

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • NOVEMBER 2024 • VOL. 3 • NO. 12 • 25,500 CIRCULATION



10 Southwest High class of '74 donates to Laker Locker

4 COLUMN: Journalists under fire here in America

5 Wondering why people vote third party?

9 Fulton house set for resident's first film, 'Bram'

UPTOWN:

REIMAGINED



Aaron Blaser, owner of the Curioso Coffee Bar in Seven Points mall, said he has a "guarded optimism" about Uptown's future. He believes in its potential "to be a real point of interest," and thinks that having street construction wrap up will make a big difference. (Photo by Brian Gabriel)

Artists, businesses owners excited about future of Uptown as street construction along Hennepin Ave. ends.

By **Brian Gabriel**

With significant street construction coming to an end along Hennepin Avenue from 31st to 28th Streets, Uptown is ready for a renaissance – French for rebirth.

"I think we're on the rise. That's my current feelings," Ra' Sekou P'tah said. "I know I watch my numbers go up dramatically." P'tah, who manages the LAFitness on the upper floor of Seven Points mall, added, "When the construction was finished on this side of Lake Street, on this side from the liquor store [Hennepin Lake Liquor] all the way back to Hennepin, I saw it open up, and the doors start opening for the restaurants." That sense of optimism about Uptown is shared across Hennepin Avenue at Queermunity, a new, multigenerational

space for the LGBTQ+ community, located above Magers & Quinn Bookstore. "There is a renaissance happening in Uptown of new, small businesses popping up really trying to re-cultivate a neighborhood in this area," said Seth Anderson-Matz, "Outreach & Partnerships Manager" for the center. (See article on Queermunity on page 7.) "I think having certain projects wrapped up, construction wrapped up, will be a big difference," said Aaron Blaser, owner of the Curioso Coffee Bar in Seven Points mall.

JONES WINS HOUSE SEAT, CALLAHAN SCHOOL BOARD POSITION

DFL-endorsed candidates win every seat, lay out their priorities for next term

By **Cam Gordon**

This Nov. 5, along with voting overwhelmingly for Democrat candidates in the national and statewide elections, Southwest Minneapolis residents elected two new people to represent them at the local level: Katie Jones as a state representative (top image) and Greta Callahan (lower image) as a new Minneapolis Public School Board member. Jones, endorsed by the Democratic



Farmer Labor (DFL) Party, will replace Frank Hornstein as the area's new 61A district state representative. Jones received 84% of the vote and Green Party candidate Toya López received 15% of the vote. Hornstein did not seek reelection this year. "I'm so thrilled to be able to represent 61A, and I'm taking this role very seriously," said Jones, who lives in Lowry Hill East and will be transitioning

Community presents alternate plan for George Floyd Square

HEALTH BEFORE AESTHETICS

By **Jill Boogren**

Neighbors packed the house at Belfry Community Space (3901 Chicago Ave.) on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, for a Town Hall "In Defense of Black Lives." The meeting was held in response to the city of Minneapolis proposal, unveiled at its Oct. 29 open house, to reconstruct 38th and Chicago to allow all forms of traffic in all directions. If approved, construction would begin in 2025. For many, the city's proposal feels like window dressing that ignores the real needs of the community. "It looked real pretty. It looked like it was gonna smell real nice. Like it ain't got no roaches or nothin'," said community member Milesha Smith, drawing laughter from the crowd. "But then I was like, dang. If they did do that, we're still gonna be sleeping on the streets.... We're still gonna be releasin' what's inside of us on these streets. We're still gonna be hopin' and prayin' that somebody is gonna attend to our needs." Smith said the problem is not the police or the community but the environment they're living in, and that these kinds of upgrades cost money that could be used elsewhere – to house, clothe and feed people. "We don't want it to be pretty. We didn't take it to be pretty," she said, referring to the protest that first closed the streets in 2020. Jordan Powell Karis, the artist who created the fist sculptures at the center of 38th and Chicago



At the Town Hall meeting, neighbor Marcia Howard reminds people who wish to return to normalcy that George Floyd Square is now a historic landmark, and "what was normal was Black folk dying in the middle of the street." (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Neighbor Julia Johnson says the George Floyd Square community provides resources, food, housing support, free clothing from the Peoples' Closet and safety. It's a blueprint she wants to see copied all over the country and around the world. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

1 GF SQUARE

and at each of the four gateways to George Floyd Square, said the sculptures weren't meant to be pretty.

"They're meant to hold space in the protest. We've been doing it for four and a half years at this point," he said.

Powell karis, who lives in Uptown and has seen the loss of businesses there, urged consideration of the impact of construction on the neighborhood. "That's a thriving economic zone, and the construction has destroyed it," he said. "I'm not sure how this area's gonna really do, we already struggle in this neighborhood to keep it going."

ANOTHER APPROACH

The community presented an alternate plan that would halt road reconstruction for one year for three purposes:

1) to enable the city, Hennepin County and the state of Minnesota to create an intergovernmental agency – similar to the approach to law enforcement that was taken during the trial of Derek Chauvin – to implement immediate solutions for housing and healing.

2) to support a racial justice and healing center at 38th St. and 4th Ave. S., as outlined in the 38th Street THRIVE strategic plan approved by the city council in 2021.

3) to use the existing Community Visioning Council to create a comprehensive, community-led vision for George

Floyd Square (GFS) by October 2025 that includes a memorial, the Peoples' Way and the right-of-way.

"Without attending to the comprehensive needs of neighbors along with infrastructure improvements, we fear that the current plan will lead to increased displacement of current residents and their lives will not be improved," read Rise & Remember's Jeanelle Austin, who presented the alternate plan.

Neighbors were first welcomed to the town hall by the music of Brass Solidarity, Elder Atum Azzahir of the Cultural Wellness Center, and raj, the evening's emcee. Then Austin presented updates on the 24 Demands of Justice Resolution 001, the 38th Street THRIVE plan, and an independent community survey on the future of GFS that was completed last winter.

According to Austin, the community considers half of the 24 Demands as met (see sidebar on page 3). For some of those that haven't been met – especially those calling for integrative healthcare and affordable housing for the neighborhood – she brought attention to the overlap between the goals of the 24 Demands and 38th Street THRIVE.

