over a set of windows being restored. According to Dossett, the dust collection system in the new building is an upgrade that has made a big difference for staff. Plus there's a room just for planing.(Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Joe Hayes stands in front of the new location at 2508 24th Ave. S. A customer told him, "You're the fifth person we've had out and the first that said I don't have to replace the windows." Hayes said, "That feels really rewarding." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Southwest Minneapolis resident Ann Erickson, a float tech at Hayes Window, stands by a stack of new storm windows made with Accoya modified wood and colored to the customer's specifications. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

A feature story in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger just as COVID-19 struck in March 2020 led to enough calls to keep him busy through the transitional months of the pandemic. Since, the business has grown from seven crew members to 20.

Leah Gossman has been the office coordinator at Hayes Window since 2020. The Hayes team is a 50/50 split of men and women. "It feels a lot different than what people tend to think of as construction," said Gossman. "It's a breath of fresh air."

The office area inside 4439 Hiawatha

Ave. (where they had been in since 2019) turned into storage as the new storm window line grew. "We were climbing around windows," said Hayes. "We truly had outgrown the space." It was time to find a larger location.

(Building owner Reddy Rents plans to expand into that area.)

Hayes Window moved into a much larger building at 2508 24th Ave. S. in July 2024 that they found with the help of Merrie Sjogren of ASSEMBLY MN. Built in the mid 1960s, it previously housed a furniture store, a dry cleaner and even an



I feel really fortunate to be in the Twin Cities where we have people who own old homes and see themselves as stewards."

Joy Hayes

illegal night club for a few eventful evenings.

Hayes is glad that they located a site in the greater Longfellow neighborhood. "We feel really lucky to have found a spot that is central to the neighborhoods we work in," he said.

The new building allows for separate bays for different

types of work. Plus, there is a breakroom that is large enough for staff meetings.

Like others there, woodworker Bill Dossett has a passion for old homes. He owns an old Victorian along Bryant Ave. in the Wedge neighborhood and his parents had an old house. He said the dust collection system in the new building is an upgrade that has made a big difference for workers. He's also glad to have a room just for planing.

There's a containment room with HEPA filters for lead paint striping. Homes built before 1978 are likely to have lead-based paint, and the safety protocol at Hayes Windows is to operate as though lead paint is present on each window.

Windows getting fully restored are first put in a steam box to remove the glazing and putty. Next the glass is taken out. Then all the paint and stain is removed.

Wooden frames are evaluated for the amount of repair needed. Some get new sections.

This summer, staff were working on windows from The Landing (formerly Historic Murphy's Landing), a living history museum that preserves and interprets 19th century life in the Minnesota River Valley.

They work on large homes and small ones. Some of the window work can be done on site at the home, such as repairing sashes and cords so that windows open and close smoothly, putty work and weatherstripping. For the old growth wood trim left in long-term exterior exposure that has decayed over time (maybe due to failing paint coatings or when inadequate wood was used for small repairs), they do complete window trim replacement using mature growth white pine, sustainably sourced from a family-run operation in Wisconsin.

For full restorations, sash removal, installation, and jamb reconditioning takes place at homes, and the sash restoration takes place at the shop. Hayes has a number of old machines that can create original millwork, including the commonly use historic ogee profile. "It's the aesthetic work that really makes the window something attractive to have in your home," observed Hayes.

A customer recently told him, "I should have done this 30 years ago." Like others, she was so glad once the work was complete and she could open and close her windows easily.

Another customer told him, "You're the fifth person we've had out and the first that said I don't have to replace the windows."

"That feels really rewarding," said Hayes.

"I feel really fortunate to be in the Twin Cities where we have people who own old homes and see themselves as stewards."

Hayes Window Restoration earned two Preservation Gem awards from the American Institute of Architects Minnesota in 2024, and the Lighthouse Award for Achievements in Historic Preservation at the Rethos Gala Preservation Awards in 2023.

More at hayeswindows.com.





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#### SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6 **LARA BERGMAN**

As an educator with 17

www.laraforschoolboard.com Why are you the best candidate for the position?

years of experience in Montessori early childhood centers and Head Start, a parent of two MPS students and a proud MPS graduate, I am committed to seeing our public schools thrive. I bring an independent voice, fresh perspective and willingness to build consensus with diverse stakeholders when making decisions about the future of our schools. My expertise as an early childhood educator, advocate and fellow at the Minnesota Department of Human Services is a valuable perspective to have on the board as we think about strategic investments in student outcomes and increasing enrollment. My experience in effective governance, education finance and policy will ensure our district is always making decisions

If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?

that put students first.

- 1. Literacy: We need to ensure effective implementation of an evidence-based curriculum, fully funded school library programs and remedial support for students in order for all students to succeed at school and in
- 2. Early Childhood Programming: Expanding our offerings is a strategic investment to improve student outcomes and increase enrollment.
- 3. Financial Sustainability: We need to spend our money wisely and also have a clear plan to increase revenue from the state and federal government.

If forced to cut the budget in the face of declining revenue, what would be your

We need our district to be honest and

### **VOTER GUIDE**

The Connector partnered with the League of Women Voters this year, and we're reprinting items from www.vote411.org. Here are the responses of the candidates who responded by our

transparent about district finances and be in constant communication about the realities of our budget. I support the use of paticipatory budgeting, live-streaming and recording our finance committee meetings and partnering with school principals as ways to build trust in our budgeting process as a district. We also need measures of accountability that demonstrate that our investments are contributing to positive school experiences and student outcomes.

How can you as a board member and the board as a whole foster mutual respect between students, staff and parents?

How we lead matters and as a board director, you can count on me to always show up, listen deeply and follow through. I will listen to diverse perspectives and seek to find common ground around our shared values as a district. We cannot use scare tactics, divisive rhetoric or draw lines in the sand about who we can and cannot talk to. This moment in MPS requires all of us to take ownership of the issues at hand and find ways to move forward together.

Please describe how you will engage teachers and families in your decision-making process.

As an educator and parent, I know that collaboration between home and school is critical to meeting the needs of each student. As a board director, my mission is to ensure every family and teacher in this district has a public school they can be proud of. I will be proactive in my outreach and always accessible to families and educators so that they can see that I am a leader that is deeply invested in decision making that reflect their needs. It's not MY vision, but OUR vision I want moving us forward.