"This comes as no surprise, as both documents emerged through engaging with Black community members who have been historically disenfranchised and marginalized," said Austin. "This document is not focused merely on infrastructure. It also addresses the root causes of racism, and it acknowledges that it must



Community member Mileesha Smith says the problem at George Floyd Square is not the police or the community but the environment they're living in, and that road reconstruction costs money that could be used to house, clothe and feed people. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

be a moving document to build upon the work of justice and equity."

38th Street THRIVE calls for building a "social experience" for the community, where there is affordable housing, access to culturally-rooted health and wellness resources, anti-racism training, and support for BIPOC businesses. Beyond buildings and streets, it calls for policy, culture and behavior changes and "a shift in imagination to transform our neighborhoods."

"The 24 Demands underlines what is urgently needed for us to breathe," said Austin. "The 38th St. THRIVE plan gives us

permission to live a long life."

Austin also shared a summary of findings from an independent community survey on GFS that was requested by the 38th and Chicago Co-Creation Team and was administered by the University of Minnesota



Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA). Conducted between November 2023 and January 2024, the survey had 5,896 responses – 289 gathered from door-to-door canvassing, the rest completed online. It appears results were heavily skewed by a Dec. 4, 2023, post from Crime-WatchMpls on social media, which shared a link to the survey with this message:

Jeanelle Austin

"This is a BS survey about what should be done with George Floyd Square at 38th and Chicago in Minneapolis, but fill it out anyway. We suggested a jail facility should go in place of the abandoned gas station. Get creative."

According to CURA, 2,019 – a third of the total responses – were logged to the online survey on Dec. 4 and 5, and patterns emerged that were different from responses generated before and after those two dates. Fewer respondents indicated they had been to George Floyd Square (58% compared to 94% prior to Dec. 4 and 71% after Dec. 5). The attitudes of these respondents were different as well. Before Dec. 4, 46% of respondents said preserving the existing memorial is very important or extremely important, compared to 9% on Dec. 4-5.

COMMUNITY TESTIMONIALS

After Austin's presentation, more community members shared experiences that supported a different approach.

Neighbor Casper Warren recalled being awakened when the city first removed the barriers in 2021 and when someone sped into the Square and "sprayed bullets everywhere."

The barriers were there for protection, "so people could not pick up speed and create another Charlottesville situation," said Warren, referring to the driver who plowed his car into counter-protesters at a White nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017, killing Heather Heyer and injuring many others. The driver, James Alex Fields Jr., was convicted of federal hate crimes, including murder, in 2019.

While traveling south on I-94 from the north side to attend the town hall, Kiru Adbebe was reminded of freeways cutting



3

YOU ARE INVITED!



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 1:00-3:00 PM

TIS THE SEASON TO DISCOVER THE BEST SENIOR LIVING AND MEMORY CARE COMMUNITY IN MINNEAPOLIS! YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE.

Experience the warmth of our intergenerational community and shop for the holidays at the Minnesota Alumni Market. Enjoy warm, holiday refreshments while touring our resident's homes decked out for the season. We hope to see you here.

THE PILLARS OF PROSPECT PARK

SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

**RSVP TODAY:
612-623-7007**



LEARN MORE



Senior Living
by PILLARS



22 MALCOLM AVE SE • MINNEAPOLIS, MN | PILLARSENIORLIVING.COM/PROSPECTPARK | 612.623.7007

EBENEZER

HALF OF 24 DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE MET

When in August 2020 city officials asked “What does justice look like?” community members went up and down the blocks at 38th and Chicago talking to neighbors and business owners. The result was a list of 24 Demands for Justice Resolution 001, which include police accountability measures, grants for businesses, integrative health and housing support, and youth job investments. At the Nov. 6 Town Hall, Rise & Remember’s Jeanelle Austin provided updates on each of the demands. Half are considered met and are as follows:

- 1. Recall Mike Freeman, Hennepin County Attorney – Freeman was publicly denounced and no longer holds office.
- 3. Provide accountability and transparency in multiple deaths at the hands of law enforcement – During negotiations, the community agreed this would be met by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation.
- 4. Open an independent investigation into the conviction of Myon Burrell – Burrell’s sentence was commuted, and he was released from prison on Dec. 15, 2020.
- 9. Conduct the trial of the four former officers charged in the murder of George Floyd at a court in Minneapolis.

10. Invest \$400,000 into George Floyd Square (GFS) through the neighborhood associations to create new jobs for young people – In November 2022, Commissioner Angela Conley led the charge of getting Hennepin County to fund this need. “The action of the Hennepin County Commissioners is a step in the right direction,” said Austin. “We are learning the depths of the need to continue to invest in our youth.”

11. Invest \$300,000 into GFS to provide Undoing Racism training for the black community – In November 2021, Commissioner Angela Conley led the charge of getting Hennepin County to fund this need.

16. Allocate a facade grant to George Floyd Square to improve the aesthetics of the business corridor – Multiple grant opportunities for businesses in GFS have been offered since 2020.

17. Establish and distribute a contingency fund for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) businesses located in GFS – Same as #16.

18. Provide Agape Movement a space for their operations within GFS.

20. Release the death certificate of Dameon “Murphy Ranks” Chambers – This demand was met within 24 hours of the first meeting with Mayor Jacob Frey and the city council members

24 Demands Status Update

Demand 1 ✔	Demand 7 ✘	Demand 13 ✘	Demand 19 ✘
Demand 2 ✘	Demand 8 ✘	Demand 14 ✘	Demand 20 ✔
Demand 3 ✔	Demand 9 ✔	Demand 15 ✘	Demand 21 ✘
Demand 4 ✔	Demand 10 ✔	Demand 16 ✔	Demand 22 ✔
Demand 5 ✘	Demand 11 ✔	Demand 17 ✔	Demand 23 ✔
Demand 6 ✘	Demand 12 ✘	Demand 18 ✔	Demand 24 ✘

of Wards 8 and 9.

22. Hold law enforcement accountable for impeding EMS response and the mishandling and delay of Murphy Ranks’ case – The community agreed this would be met by the DOJ investigation, though they would not know which specific cases were investigated.

23. Drop the charges against non-violent protesters from 2016-2017.

For some of the unmet demands, Austin called attention to where they coincide with the 38th St. THRIVE plan. Development of Dreamland on 38th and the expansion of Kente Circle are two

examples. The vision of Dreamland is to create a supportive workspace for African American entrepreneurs to start and expand small businesses in the areas of food and heritage. Kente Circle focuses on providing culturally informed mental health services.

Begun in 2019 and approved by the city council in 2021, 38th St. THRIVE is a collective vision document for the 38th St. Cultural Corridor. It also includes housing support and devotes a section to George Floyd Square. It is available on the city web site.

The full document for the 24 demands is at [Bit.ly/Georgefloydsquare-a](https://bit.ly/Georgefloydsquare-a)

GF SQUARE

through Black neighborhoods displacing people in Minneapolis and in St. Paul’s Rondo area.

“We see construction projects used as tools of destruction for Black communities,” said Adbebe.

Julia Johnson spoke to the power of community at George Floyd Square (GFS) to provide resources, food, housing care and even safety. She described being robbed at gunpoint with her baby in the car. Rather than calling the police, she called her neighbor Marcia Howard, who found out who did it and was able to work toward accountability. Calvary Church neighbors brought Johnson pizza and comforted her son.

For Johnson, the GFS community is a blueprint she wants to see get copied all over the country and around the world.

“Last night, with the election, when people were scared out of their minds because they didn’t know if White supremacists were gonna come again to this intersection and start lighting things on fire and sprayin’ bullets and jump out of pick-up trucks, jump Black people and get away with it,” she said. “When we were terrified, we had each other.”

Closing out the evening, Howard said a lot of people have ideas of the aesthetics of GFS and reminded them it is now a historic landmark.



Artist Jordan Powell Karis, who created the fist sculptures at GFS, urges consideration of the impact road construction will have on the neighborhood. City staff have indicated the project could take two years. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

“It is a memorial. It is a place of resistance around the world. But first and foremost, it is a community,” she said. “And what we need to tell folk is that you may want, you may think, you may desire normalcy. But what was normal was Black folk dying in the middle of the street.”

City leaders presented their proposal at the city council Committee of the Whole meeting on Nov. 12, with many community members present. Council Members Katie Cashman, Robin Wonsley and Jason Chavez expressed reservations about the city’s proposal. Cashman,



It is a memorial. It is a place of resistance around the world. But first and foremost, it is a community,” she said. “And what we need to tell folk is that you may want, you may think, you may desire normalcy. But what was normal was Black folk dying in the middle of the street.”

Marcia Howard

he represents, also includes GFS.

“Community members are rightfully frustrated with the city’s process and product that seems to sanitize the Square and forgets the racial reckoning 38th and Chicago had all over the world,” said Chavez. “I believe that we can find a new pathway forward. I think that we only have one shot to get this right. One opportunity to support the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. One opportunity to change this world, and this plan ain’t it.”

who chairs the Climate & Infrastructure Committee, said she was not comfortable taking action on the proposal when it is brought to the committee on Nov. 21. Council Member Andrea Jenkins, whose Ward 8 includes GFS, said she cannot support a delay. Chavez said he does not support the city’s plan and wants to bring a new vision forward. Ward 9, the ward

ADVERTISE WITH THE TRUSTED SOURCE YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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

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

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

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



Contact us at 612-345-9998
denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
tesha@tmcpub.com
ads@swconnector.com

We are a non-profit supporting small businesses and our community in Southwest Minneapolis

WE HELP

- ➔ Navigate the regulatory environment
- ➔ Develop custom marketing solutions
- ➔ Facilitate access to grants and other funding opportunities



Visit us at experiencesouthwest.com
 For membership, email info@experiencesouthwest.com

GIVE IT A LISTEN

Three Rivers Fibershed connects people with local fiber



Have vision issues? Appreciate listening when you're on the go?

We’re adding a new feature for you! Check out the audio files on our website and catch up on your local news by listening to it.

It’s easy. Just click on the arrow!



JOURNALISTS UNDER FIRE HERE IN AMERICA

Photojournalist Linda Tirado, 42, is dying.

When she arrived in Minneapolis to cover the civil conflict after the murder of George Floyd, she had impact-resistant goggles, a respirator, and a large PRESS lanyard around her neck. Despite this, Linda found herself targeted by Minneapolis police officer Andrew Braun, who deliberately shot her in the face with a 40 mm impact projectile, instantly blinding her left eye and causing a traumatic brain injury on May 29, 2020.



By **Tesha M. Christensen**



Linda Tirado in 2014 (left) and recently (right). She lost her eye when she was shot at by Minneapolis Police officer Andrew Braun while covering the protests after George Floyd's murder, and is now dying from the traumatic brain injury she received.

That injury to her brain is killing her, and she recently announced she is in hospice care in Tennessee. Linda's husband is trying to cover the bills for her care. They have two children watching their mother die.

Tirado sued the Minneapolis police, and received \$600,000 as part of a settlement in 2022.

Last week, Communities United Against Police Brutality (4200 Cedar Ave. S.) launched a scholarship fund to honor Tirado. Four \$5,000 scholarships will be given in Linda's name to Minnesota photojournalism students each year. "These scholarships will ensure that Linda's legacy, bravery and service to the community are not forgotten and that others will follow in her footsteps," wrote CUAPB in a press release.

SHOCKING NUMBER OF THREATS

The International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) recently surveyed 610 journalists who attended 26 IWMF safety trainings across 11 states. The data revealed a shocking number of threats to American journalists' safety and well-being, they report.

A decade ago, we would have been stunned to hear that these incidents are taking place in the United States, they point out.

Journalists experience physical violence, harassment, threats of gun violence, verbal attacks and sexual harassment while on assignment and in the workplace. While working as journalists:

- 36% (of 597) respondents reported being threatened with or experiencing physical violence
- 33% (of 566) respondents reported being threatened with or experiencing digital violence
- 28% (of 568) respondents reported legal threats or action against them
- 24% (of 582) respondents experienced sexual harassment and an additional 6% (of 582) were threatened with sexual violence

Find the full report at www.iwmf.org/underfire/.

TEAR-GASSED, PEPPER-SPRAYED AND SHOT AT

Linda isn't the only journalist injured here in this country that prides itself on freedom.