#### **GRETA CALLAHAN**

gretacallahanforschoolboard.com Why are you the best candidate for the position? I'm the only candidate who

is a licensed teacher and who

has taught in the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS). I'm also the DFL and labor-endorsed candidate. I grew up in District 6, my son is a recent MPS grad, and I'm the only candidate with experience in governance and leadership in MPS. I have spent my career as a teacher-leader; I've worked with superintendents and school boards, and followed the budget struggles. I want a thriving public school system and do not accept the managed decline of our public schools - they must succeed and grow. In addition to the full support and trust of MPS employees, my experience and qualifications will allow me to hit the ground running as a school board member, and that is what District 6 deserves!

If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?

STRONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS-

- 1. Stabilize people, programs, and
- 2. Retain current students and increase enrollment - through smaller class sizes, keeping promises, expanding programs like fifth grade band, world languages, and High Five. We need to educate the public about corporate ed reform and why we must

choose public schools if we want a safe, healthy, well-educated Minneapolis.

3. Examine finances with a microscope, evaluating outside contracts and obtaining more funding at the state.

If forced to cut the budget in the face of declining revenue, what would be your

First, retain the families we have. This means we cannot make cuts closest to the kids or increase class sizes. That creates a vicious cycle of further decreasing enrollment and revenue. Simultaneously, work with legislators to fully fund our schools, and, frankly, we should all be protesting the fact that there are mandates in education that are not funded. We cannot cut our way to a world class district and, therefore, must center all plans on retaining, recruiting, and securing more funds.

How can you as a board member and the board as a whole foster mutual respect between students, staff and parents?

Through co-creation. As a parent and teacher in this district, I've learned that respect and buy-in will happen when we are co-creating with those who are affected. I have opposed dangerous plans like the Comprehensive District Design. We were ignored and silenced by district leaders. The new board and superintendent are doing a much better job. I will continue being the bridge between the ground floor and the top of this district, while also being on record and voting as a school board member.

Please describe how you will engage teachers and families in your decision-making process.

As former president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, this area is where I feel most comfortable. Engagement looks like having authentic conversations and intentional meetings. It does not look like a "listening session" after the plan has been decided. I look forward to co-creating plans with students, families, and educators. I will also use email and social media to communicate. Not only do I have a lot of practice at this, but I have relationships in every building in the district.

#### SCHOOL BOARD AT-LARGE KIM ELLISON, INCUMBENT

www.kimellisonfor-



#### SHAYLA OWODUNNI

www.shaylaformps.com Why are you the best candidate for the position?

I am deeply committed to creating an inclusive and high-achieving educational environment in Minneapolis

Public Schools. My handson experience as an Early Learning Corps volunteer has shown me the joys and challenges of our classrooms. With a background in corporate finance,



IT governance, risk and compli-

ance (IT GRC), and program management, I bring a strategic approach to budgeting and transparency. Serving on the Carlson School Alumni Board and co-chairing the Carlson 360 Network, I am a champion for enriching community and diverse perspectives. My passion for education is rooted in empowering our children to achieve greatness, regardless of circumstance. Together, I am confident we can build a brighter future for all MPS students.

If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?

Academic Achiev child excels in reading and math with evidence-based, engaging learning methods.

Community Collaboration: Strengthen partnerships between schools, families, and local organizations, empowering parents and caregivers with effective tools and regular interactive sessions to equip homes with low-lift learning strategies.

Financial Integrity: Champion zero-based budgeting and comprehensive audits to use resources effectively and support students and teachers.

If forced to cut the budget in the face of declining revenue, what would be your

In facing budget cuts, my strategy would be to prioritize student-focused initiatives and essential services. Implementing zero-based budgeting will help identify areas where resources can be reallocated more effectively. I will engage with educators, parents, caregivers, and community members to understand their priorities and make informed decisions. Transparency and open communication will be key to ensuring that budget adjustments are made thoughtfully and equitably.

How can you as a board member and the board as a whole foster mutual respect between students, staff and parents?

Fostering mutual respect starts with open communication and active listening. I will advocate for regular forums and advisory groups where students, staff, and parents/ caregivers can share their perspectives and collaborate on solutions. Celebrating diversity, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring that all voices are heard and valued are essential. By working together and building trust, we can create a supportive and respectful educational community.

Please describe how you will engage teachers and families in your decision-making process.

Engaging teachers and families in deciparent communication. I will establish regular interactive sessions and forums to gather input and feedback. Creating advisory committees and leveraging existing parent-teacher associations will ensure diverse perspectives are considered. By actively involving educators and families, we can make informed decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of our community.



#### **EXCELLENT ACADEMICS**

Literacy is liberation, and the more than 50% of MPS students who cannot read at grade level are being denied their treedom. **Literac**' must be the #1 priority that guides decisions in MPS. Every school must provide robust academics, arts programming, and student supports.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

Elevating early childhood programming is a **strategic investment to** improve student outcomes and increase enrollment.

#### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

We need to spend our money wisely and also procure additional state funding so that educators are paid well and our public schools can thrive now and for generations to come.



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Longtime Licensed MPS Teacher



Proven Leader



Listens & Takes Action



#### Mehrin Reid, Parent

My daughter is now 18 years old and she still has a relationship with "Ms. Callahan." She still remembers techniques that were taught by Greta. My daughter was 5 years old and was reading at a second grade level, thanks to her. I wish that all students can have teachers like Greta at an early age to help them learn skills and show them that learning can be fun.



Aurora Dotterer, Southwest High School Class of 2024

It was easy for me to support Ms. Callahan as a firsttime voter. She is the only licensed teacher and only person who has taught in the Minneapolis Public Schools in this District 6 race. We need someone who truly understands what it's like for us students day in and day out. Every day she's in our schools and on top of her experience and expertise, she is incredibly caring and thoughtful when trying to make MPS better.

#### **DFL & EDUCATOR ENDORSED**



Representative **Emma Greenman** 



Representative Frank Hornstein



Attorney General Keith Ellison



Council Member **Emily Koski** 

### **VOTE ON OR BY NOVEMBER 5TH!**



#### **GRETA IS ENDORSED BY:**





























MN Attorney General Keith Ellison, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, MN Senator Zavnab Mohamed. MN Senator Omar Fateh, MN Representative Emma Greenman, MN Representative Frank Hornstein, MN Representative Mohamud Noor, MN Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura, Minneapolis School Board Member Ira Jourdain, Minneapolis Council President Elliott Payne, Minneapolis Council Vice President Aisha Chughtai, Minneapolis Council Member Robin Wonsley, Minneapolis Council Member Jeremiah Ellison, Minneapolis Council Member Jason Chavez, Minneapolis Council Member Aurin Chowdhury, Minneapolis Council Member Emily Koski and Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner Billy Menz

#### MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 61A KATIE JONES (DFL)

www.katiejones.org

If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?

Through my conversations with voters during this campaign, I've come to understand the shared concerns of community members in every precinct. This is what has shaped my top priorities to champion at

the Capitol. Everyone cares deeply about the future success of this district, and agrees there's critical work we need to do to achieve it: 1) Solutions for revitalizing Uptown and Downtown to build a thriving economy; 2) strengthening our struggling public schools in Minneapolis and across the state; and 3) addressing community safety through sup-

porting violence prevention efforts and passing gun control legislation. By tackling these three things, we can build a more just, resilient, and thriving Minnesota starting right here at home.

What will you do to support a vibrant economy across Minnesota and to address inflation?

Mom and I are pinched," is what a voter living with his disabled mother said about inflation and the rising cost of living. Minnesotans should be able to afford their lives. I will support antitrust laws to ensure a fair marketplace and fight monopolies. I will tackle algorithmic rent pricing used to price fix and prevent affordable rental rates. I will also work to stabilize rising property taxes by working to grow our tax base and ensure our city has the resources it needs to serve people.

What legislation, if any, would you support to address climate change and its

### **VOTER GUIDE**

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effects in Minnesota?

I've worked on climate issues for over 15 years at the neighborhood, city, county, and state levels. I have drafted policies, which are now state law, and was part of creating Minnesota's Climate Action Framework. Going forward, my priorities directly address our largest contributors to greenhouse gasses: buildings and transportation. Policies I'd support include improving building efficiency, transition to electric transportation, and advancing climate positive land use to prevent sprawl.

#### TOYA LÓPEZ (GREEN)

votetoyalopez.com If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?

Health: Racial Justice is Healthcare. Climate and Environmental Justice is Healthcare. Socioeconomic Justice is Healthcare. Every policy, structure, and outcome ought to be viewed from the health standpoint.

Housing: I support unhoused neighbors in receiving dignified housing solutions. I support lifting the ban on rent control and I oppose large investors from buying houses en masse and turning would-be homeowners into renters.

Democracy: I support increased accountability and transparency at the State level. I support civic participation and the decision-making rights of my neighbors. Especially in increasing accessibility for low income folks, non-english speakers, green card holders, undocumented folks, disabled folks, and youth.

What will you do to support a vibrant economy across Minnesota and to address

I support Universal Basic Income and Universal Single-Payer Healthcare. I also support making housing and housing upgrades deeply affordable. The largest costs and drivers of inflation tend to the basics; housing and health. We can create a more organized, cross-jurisdictional, effective healthcare system that also prioritizes public and preventative health while reducing costs. I also support shared ownership such as housing and worker cooperatives.

What legislation, if any, would you support to address climate change and its effects in Minnesota?

Minnesota's largest sector for carbon emissions (not counting Scope 3 emissions) and also our greatest opportunity for carbon sequestration is agriculture. I support incentivizing soil health practices, increasing funding for research and scaling new crops, promoting farmer and worker ownership of renewable energy through cooperatives, strengthening antitrust laws, and shifting subsidies away from feed and fuel (like soybean) toward food that feeds people.

allow those falling through the cracks to buy into affordable healthcare insurance options. The Child Tax Credit will relieve the burden on families and ensure their children have strong educational foundations.

What legislation, if any, would you support to address climate change and its effects in Minnesota?

I authored the 100% Clean Energy Standard Bill, a top five standard in the nation, illustrating my unwavering commitment to addressing climate change. This session, legislative solutions to climate change including expanding access to community solar projects, funding weatherization of all eligible homes for low-income families, investments in transit and adoption of Low-Emission and Zero Emission Vehicle standards

childcare and early education, fully funding access to early childhood education and addressing childcare worker shortages would reduce costs for families facing unaf-

fordable childcare solutions. Finally, to protect our democracy, I will push for a constitutional amendment to create an independent redistricting commission ensuring fair electoral maps in Minnesota. Each of these reforms will continue to put Minnesota on a stronger path to a brighter future.

What will you do to support a vibrant economy across Minnesota and to address inflation?

I will continue to address economic concerns through legislative solutions by reducing housing costs, healthcare costs and childcare costs. A Public Option Bill would

> DIANE B. BRATVOLD JONATHAN R. WOOSLEY

#### MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

STEPHEN A. EMERY

stephenaemery.org

NATALIE E. HUDSON

justicehudson.org

#### MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE 6**

MATTHEW R. HANSON

mhansonlaw.com

KARL PROCACCINI

karlforjustice.com

#### **SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION: TECH LEVY**

Revoking Existing Technology Capital Project Levy Authorization; Approving New Authorization

The board of Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) has proposed to revoke the School District's existing capital project levy (also known as the tech levy) authorization in the amount of 2.249% times the net tax capacity of the School District and to replace that authorization with a new capital project levy authorization in the amount of 4. 728% times the net tax capacity of the School District. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$38,142,202 for taxes payable in 2025, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. A portion of this new authorization will replace the school district's existing authorization of \$18,142,202 for taxes payable in 2025, which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2025. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$381,422,020. The revenue from the proposed capital levy authorization will provide funds for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of technology systems, technology equipment, technology infrastructure and security, and technology support staffing. Shall the existing capital project levy authorization be revoked and the new capital project levy authorization proposed by the board of Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) be ap-

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

#### **2024 STATE BALLOT QUESTION: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL** RESOURCES TRUST FUND RENEWAL

Failure to vote on a constitutional amendment will have the same effect as voting no on the amendment.