A shocking one-third of the attacks on journalists in 2020 that occurred in the U.S. happened in Minnesota. Members of

the press were attacked, tear-gassed, pepper-sprayed, and shot at with rubber bullets/projectiles.

Like Tirado, journalist Jared Goyette was also shot in the face by police while covering the Uprising. He was joined by news photographer Craig Lasig; photojournalists Tannen Maury, Stephen Maturen, Tim Evans, Ed Ou and Chris Tuite; and Katie Nelson, a journalist, photographer and videographer in a suit against the city with the help of the ACLU of Minnesota because of the injuries they got while covering the protests. The suit also cited several instances in which Star Tribune reporters were detained or injured by law enforcement projectiles, although none was a plaintiff. The city paid out \$950,000 in February 2024.

"This is a major victory for journalists covering protests in the United States of America," said NewsGuild-CWA President Jon Schleuss. "We joined this lawsuit to support America's journalists who were brutally attacked by police while doing their job. We are proud to support and fight for journalists defending a free press in our democracy."

Other journalists were harmed by the State Patrol.

As written in a Star Tribune article by Liz Sawyer:

Two Los Angeles Times journalists trapped and targeted by Minnesota State Patrol troopers while reporting on civil unrest in Minneapolis following the killing of George Floyd settled their federal lawsuit with the state agency for \$1.2 million in April 2024. Photographer Carolyn Cole and Houston bureau chief Molly Hennessy-Fiske were battered with blunt projectiles, tear gas and chemical spray by troopers interfering with their constitutionally protected First Amendment rights ... on May 30, 2020 ... at E. 31st Street and Nicollet Avenue - near the Fifth Precinct police headquarter. ...

"Being attacked by the [Minnesota] State Patrol four years ago was an experience no other journalist should have to face," Cole wrote in a statement. "I hope this ruling, upholding our First Amendment rights, will help to protect other photographers and reporters trying to do their jobs." ...

Both women have covered dangerous conflict zones abroad for decades and know the risks involved, but say that until 2020 they had never been singled out this way by police.

"During my nearly 25-year career, I have covered numerous law enforcement agencies and protests in various states and

overseas," said Hennessy-Fiske, who now works for the Washington Post. "This was the first time that I was attacked by authorities."

The vast majority of the settlement - \$1 million - is expected to pay legal fees for their Minneapolis-based law firm. Cole and Hennessy-Fiske have agreed to split the remaining \$200,000, their attorney confirmed.

WHY AREN'T THINGS GETTING BETTER?

When I first wrote about this issue in 2020, I hoped it marked a turning point and that things would shift back to protecting the vital work journalists do. It's pretty disheartening to see these current statistics come across my desk.

In the intervening four years, Minneapolis hasn't admitted to wrong-doing, despite agreeing to large payouts to those injured and killed. There are two consent decrees highlighting that Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) and the city of Minneapolis engaged in a pattern or practice of conduct in violation of the U.S. Constitution and federal law towards journalists and other citizens. In November 2023, Alpha News released a program by former local news anchor Liz Collin called "The Fall of Minneapolis" that seeks to rewrite what happened here in 2020. In July, Minneapolis approved a retroactive contract for police officers bumping up their salaries by 21.7% over three years. Rookie officers will make more than \$90,000 a year. This means that some of the same officers who mistreated journalists are now among the highest paid police officers in the nation. Others have filed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) claims and will be receiving disability payouts for the rest of their careers. We don't have a state law that requires these officers to undergo treatment and rehabilitation.

The Third Precinct building, where so much of the pain and trauma of these last years is centered around, remains surrounded by barb wire. Our city leaders want to make it to house the elections and voter services department, where the majority of the space will be used for storage. The department has just 16 full-time staff members. (See article online at www.southwestconnector.com.) Over the last four years, I've asked myself and others how change happens.

How do we protect each other from those who might abuse their power? One thing I know is that the press is a powerful force, shining light in dark places. And I'm worried when journalists are dying here in America, the land of the free and the brave.

UNIVERSITY POLICE TARGET JOURNALISTS

University of Minnesota Police officers detained Minnesota Daily reporter Tyler Church for three hours on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 and confiscated the bag containing his credentials, notes and schoolwork for three days. This meant that Church couldn't write his article or do his schoolwork in the meantime.

According to the Daily articles written by Spencer White:

Church was covering the Morrill Hall occupation when officers entered the building through the basement tunnels with their weapons drawn. Officers confiscated Church's backpack, which contains his laptop, schoolwork and reporting notes.

After being released from handcuffs, Church, two other Daily reporters and a reporter from the Minnesota Star Tribune were told to wait in the basement of Morrill Hall by police for three hours before eventually being released through the GopherWay tunnels.

Church and the two other Daily reporters present were wearing vests with "PRESS" printed on the front and back in large, bold letters.

Officer Josh Betts told Church that his belongings were being held in "safe keeping" until UMPD comes out of lockdown. There was no timetable given for when this lockdown would end.

They held onto his belongings for two days. (Photo by Hannah Kovnar)



STATEMENT FROM MN DAILY BOARD

"President Rebecca Cunningham, University administration and UMPD should be ashamed of UMPD's violation of Tyler's rights as a reporter. Their actions are an affront to the First Amendment from a university whose own mission statement says it is 'dedicated to the advancement of learning and the search for truth; to the sharing of this knowledge through education for a diverse community; and to the application of this knowledge to benefit the people of the state, the nation, and the world.'

"The Minnesota Daily board is committed to working with university administration and UMPD to make sure journalists' rights are not violated in the future."

The board asked for a public apology, requirement that university police undergo annual media law training; the university make a public commitment to uphold local, state, and federal laws that protect journalists; and that administration open a dialogue with Minnesota Daily editors and reporters.

View the entire letter at www.swconnector.com.

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.

SOUTHWEST Connector

The *Southwest Connector* is a monthly community publication in Southwest Minneapolis, owned and operated by TMC Publications CO. Visit our website for calendar and publication dates.

Owner & Publisher:

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

Story ideas always welcome.

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

Unsigned letters will not run.

Advertising & Marketing:

Suzie Marty, 612-255-1180, ads@swconnector.com
 Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183, denis@longfellownokomisMessenger.com

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

Design & Layout: Tesha M. Christensen

Billing: billing@swconnector.com

Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

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

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

Mail subscriptions available at \$80/year.