To vote for a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question. To vote against a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to protect drinking water sources and the water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams; conserve wildlife habitat and natural areas; improve air quality; and expand access to parks and trails by extending the transfer of proceeds from the state-operated lottery to the environment and natural resources trust fund, and to dedicate the proceeds for these purposes?

#### MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 61B

**BOB "AGAIN" CARNEY JR (R)** 

Facebook, bobagaincarneyjr@gmail.com

#### JAMIE LONG (DFL), INCUMBENT

www.jamielong.com If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?

This session my top priorities include reducing healthcare costs; making childcare and early education more affordable; and protecting our democracy. In healthcare, I aim to pass a Public

Option Bill to curb exorbitant costs and provide affordable insurance options for all. In

#### **RACES FOR JUDGES**

LWVMN does not invite judicial candidates to participate in the VOTE411 Voter's Guide due to the number of candidates across the state and associated administrative costs. This combined with the fact that most judicial candidates want to keep a low profile make this a practical decision. Information about judicial candidates is harder to find than it is for candidates of other offices. However, there are a few things voters can do to learn more about candidates and make their voices heard.

Do your research. Most judicial candidates want to keep a low profile. Sitting judges' biographies can be found on the MN Judicial Branch website. To see if a judge has been reprimanded, check MN Board on Iudicial Standards. In the rare case that an election is contested, voters can usually find statements

from candidates in MN Lawyer or MN Bar Association (available only during elections).

Learn more about this process: "Judicial Candidates in Minnesota: What to know before you head to the polls!" (LWVMN).

Contested races in the Minneapolis area:

#### JUDGE - 2ND DISTRICT COURT 24 MATTHEW FRANK

www.mncourts.gov/hennepin

CHRISTOPHER LECKRONE

www.christopherleckroneforjudge.com

#### **JUDGE - COURT OF APPEALS 12**

mncourts.gov/About-The-Courts/Overview/JudicialDirectory





#### **1**

#### SHELTER FUNDING

The cuts ranged from a maximum of \$708,978.32 for the Finance and Property Services Department to \$2,288.50 for the Health Department. The departments had been shown to have underspent their budgets in the past and all were expected have surpluses to cover the reallocations at the end of 2024.

The city funding was contingent upon Agate finding an additional \$1.5 million, which they did, from an anonymous donor, within days of the city vote. The facility will be temporarily closed and, if all goes as planned, the funds will be used to make repairs so that residents can move back in within the next six to 12 months.

Mayor Jacob Frey, in a letter to the council following the vote, said, "While the intent is commendable, this funding decision lacked proper vetting and was based on point-in-time budget projections, which is completely irresponsible." Still, he declined to veto the action, and allowed it to pass without signing it.

Frey also informed the council that the cuts would result in some planned initiatives not moving forward. This included a \$350,000 investment to improve North Commons Park, staff recruiting efforts, and funds to support racial equity contracted work that was already underway.

This surprised some council members. "Accurate and regular reporting is mandated by the city's financial policies. The council relies on this information in order to budget and deliver essential services to our residents," said Ward 10 Council Member Aisha Chughtai. "For the mayor to assert saving shelter beds using unspent funding is a reason to cut services and programming undermines the work of the city's finance staff who are responsible for our reporting, and causes concern for residents of Minneapolis, who need and deserve transparency in how their tax dollars are being spent."

"The city has \$1.5 million for Agate without putting the budget at risk," said Ward 11 Council Member Koski.

According to Chughtai and Koski, the city ended each of the last six years with an average \$21.7 million surplus and is projected to end this year with a \$38.5 million surplus.

"The council's action either cuts funding for North Commons or cuts city staff," said the city's chief financial officer, Dushani Dye, after the vote. "There is no way around it, and I stand by our city's accounting practices, which are accurate."

Ward 13 Council Member Linea Palmisano agreed with the mayor. "...Ten of



On Sept. 19, 2024, the city council approved redistributing some funds from 15 departments to pay for repairs at the Agate Board and Lodge Housing and Shelter Facility (510 South 8th St.), where Agate has a 42-bed shelter program and 95-bed board and lodge program. (Photo by Cam Gordon)

my colleagues voted to reallocate \$1.5 million to a project with no competitive bid process and prior vetting. This is not sound, responsible budgeting," she wrote in a recent email. "There are a number of great financial needs across our city, and we can't assess where our money is most impactful without objective, data-driven processes. Taxpayer dollars should be disbursed fairly, not simply to whichever organization can grab the attention of my colleagues."

At the budget committee meeting on Sept. 26 Frey also called for a more "competitive and fair process," and said that the cuts could have been avoided if council members "bothered to consult with budget staff."

"We are losing crucial shelter and housing capacity when we're already struggling to keep pace with the need," said Koski. "As a result, too many of our neighbors are forced to live in unsafe conditions on the streets and in encampments within our communities. Every bed we lose is another person left without safety, stability, and dignity. I worked directly with Ward 9 Council Member Chavez to come up with a funding solution allocating identified surpluses from departments throughout the city."

CHAVEZ SAYS HE FOLLOWED THE COUNCIL PROCESS FROM START TO FINISH

Chavez, who started working on this in August after Agate's Board announced the closure, and possible sale, of the building, says he did consult with staff.

"In the absence of the mayor and his administration coming to the table and working to find ways to save the shelter, the city council was left to solve the problem," said Chavez. "We were left to find a way to fund the Agate Rehabilitation Project."

Chavez says that he followed the usual city process and submitted a resolution by the due date for the budget committee meeting on Sept. 16, and discussed the proposal at the budget committee agenda setting meeting on Sept. 11, where the committee chair and vice chair, a representative from the mayor's office, and finance staff were present to review and discuss it.

Originally, he planned to use money from the city contingency, or reserve, fund that acts as a financial safety net. "I had secured the votes to move forward with this option," he said, "but then an effort was made to swing votes against this option. This effort was successful."

Then he began working to find alternate funding. First, he looked at federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

"I had secured the votes to move forward with this option, but then the city's budget director advised against this, redi-

recting me to look at the city's 2024 second quarter financial report," said Chavez.

Using the report, he said that he worked with other council offices to create the resolution that eventually passed that reallocated funds from departments that were expected to underspend this year. It reallocated 7.58% of their projected surplus, which was on average 0.74% or their total budgets.

"The budget director then advised against her prior recommendation, ultimately advising against using the second quarter financial report as a means to identify and reallocate savings," said Chavez.

He said that he sent the amended plan to all council members, the mayor, the mayor's chief of staff, the city attorney, all the affected departments' directors and other staff. "I followed the adopted city council process for this item from beginning to end," he added.

"I worked with the mayor, his staff, and my colleagues on the council to find viable, agreeable funding options," said Chavez. "The mayor left the conversations after votes were swung against the contingency fund option, stating they were not open to discussing options for the current budget year. There was considerable backand-forth with staff throughout deliberations."

On Oct. 2, the council voted to investigate the financial reporting and possible discrepancies.

"The city's quarterly financial reports are how we understand the city and our department's actual spending. They are touted by the administration as the best source of budgetary and fiscal information," said Koski. "If we can't rely on these reports, then we don't have any accurate or trustworthy information to guide our decisions."

"The unprecedented level of unsheltered homelessness has been declared a public health emergency by the city of Minneapolis," said Koski. "I believe we must continue to evolve our response to make progress, with the goal of safe, stable housing for all."

Later this month, on Oct. 15, a council committee will consider requesting a staff report that outlines a standard process shelter providers could follow to request renovation or maintenance funds and an overview of the funding available for it.

The third quarter budget report is expected to be coming out in the next few weeks. Agate has until December 2025 to use the city funds.

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#### • GHOST-BUSTER

them how to develop their gifts. "We never met this woman. Just out of the blue, she gave us this call," said Bodine. "I was pretty nervous about the whole thing, but my mom was always up for an adventure so off we went to our first of many classes."

They studied for about a year and developed their psychic gifts. One day one of her mom's friends called and asked if they could see if there was a ghost in her attic because there was a bunch of noise up there. As they drove out to Shakopee, Bodine asked her mom why they were going to Carol's and she explained about the noises. "I asked Mom, 'Are we looking for a ghost?" and she said, 'I'm not sure.' Then I asked, 'What do they look like?'. She said she didn't know." Her last question was, "What are we going to do if we find one?" Her mom responded, "I don't know."

They had no idea what they were getting into, recalled Bodine. Once in Carol's attic, Bodine began looking for a little white blobby being like Casper the Friendly Ghost, as her experience of ghosts up to that point had been formed by the television show.

That's not what they found. They noticed a man, woman, son and daughter who were see through – transparent – standing over in the corner. Bodine asked her mother if she knew why those people were there and she said no.

"At this point, we did not know that a ghost was the soul of someone who was stuck here on Earth. Both mom and I kept waiting for Casper to appear and he never did, so we left. That's how it all got started."

Bodine has since written about it in two books, "My Little Book of True Ghost Stories" and "How To Live a Happily Ever After Life"

It was at least a year before Bodine tried anything else. For her second experience, she brought along her psychic broth-

From Tara Lund: I am submitting this piece written by my neighbor and friend, Leni de Mik. I nominated her for a Linden

Hills Treasure award and she was selected and accepted the award Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024 at the neighbor council meeting. Leni wrote her thoughts down in the attached letter and distributed at the meeting. We felt that her story and the importance of connection would be



something our community at large might be of benefit.

When I first heard I was nominated for this award, I thought it was spam. A stream of feelings ran through me when I learned it was not. Among them, why me?

After a while, it came to me that I had been given an opportunity to say some things close to my heart. For me feeling connected and belonging to a group or neighborhood is extremely significant. When we lose or don't have this connection, the roots of our foundations are insecure and easily shaken.

I have experienced both.

My early years unfolded in Holland. Like so many people on our planet today, my childhood was in a war zone. I was born in 1941 in Nazi-occupied Holland. I was four when I watched "the enemy" leave. But while the war was over, restoration had only begun. Restoration takes time as is true everywhere after a long war or national disaster. The village was bombed into ruins; hunger continued until food sources were re-established. And a new terror, the shadow of Stalin, loomed large and deepened. Having lived through two world wars, my father knew it could happen again.

He decided to join millions of others who fled Europe post-war. Dad applied

er Michael. "I was still afraid of spirits, but Michael had seen them since he was a little boy and wasn't afraid," Bodine stated.

There was a house in St. Paul that had been on the market for over a year. A woman called them saying she had done everything to make her house sell-able but no one would buy it. "Off we went, and what a job that was," said Bodine. "There were so many ghosts in that house, no wonder it wouldn't sell. Every room we walked into we got so creeped out, but by this time in our psychic development we had learned to communicate with spirit helpers called guides. They were with us and taught us how to properly get rid of these folks."

Bodine acknowledges that many people have watched shows like "Ghostbusters" and "Ghost Whisperer." She said that some of the episodes in "Ghost Whisperer" are valid, but "Ghostbusters" is pretty silly.

"A ghost looks just like us. Human beings. They are a soul. When their physical body dies, they remain earthbound," Bodine explained. "Ghosts are definitely real. They aren't evil, demonic, beings. They are simply the soul of someone who has died and they don't want to move on."

There are six main reasons why a soul chooses to remain earthbound, according to Bodine, and she covers that in her book, "How To Live a Happily Ever After Life"

When she is brought to a home where there are ghosts, she walks through looking for transparent people. When she find ones, she asks: What is your name and why are you here?

"Our job is to convince them to move on into the light," remarked Bodine. "Some yell, scream at us and cry. They have a lot of fear about going to heaven. The number one reason we hear often is that they are afraid if they go to heaven, God will send them to hell. Most ghosts have a strong belief in hell. Some don't want to run into someone on the other side. Some stick around because they have



Echo Bodine says, "Ghosts are definitely real. They aren't evil, demonic, beings. They are simply the soul of someone who has died and they don't want to move on."

an addiction problem, and they hang out with alcoholics/addicts here. Some don't believe there is anything after life and so they don't know what to do when they find out their soul lives on."