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Brian Gabriel, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Cam Gordon, Eric Ortiz, J.D. Fratzke, Terry Faust, Suzie Marty, Larry LaVercombe, Donald Hammen, Michele Rae, and WACSO.

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

The *Connector* is for profit and for a purpose

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

All rights reserved. The contents of the *Connector* cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2024.

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



TMC
PUBLICATIONS CO

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

SWconnector.com

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



WHY PEOPLE VOTE THIRD PARTY

This year, like most, the campaigning and voting in partisan offices like president, congress, and state legislature, was dominated by the two largest parties – the Democratic Farmer Labor and Republican parties.



By **Cam Gordon**

Yet every election year some voters, including southwest residents, decide to cast their ballots for a “third” or minor party candidate.

This year, for example, in the predominantly southwest districts of 61A, 61B and 62A, 2,110 people did not vote for a presidentially candidate endorsed by either of the two big parties.

It is doubtful that many of them thought their third-party candidate would actually win. Many likely heard that voting for a third-party candidate would be a “wasted vote,” but they did it anyway.

Why?

One primary reason people do not

vote for a major party candidate is because they have ideological belief systems that do not align with the major party platforms. This year it was evident that many voters opposed the major parties’ support for Israel’s violent attacks on Palestine and Lebanon. Many of us may have been seeking a “peace” or “anti-war” candidate and didn’t find that in either major party candidates. This made the alternates who were pushing for a ceasefire and arms embargo, including Jill Stein (Green Party) who ranked third among the southwest voters, or Cornel West (Independent/Justice for All Party), Chase Oliver (Libertarian), or Claudia De la Cruz (Party for Socialism and Liberation) more appealing.

Additionally voting for third or minor-party candidates can send important messages.

In Minnesota, we have seen how single-issue minority parties and voters can help make change in government policy. It is likely that the growing number of people who were willing to vote for parties focused on legalizing cannabis helped influence public opinion and legislation that

ultimately led to it being legalized in the state.

Additionally, if more of us were willing and able to vote for the candidates who most closely and accurately reflected our values and our individual interests, over the long term our government could better reflect who we are and what we value.

One of the most common arguments against voting for third party is that a voter, or the public, may end up with a worse alternative than the one they most prefer. This may lead many voters to “hold their nose” and vote for the so-called “lesser of two evils.”

This, of course, was not the case this year in District 61A where there was a “minor” party candidate on the ballot for state legislature, with Toya Lopez. In that race, however, she was not really a “third” party candidate because no Republican was in the race. That may have helped her get 3,200 votes.

There is a solution to the wasted vote problem in single winner elections like the presidency. It is called ranked choice

or instant run off voting and, as many voters in Minneapolis and St. Paul know, it offers people the ability to vote for a preferred candidate without fear of wasting their vote because they have the option to select a second and third choice if their first choice is not elected.

According to a PEW Research Center poll in 2022, 39% of the USA people said the statement “I wish there were more political parties to choose from in this country” describes their views extremely or very well. Another 32% said it describes their views somewhat well.

While many people likely decide to vote for a third or minor-party candidate to maintain their personal integrity, register their opposition to major party positions and to send a message that might help influence policy in the future, some also hope that such voting could, in the long-run, help create a richer multi-party democracy like those seen in so many other countries throughout the world.

Cam Gordon is the co-chair of the Green Party of Minnesota. He regularly writes for the Southwest Connector and Longfellow Nokomis Messenger, covering government.

Since the age of 18, I have voted in every single general election. Since my mid-30s, I have voted in every single mid-term election. And once Minnesota switched from caucus to primary elections, I voted. My various employers always allowed an hour to vote, but I never lived within a distance where that worked for me.



By **Cindy Hollister**

During all the years I worked full-time, and for a period of 12 years as a single parent, it was a burden getting to the polling location on time. Tuesday is a business workday and the 13-hour voting hour window at times was tight for me. Traffic congestion was always an issue, the

A DIFFERENT WAY TO VOTE

weather could be as well, and my polling location was never part of the driving route home. I was one of those people that came screaming into a polling place in the last hour to vote hoping the line wasn’t overwhelming.

I retired from full-time work in 2017 and trained to be an election judge in 2018. It was very pleasurable to perform the various positions and procedures that year. I also decided to be an election judge during the 2020 COVID year. I performed the same duties as before, but there was a noticeable difference in voters’ affect and behavior and so I declined to be an election judge for the 2022 mid-term election. Voting in person was very satisfying and

mattered greatly to me, but it changed that year causing me to be more vigilant for who and what I give my vote to.

I always research and review candidates’ profiles and policy positions along with any specific initiatives and referendums on the ballot. Local newspapers did a wonderful job of consolidating and providing this information when it was my normal method of being informed. I’d make a list to bring with me to fill out the ballot at the polling location. Now online searches are needed, which is cumbersome since I have not yet found a consolidated location with information for all the ballot choices or without having to provide my personal information to receive it.

I have voted by mail since 2020 and strongly support that method along with broadening the number of election days. COVID demonstrated that voting by mail was a great new way to perform our civic duty. Expanding the number of election days would also help those that have full workdays filled with childcare, elder parent care, non-flexible work schedules, long commutes, transportation or physical complications, plus all the other normal daily life activities. Being able to spend more time with the ballot to search through multiple information sources helps me be a more thoughtful and informed citizen.

Cindy Hollister has worked in the billing department at TMC Publications since 2021.

WHY LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HOLD TRUST WHILE NATIONAL MEDIA SLIPS

The recent decision by The Washington Post and Los Angeles Times to skip endorsing a presidential candidate has put the issue of media trust in the spotlight – and it underscores just how differently local newspapers are perceived from their national counterparts.



By **Dean Ridings**

America’s Newspapers, the leading trade association for local newspapers nationwide, understands that local newspapers hold a unique place of trust within their communities, especially when compared to national media, social media and cable news. Recognizing this critical distinction, America’s Newspapers commissioned a national study to quantify how local newspapers continue to earn and retain the trust of their readers, even as skepticism about media in general grows.

The 2024 America’s Newspapers Trust Study shows that while public confidence in national news sources is declining, local newspapers remain a trusted source for communities across the country. More than half of Americans see their local newspaper as their most reliable news source, citing the transparency, ethical standards and community focus that are unique to local journalism.