Once all the ghosts are cleared from a home, Bodine burns sage to clear the house of all the fear created by the ghosts. "People create a lot of fear and anger when dealing with ghosts," she observed. "The sage does not get rid of a ghost, contrary to what a lot of people believe. It's simply to clear negative energy. The Native Americans say to leave a window open when burning sage to get rid of the negative energy. When we are completely done, people say their homes feel so much better."

Bodine has learned to caution people about talking to their ghosts and inadver-



### CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL/INTUITIVE DEVELOPMENT RE-OPENS

The Center for Spiritual/Intuitive Development at 8 W. 66th in the Hub Shopping Center in Richfield is open Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Mini-Palooza: First Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Aurapalooza: Third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Echo Bodine offers online classes and workshops, as well as a PenPal Program.

On Tuesday nights, find her online show at BoldBraveTV.com called, "Enough is Enough" that "explores all of the socalled 'new age' practices to shine a light on all of one's God-given gifts."

tently calling them back. "Some people miss their ghosts, and we suggest they get a pet instead!" she said.

Bodine has reopened her Center for Spiritual/Intuitive Development in the Hub in Richfield where she offers classes and holds events.

"Our challenges are God's opportunity to show us the magic of life and how much we are loved," according to Bodine, who signs her emails with that reminder.

### WHAT THIS AWARD MEANS TO ME

to Brazil, South Africa, and New Zealand. And Canada. Canada said yes, and we embarked on a 10-day ocean voyage in a converted troop ship. Leaving meant leaving all relatives, all friends, all that was familiar. It meant learning a new language, finding employment, and finding a place to live. Money would have helped, but the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe banned taking currency out of the country. We came penniless.

During the years that followed, there was little time to feel lost. We did what we could to adapt to establish new foundations: customs, language, and relationships.

Which takes me to today, to community and belonging in Linden Hills, to the power of connection. I have lived in Linden Hills for 40-plus years. I know my neighbors. I've watched generations of children grow up, and I have seen neighborhood elderly move and die.

Like other octogenarians, I lived before TV when evenings were filled with voices of kids playing skip rope on the sidewalks, riding bicycles, or casting "jacks" on the front porch.

Things have changed. Doors to the porch are now more often closed, and the light inside shines on families sitting side by side on couches, watching TV or scrolling on their phones. How, in these times, do we maintain that significant, essential neighborly connection?

I had a small idea that blossomed – I opened my garage to community gatherings. People connected, had ideas. Here are some of the magical things I saw happen:

• Local, renowned musician-neighbors, playing in the driveway surrounded by families singing together

• A father leading a group of neighbors (lots of kids!) as we sang and ges-

tured "The Wheels on the Bus"

- A young neighbor performing "Smoke On the Water" on his handmade dulcimer
- A group of young girls showing off their dribbling skills to honor Caitlin Clark
- Magic tricks, hula-hooping, piano recital selections shared, poems read, stories told and many choruses of "Puff the Magic Dragon" sung
- Neighbors introducing themselves, pulling out more chairs
- A neighbor garden tour followed by refreshments and visiting
- A plan for Halloween: permission to close the street to make it safe and great for kids and families
- Fresh vegetables delivered from a neigbor's farm
- Careful planning for Neighborhood Night Out... an atmosphere that went deep into the evening
- Neighbors stringing holiday lights between homes – the metaphor of connection
- The gift of attendance: If someone throws a ball and no one catches it, there is no game!
- Shoveling snow for each other
- Going out of the way to provide and "in person" welcome to new arrivals on the block
  - Picking up bagels for each other
- During COVID, neighbors offering their help to those who could not shop for themselves
- A call for shopping bags to be used to collect food so it won't be wasted
- Neighbors and kids chatting together, playing together, getting to know one another

There is great power in neighborhoods. We really are the foundation of democracy. We can't stop individually stop

#### LINDEN HILLS TREASURES

On Oct. 8, the following people were recognized by the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council as Linden Hills Treasures:

- Peter Georgas
- Miles Hecht
- Dr. Peter Hinke & Dr. Kordie Reinhold
- Leni de Mik
- Leah Robshaw
- Dr. Geoff Sudit



People connect at Leni de Mik's garage in Linden Hills over music and conversation.

the bombing in Gaza and Lebanon, but we all have the power of small things, and caring is never small. It is contagious. All experiences that become accomplishments in time start small, in small moments, small openings that are recognized as opportunities. I opened my garage door, and neighbors gathered.

Thank you for this recognition. I accept it sincerely and humbly as a member of my extraordinary community, Drew Avenue and Linden Hills. And with the recognition that every accomplishment arises from the intricate web of relationships, the presence, support, and encouragement we share and offer one another. And we are that kind of community, together creating the essence of neighborliness, where leadership is shared, kindness is freely given, and we truly seek to see and know one another. With gratitude.

### HAVE YOU NOTICED HOME SALES ARE DOWN BUT PRICES ARE UP?

#### TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

Check it out: This graph at right indicates the number of closed sales in our Southwest Minneapolis area over the past 10 years. You will note the "COVID spike." Then note: The average number of sales per month went way



down and has stayed down for two years.

The number of homes sold is down 25% over the last two years as compared with the previous eight years.

Meanwhile, prices continue to climb. How can this be? Number of sales are down 25 percent and prices are up?

Call the supply and demand police! And that's exactly what it is. There is not enough supply.

Many of you may have noticed an uptick in the number of homes that went on the market in late September. That was a blip. There is not enough supply, and in my opinion, there will never be enough supply again in Southwest Minneapolis.

The number of new listings in the past two years is also down from the previous 20 years.

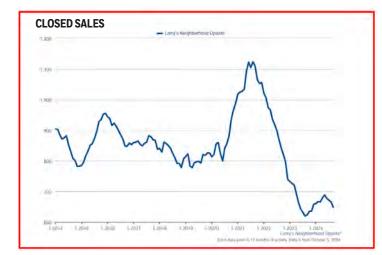
Why? Interest rates - but here's the catch:

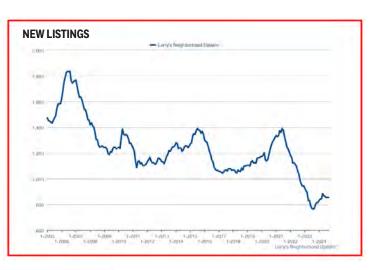
It's sellers that care about interest rates, not buyers.