Unlike national media outlets, local journalists are active members of the communities they cover. They’re present at town hall meetings, reporting on school boards and investigating local govern-

ment. This closeness fosters a relationship of accountability that simply doesn’t exist with national media, which can feel distant or disconnected from the everyday lives of their readers.

Transparency is a defining characteristic of this trust. According to the study, 61% of Americans say transparency is the most critical factor in determining trust in media, and more Americans rate local newspapers as the best at upholding these standards. This level of accountability is not just a practice; it’s a necessity. Local journalists live in the same communities as their readers, which means they are answerable to the people they serve. Local newspapers prioritize showing readers exactly where their information comes from, clearly identifying sources and detailing how stories are reported. This transparency, rooted in their close connection to the community, allows local newspapers to earn trust in ways that national media can’t.

Beyond reporting on the critical issues that impact local families, local newspapers play a crucial role in supporting democratic engagement and civic accountability. According to the study, 85% of Americans believe that local newspapers are essential to sustaining democracy, and 74% worry that losing their local paper would significantly hurt their community. Local newspapers provide critical insights into local decisions that impact everyday life — issues that national media simply can’t cover in the same depth or with the same understanding.

While local newspapers continue to be recognized as the most trusted media,

Americans Most Trusted Media

Transparency, unbiased reporting and ethical standards are the dominant drivers of trust in media

	Most Trusted
Local newspapers	51%
Local TV stations	51%
Local radio stations	49%
Network TV news	43%
National newspapers	36%
Cable news networks	36%
Social media	20%

there are still significant challenges. The impact of the overall erosion in trust in media certainly has a negative impact on local newspapers, who too often get lumped in with the rest of “the media.” And, without question, local newspapers continue to be impacted financially by the shifting advertising models and the actions of Big Tech companies over the years. The financial impact makes it difficult to adequately staff local newsrooms in far too many areas across the country. Newspaper closures, and the resulting news deserts, have severe consequences for these communities, and there often isn’t another media source in the area to compensate for the newspaper’s loss. Legislation to support local newspapers is critical to maintaining these trusted, vital media leaders.

America’s Newspapers remains dedicated to supporting these efforts and re-

inforcing the vital role that local papers play in making sure every community has a voice. In a time when skepticism of media is high, it’s essential to distinguish local newspapers from the larger media landscape. Local newspapers aren’t part of “the media” that people often view with suspicion. Instead, they’re committed members of the community, present in readers’ lives, and devoted to ethical, transparent journalism.

While national media outlets navigate their own trust challenges, local newspapers stay deeply rooted in their communities, providing the kind of honest, accountable reporting that helps ensure an informed, connected and engaged community.

For more information about the America’s Newspapers Trust in Media Study, visit: <https://member.newspapers.org/trust-in-media.html>

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

FULTON HOUSE SET FOR RESIDENT'S FIRST FILM

Brad Hildebrandt and friend Cullen Arbaugh pull their resources together to create 'Bram'

By Jan Willms

Neighbors of Brad Hildebrandt must have wondered what was going on this summer at his house in the Fulton area. Bright lights, cameras, people coming and going, and the smell of lasagna wafting through the air.

Hildebrandt and Cullen Arbaugh, who had been students together at the University of Minnesota, decided to put together their first film called "Bram," and shoot the whole film in the house that Hildebrandt and his partner had recently bought.

The film is about a mother, Fiona, who has been estranged from her son, Dalton, for about three years. They reconnect, and she finds her son has left his wife and children to be with Bram, a man that he loves.

"She has no problem with this, but she is surprised that she didn't see it coming," Hildebrandt explained. "She then finds out that Bram is an ex-con just released from prison. Dalton was a prison guard. And that is how the two met." Over a dinner, Fiona finds out some more things about Bram that are not so great.

"It's a funny, goofy, raunchy take on a Lifetime original movie," Hildebrandt said. "I guess you could call it a dark comedy, with a lot of tension between Bram and Fiona."

Hildebrandt said the whole movie was shot using mostly a local crew, with some Hollywood people brought in.

Dalton is played by Ryan Maltz, another friend who attended the U of M who moved to LA a few years ago. "He was recently in Monsters, the movie about the Menendez brothers," Hildebrandt said.

Lucinda Holshue plays Fiona. "She is a good friend of me and my writing partner, and was our voice teacher at the U of M. She worked for 20 years as the resident vocal coach at the Guthrie and is still a professor at the U of M. We wrote the part of Fiona for her," Hildebrandt said. He plays Bram, which was a last-minute change.

"Two days before shooting our regular actor got COVID, so I stepped in. I knew the lines already, so it worked out." Hil-



Lucinda Holshue plays Fiona – a part that was written for her. Holshue worked for 20 years as the resident vocal coach at the Guthrie and is still a professor at the U of M. (Photo submitted by Brad Hildebrandt)



Ryan Maltz is in the role of Dalton and Brad Hildebrandt plays Bram – a last minute change when their regular actor got COVID-19. (Photo submitted by Brad Hildebrandt)

debrandt said shooting an entire film in his home was a way of testing the limits of his relationship with his partner.

"We had 14 people in the house with cameras and lights, and we shot everything in four days. The result is a 20-25 minute film," he said.

"We had an incredible group of people. We used Line Break Video, a local production company were very helpful, giving us the equipment we needed. They shoot a lot of commercials and want to expand to more creative pursuits."

Hildebrandt said his crew was made up of a lot of talented people in the Twin Cities. Aaron Martinenko is a photographer who does a lot of commercial work for the Timberwolves, and he brought

in high-end equipment. "We had a really great lighting guy, Luis Morales, who brought his friends. They worked way below rate and were really generous. It speaks to the generosity of the community here."

Hildebrandt and Arbaugh wrote a feature-length screenplay last year that was a finalist at the Omaha Film Festival. Hildebrandt grew up in Omaha, and he said they were excited at being finalists and felt they needed to keep writing. Both had attended theater school at the U of M.

"We decided we might as well try and make our own movie, and we wanted to write something that was doable. They both produced and directed "Bram."

"The most challenging part was rais-

ing the money," Hildebrandt said. "We secured \$10,000 and reached out to people in the community who donated to other theaters. But we did not hear back from them. I understand. My day job is going door to door."

"We bit the bullet and asked a lot of family and friends for help. That got us within 70 percent of our goal. So we each chipped in \$1,500. Most of the money went to pay for the crew."

Hildebrandt said that his favorite part of the whole process is directing. "I was surprised at how much it seemed like hosting a party every day. The crew would show up, and we would put on music. My partner even cooked lasagna and burritos."

He joked that the crew was so gracious, even when one night the lasagna had so many layers it did not get completely heated. One crew member was heard saying "That's okay. I really like cold lasagna."

"I just wanted to make it a good, hospitable environment for everybody. We were lucky to have really collaborative actors."

Arbaugh has a friend in LA, Nick Gallucci, who will be editing "Bram." "He knows timing and how to edit comedy," Hildebrandt said. "He'll get a rough cut and we'll go back and forth, and we hope to have a finished product before Christmas. Then we hope to get it out to all sorts of festivals: Tribeca, Sundance, LA, Omaha and Minneapolis. Some with LGBTQ themes."

Hildebrandt said the goal with this first film is for them to get their names out there, get something on record to show and say "This is what we do."

HIRING: BUSINESS MARKETING ADVISOR



**Flexible hours
Worthwhile work**

**Help local businesses thrive
with print and online ads.**

We're looking for someone to join our team who is excited to connect with businesses and organizations to help them grow, thank current customers, and stay top of mind with their clients. Qualified candidates will be self-driven, curious and enthusiastic.

Email resume & cover letter to Tesha@tmcpub.com



Your **“Deck the Halls”**

Holiday Headquarters

ACE
NICOLLET HARDWARE

3805 NICOLLET AVENUE | MPLS, MN 55409 | 612.822.3121

Fa-la-la-la-
LOCAL

Post and tag photos of your favorite local gift ideas or celebration spots for your chance to win weekly gift card prizes!

Holiday Gift Card Giveaways

Take a photo of yourself when you frequent a local shop or restaurant.
Tag the business and use hashtag #CelebrateSouthwest, and make sure your post is public on Instagram and Facebook.
Each post gives you another weekly chance to win a gift card prize, compliments of the participating local businesses featured on this page.
A new winner will be announced in our social media feeds every Friday!

Brought to you by

SOTA CLOTHING CO	\$100
NEW GILD JEWELERS	\$100
Keljih Oriental Rug Cleaning Rug Washing & Sales	\$100
Everett & Charlie a gallery, where art meets experience	\$50
Comma a bookshop	\$50

Enter & Win Nov. 21-Dec. 26

SOUTHWEST Connector

TMC PUBLICATIONS CO
News for you

walker Place

methodist

Come home to Walker Place.

SPECIAL:

Move in by December 31 and get your first month's rent FREE.*

*Guidelines apply.

“For the first time, we feel like we have a real community. It's very easy to meet people, and we feel at home here.”

- Kathy Erickson, Walker Place resident

3701 Bryant Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN
walkermethodist.org/place | (612) 827-8508

ST. PAUL

Are you a creative small business owner interested in resources to support your career or artistic practice? We've got you!

Since 1991, Springboard for the Arts has helped artists make a living and a life with our year-round offerings, including:

- Free Career Development Workshops
- 1:1 Artist Career Consultations
- Fellowship & Cohort Programs
- Health, Wellness, and Legal Resources
- Art Jobs & Opportunity Boards
- Visit our website to learn more!

@SPRINGBOARDARTS
262 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103
OPEN TUESDAY-FRIDAY, 10AM-4:30PM



RA' SEKOU P'TAH

Ra' Sekou P'tah's path to Uptown where he manages LAFitness at Seven Points mall was not an easy one.

P'tah grew up in Georgia and Florida and came to the Twin Cities to complete a "re-entry" program with Goodwill after President Obama commuted his prison sentence for non-violent drug offenses, he said. He began working at LAFitness seven years ago.

Prison altered his perspective on life – for the better, P'tah said. There he researched psychology and sociology literature to hone a life-awareness curriculum called "Thinking is good. Knowing is better," which teaches inmates ways to reveal past trauma that locks them into a cycle of bad choices and to "reverse the curse" of it, he said.

The curriculum is a part of P'tah's soon-to-be-published book ROAR (Re-examine Our Awareness Retroactively) that target parents, teachers, social workers, and others, giving them guides to help children, adolescents and adults identify and overcome whatever keeps them from moving forward.

"I can be 40 years old, but my life stopped at adolescence," P'tah said. "I can't come out of that stage until someone teaches me and shows me why I've been stuck at that stage."

He said his program has been successful with those he has worked with. "Everyone who went through the program are prospering and still going and developing. – It works!" he said.



1 UPTOWN REIMAGINED

While Blaser, who has owned Curioso for three years, said he doesn't expect a return to pre-COVID business levels soon, he does see a "a general trend upwards" and hopes the area can be reimagined to take advantage of nearby, densely populated neighborhoods where people need places to go to.

Many Minneapolis residents know Uptown has historically cycled through good and bad times, with good ones peaking in the late 90s and early 2000s. The mall with its 175,000 square feet of space is owned by Northpond Partners, which bought the old Calhoun Square and its 175,000 square feet of space in 2019, renaming it Seven Points, and proposed turning it into a residential and retail hub. That work has yet to start.

The company has worked with some tenants to keep mall space affordable and said Uptown's demographics keep it a "desired area by some retailers and businesses," but those businesses and services "need to be unique" to bring people back.

One unique and reimagined space in the mall is the Speshel Project L.L.C. gallery located on the first floor and "presented by Minneapolis Art Shows" (MAS) that has a stated goal to "transform vacant storefronts into immersive art experiences, showcasing the talents of local artists across contemporary styles," according to its website.

The artist Trace created the gallery and worked with Sam Morrow, owner of the Lyn-Lake marketing firm Clubhaus Agency, to start MAS, which markets the gallery and acts as a registry for other artists.

"I think the current state of Uptown is a lot better than it was two years ago," Morrow said. "I know it's going to take time, and I do feel that it's inevitable it will come back stronger and better than it was."

Trace, who said he is a proud Minnesota native, is hopeful about Uptown and Minneapolis in general. "We're creating our own style," he said, adding, "There's a style about Minneapolis that is world-wide known."