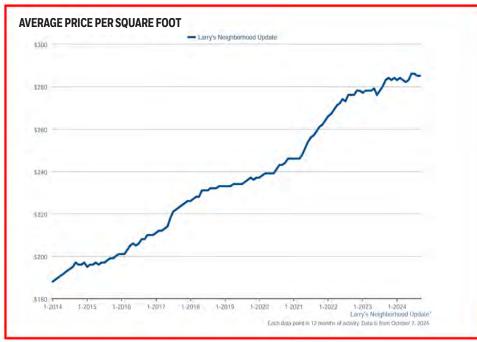
Buyers get it. Those 3% rates are gone forever. The rate for the foreseeable future is between five and seven. So, if they want to buy in the foreseeable future - if they want to buy in the next six years - the rate issue is behind them. The rates are what the rates are.

Sellers, on the other hand - Most sellers refinanced five years ago, and they now have a rate of 3%. Few of them are completely paid off. So, when sellers look at downsizing, (not being able to purchase with cash) they are looking at selling a 3% loan and buying a 6% loan. Their square footage will go down, and their mortgage payment will go up.

"No, thank you," they say, and thus,







we have fewer people listing their homes.

Combine that with census data forecasting more population growth in Minneapolis, and we now have a "permanent shortage" of single-family housing here.

ON TOP OF THIS - Our current market is also complicated by two separate uncertainties. One, of course, is our uncertainty about the election. Who knows what is about to happen.

The other uncertainty has to do specifically with the real estate industry. Since The Lawsuit, the big change is that MLS will no longer publish a pre-determined buyer's broker commission.

One new change since then is that the

local realtors' association has now made it a requirement that any agent scheduling a showing must have a signed buyers' representation agreement for the buyer they are showing it to. If a buyer wants a private showing, they must either call the listing agent directly, or they must sign an agreement that stipulates the amount of commission that the showing agent will earn if they purchase the property.

Will this result in fewer agent showings? Will more people get their first look at open houses? Will some buyers call the listing agent, and begin the process "unrepresented?'

No one will know anything until Nov. 6. And beyond that, it will likely be the spring market before we see how much the real estate industry has changed

My prediction: Expect slim pickings and slow appreciation until it begins to go gangbusters.

Larry LaVercombe is a writer, filmmaker, and activist, born in Detroit and arrived in Minneapolis in 1975. He lived in a treehouse

in San Diego before getting an MFA from the USC Film School. He writes most days, and as Team Larry he has been selling residential real estate in Minneapolis for 26 years.

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### **NETWORK NOW AND YOU**

Metro Transit recently released its draft plan, called Network NOW, to restore, and improve on, the service they provided before COVID. Many of the improvements involve making transit more useful all day, every day, instead of just at



traditional work commute times.

This plan will be good for most people near bus and train lines that are used a lot, and not as good for people in the suburbs or who have limited mobility and need to get as close as possible to their destinations. For people in the Southwest Connector readership area, the following changes will be most relevant:

- Route 2 will run every 10 minutes on weekdays and on weekends in the day-time.
- Route 4 will run every 10 minutes on weekdays and every 15 minutes on Sundays in the daytime, as far south as 38th Street.

- The E Line will replace the France Avenue branch of Route 6; the Xerxes Avenue branch will run only once every half hour, and will end at Uptown Transit Station. Persons wishing to go downtown or to the university from Xerxes will have to transfer to the E Line at Uptown.
- Route 9 will run every half hour on Sundays. The 9B branch on Glenwood west of Penn will no longer operate.
- Route 11 will run every 10 minutes on weekdays in the daytime.
- Route 12, suspended for COVID, isn't coming back.
- Route 17 will run every 15 minutes to the Knollwood area Monday through Saturday, and to Lake Street and France Avenue on Sunday.
- Route 18 will run every 10 minutes on weekends, as far south as 66th Street. The Grand Avenue branch, suspended for COVID, is now gone for good.
- The B Line will mostly replace Route 21 and completely replace Route 53. However, the 21 will still exist between Uptown Transit Center and Minnehaha Avenue and run once per hour.

- Route 38 will replace Routes 23 and 612 entirely. There will be more frequency west of Uptown on weekdays, and on the whole route on Sundays.
- Route 25 appears to have no changes to the one daily trip through Kenwood.
- Routes 27, 135, 141, 156, 552, 553, 554, 558, 588, 589, and 643, suspended for COVID, aren't coming back.
- Route 46 will run every half hour, seven days a week, between Edina and the 46th Street Blue Line station.
  - Routes 113, 467 will not change.
- They will restore Route 115, which was suspended because of COVID.
- They will discontinue the C branch of Route 115.
- Route 146 will run two trips in each direction during the a.m. and p.m. rush hours.
- Route 578 will run three rush hour trips on weekdays. The 578C branch, suspended for COVID, is not coming back.

If any of these proposed changes bother or annoy you, it's not too late! Public feedback is being collected through Nov. 15, 2024. More details are available at https://www.metrotransit.org/network-now-engagement. Please speak your mind!

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

#### MORE MEADOW, LESS LAWN

The redesigned Bryn Mawr Meadows Park seeks to strike a sustainable balance between nature and recreation. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with refreshments and a park tour will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24, 4-5:30 p.m. Highlights of the 56acre park include a native landscape greenway and meadow comprising 9.5 acres of plants and grasses, plus 6.5 acres of pollinator-friendly turf for informal play fields. Additional features of the redesign include two stormwater ponds to treat area runoff; a new playground and mountain-bike skills course; and two upgraded premier athletic fields - all connected via a one-mile walking loop. The Luce Line trail connects the park to the Grand Rounds and other citywide and regional trails.



#### 23 NEW POLICE OFFICERS

In late September, Minneapolis Police Department welcomed a class of 23 new officers at a swearing-in ceremony at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. The new officers include 11 new recruits and 12 laterals – officers who transferred to the MPD from other departments. This new class includes the first Somali American woman to join the department and the first permanent resident. Applications are up by more than 45% since last year, and for the first time in many years, the department is on track to end the year with more officers than it started with.

#### HERC RESOLUTION

The Minneapolis City Council Climate & Infrastructure Committee held a public hearing on Oct. 10 on a resolution supporting the closure of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC). The hearing follows a Request for Committee Action that was submitted on July 15 and approved on Sept. 26. Following this public hearing, the resolution will move to the Committee of the Whole for consideration on Oct. 24, with a final vote anticipated on Oct. 31. The proposed resolution calls for a closure date, restitution to communities harmed by HERC over its 35year operation, frontline community leadership in what comes next at the HERC site, and urges the city to implement the Zero Waste plan it passed in 2017.

#### **CITY BRIEFS**

#### **NEW CARBON POLLUTION FEE**

Mayor Jacob Frey has vetoed a unanimous city council decision to add a new Pollution Control Annual Registration (PCAR) fee for the largest emitters of carbon dioxide in the city. PCAR fees are a state-authorized program that the city has been applying for years to various air pollutants, but not CO2. He wrote that he supported the idea but that legal concerns raised by the city attorney convinced him that without a more formal study of costs to be recovered, it would be found to be unlawful. The new proposed fee would charge large facilities \$452/ton of CO2e. The council could override the veto with a 9-vote majority.

#### INTERSTATE 94

The Minneapolis City Council has passed a resolution updating priorities for the Rethinking I-94 project. Historic nonwhite and working neighborhoods like Cedar Riverside were targeted by state and city planners for highway construction as a mechanism to remove residents. The resolution opposes any expansion of lanes and supports highway removal that could include a "restored network" alternative with fewer lanes, which would "maximize the potential to repurpose highway land

for new public housing, affordable commercial space, parks, community gardens, or other uses determined by surrounding communities." It supports "studying options that repurpose the I-94 trench for high-speed connections between downtown Minneapolis to downtown Saint Paul and the broader region," and halting "planning on bridge projects" within the project corridor until a preferred alternative is selected.

#### FALL STREET SWEEPING BEGINS OCT. 22

City crews will begin the citywide fall street cleaning on Oct. 22 and continue through November. No parking signs should be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they are swept. The first signs will be posted Monday, Oct. 21. Cars parked in violation of the signs may be ticketed and towed. View the schedule on the city website.

#### BLUE LINE LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION

Local governments of Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and Hennepin County have all voted to give municipal consent, as required by state law, to Met Council's plan to extend the Blue Line light rail. This means that all the cities along the route have formally reviewed and approved plans for station locations and track placement. The pro-

posed route starts at the Target Field station and extends through north Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park.

#### **VOTING FOR THE NOV. 5 ELECTION**

Early voting for the Nov. 5 2024 general election began Sept. 20. Minneapolis residents can vote early at Minneapolis Early Vote Center (980 E Hennepin Ave) and Hennepin County Government Center. Visit hennepin.us/elections and https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/ for more information.

#### **HENNEPIN COUNTY BUDGET**

A schedule of budget hearings and information on how to comment on the county budget can be found at www. hennepin.us/your-government/budget-finance/budgets.

#### AIRPORT NOISE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (MSP) Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) Fall Listening Session is scheduled to be held at the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) General Office Building at 6040 28th Avenue South at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23. Participants can also join remotely online or by calling (612) 405-6798 and pressing 371 924 890#.



**Briefs** compiled by Cam Gordon.

#### **TIDBITS**

#### LYNDALE AVENUE SOUTH OPEN HOUSE OCT. 23

Efforts to improve safety and modernize Lyndale Avenue in South Minneapolis are continuing. After hearing the community's thoughts about how to improve the corridor and which roadway elements they want to see included in the reconstruction, Hennepin County is looking for feedback on the corridor design options. Join the county for a conversation at the public open house on Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 4-6 p.m. at SpringHouse Ministry Center, 610 W. 28th Street. Come and go anytime during the open house to view the

corridor design options, talk to the project team and share your feedback. Now through November, the county is looking for community feedback on the corridor design options through an online survey.

#### BDE MAKA SKA BOAT LAUNCH AND MINNEAPOLIS SAILING CENTER MAY MOVE

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and Minneapolis Sailing Center (MSC) are collaborating on a project that includes relocating the lake's boat launch and Minneapolis Sailing Center from the current location next to the Bde Maka Ska Pavilion at the northeast shore of Bde Maka Ska to an open area at the northwest shore of the lake in order to

reduce congestion on the northeast corner of the lake. On Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, an initial predesign concept was released for public feedback. Visit the project page to view 10 illustrations that show what the new boat launch and sailing center area could look like. The Bde Maka Ska-Lake Harriet Plan was completed in 2017. Relocating the boat launch and Sailing Center to the lake's northwest shore is included in the plan's recommendations.

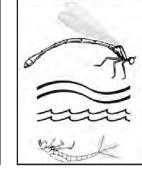
#### TRANSIT RELIABILITY

Metro Transit and local partners are expanding the use of bus lanes, signal technology, and other tactics to improve transit reliability across the region. The

latest advance comes from the installation of bus lanes on sections of sections of Hennepin and Lyndale avenues, which will help thousands of riders on routes 4 and 6 avoid delays as they travel through the busy corridor every day. The project is a partnership between Metro Transit and the City of Minneapolis.

In recent years, bus lanes have also been added to sections of East Lake Street, 7th Street, and Chicago Avenue. Bus lanes will be added to sections of Hennepin and First avenues northeast, Lagoon Avenue and more of Lake Street this year and Minnesota's first bus rapid transit line operating primarily within bus-only lanes, the METRO Gold Line, opens in March 2025.





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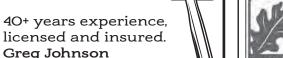
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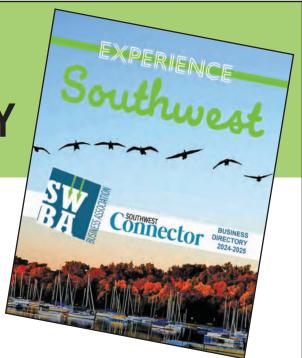
### **CHECK OUT THE NEW** SOUTHWEST BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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