While Morrow acknowledges too many empty store fronts present bad optics, he and Blaser point to successful music venues from large (Uptown Theater) to medium (Green Room) to small (Troubadour Wine Bar) that attract Uptown visitors and as does Magers &



A familiar Uptown landmark and mural, designed by the artist Trace. (Photo by Brian Gabriel)

Quinn, an Uptown fixture. Plus, the area boasts a roller skating rink (TCS Skating Studio).

THE QUESTION REMAINS: WHAT IS A REIMAGINED UPTOWN?

For Morrow and Trace, it's a natural environment for art and artists to thrive. "Minneapolis has a really great art community, and I think we should really rely on our artists to help to revive the area," Morrow said.

For P'tah, it's a place for retail. "I think that we need stores," P'tah said. "I shouldn't have to go to St. Louis Park to go to Trader Joe's. Everything that we need should be put here for me and the community."

The reality is Uptown is big enough for both art and retail, including a farmer's market as well as holiday and ongoing craft fairs.

Regardless of what eventually fills empty spaces, Blaser said he believes it will be different. "Opportunities are not going to look traditional like they used to like with the past businesses. Maybe there's more popups," he said, adding, "There's been a lot of thought, and creative thought, about how to do things differently."

"We just want more people to come into this part of the city," Trace said, adding one way to make that happen is to be

flexible about Uptown parking, especially with the parking structure adjoining Seven Points.

Blaser and Morrow agree, suggesting the city work with the owner of the structure to offer reduced parking fees or some variation on that theme.

"The parking structure controls the flow of people wanting to have access to Uptown," said Trace, who designed and painted the structure's north-facing mural and chose to get gallery space in the mall instead of payment for his public art.

P'tah added that the city could do more to support ongoing Uptown businesses by giving them tax breaks to keep them operating successfully and to reduce costs that they must pass along to customers.

Hilary Otey, co-founder of Queercommunity with Kayla Barth, said parking didn't factor in as heavily with the decision to locate in Uptown. Instead, it was the positive feedback they received from the LGBTQ+ community, especially older LGBTQ+ members.

"That's where we grew up," she said they told her. "That's where we were back in the day! We would love to be able to come back."

"We're excited to be a part of the renaissance kind of in this neighborhood," Otey said.

SAM MORROW LOWER LEFT

After a chance meeting with the local artist Trace, Sam Morrow knew right away what should be done with vacant store fronts in Uptown.

The artist showed Morrow, originally from Alexandria, Minn., his gallery at Seven Points mall about six months ago, and Morrow, an artist himself, recognized the potential. "When I walked in I thought, 'This is what Uptown needs! We need artists to take over these vacant spaces,'" Morrow said. "It fills this empty vessel with light and color and beauty."

Anyone stepping into the gallery will be immersed in color and texture with large, vibrant, colorful canvasses, prints, mixed media exhibits and clothing capturing the eye. About 60 local artists have applied to showcase their work in the gallery, Morrow said. Together they formed Minneapolis Art Shows (MAS) that, according to Morrow, has "a general concept of taking these vacant spaces and turning them into art installations in terms of showcasing community art."

Morrow, who owns ClubHaus Agency, a local marketing firm that works mainly with non-profits to help them "untangle" their websites, used his skills to create the branding for MAS and its website. Morrow said he would love to go one step further and turn the entire mall into a truly immersive experience on the order of Meow Wolf, which began in Santa Fe, N.M. and cannot be adequately described by this writer.

"I'd love to see that kind of thing start to take over Uptown, just being totally engulfed in art," he said.

AARON BLASER SHOWN ON FRONT PAGE

It took a lay off from an ad agency and a love for coffee beans to convince Aaron Blaser that it was time to open Curioso Coffee Bar in Seven Points mall three years ago.

Blaser said he had been living in Panama and experimenting with best practices that use ethically- and environmentally-friendly produced, high quality coffee beans to brew the best coffee and to bring those techniques back to his hometown.

Back home, he bought coffee beans from importers he trusted and roasted the beans himself (still does) and sold the coffee at local events and markets.

The positive feedback he received about the coffee convinced him that, even on the tail end of a pandemic, he needed a more permanent space to sell coffee, he said.

Since the first Curioso came to Seven Points, Blaser has opened a second spot in Northeast Minneapolis, located in the Broken Clock Brewing Cooperative. Owning a small business taught him to be self-reliant and flexible, knowing that things "can get derailed by events happening, world events, global events, elections," he said.

Blaser said he has a "guarded optimism" about Uptown's future but believes in its potential "to be a real point of interest and draw people whether that is new venues, whether it's places to eat, whether it's the lakes."



Visitors sit, talk and check out Minnesota's first-ever LGBTQ+ center at Queermunity's Nov. 9 open house. (Photo by Brian Gabriel)



James Beard-nominated chef June De (center) behind the counter at the Queermunity Cafe that offers an affordable, sustainable menu influenced by De's Indian heritage. (Photo by Brian Gabriel)

A SAFE SPACE IN UPTOWN FOR EVERYONE

Queermunity opens above Magers & Quinn bookstore, offering memberships, events and café

By **Brian Gabriel**

You might call the opening of Minnesota's first-ever center for the LGBTQ+ community, a "divine alignment."

That's how Seth Anderson-Matz, Queermunity's Outreach & Partnerships Manager, describes a combination of a great location, a good lease and an opportunity to fill a community need came together to create the new Uptown center that opened to the public Nov. 9, 2024.

"It's awesome. It's much needed," said Sarah Dietrich from Minneapolis who attended the Nov. 9 open house. "I think a lot of people have waited for this for a long time."

According to Anderson-Matz, co-founders Kayla Barth and Hilary Otey settled on the site of a former ad agency above Magers & Quinn in May.

"We've been looking for a couple years," Otey said, adding that it was important for the center to have access to mass transit, accessible and gender-neutral bathrooms, and an elevator to accommodate anyone needing one.

Notably, Queermunity is a "dot com"



Hilary Otey (left) and Kayla Barth, Queermunity's co-founders, want it to be a safe, welcoming space for everyone. (Photo by Brian Gabriel)

and not a "dot org." Barth and Otey said they decided against the non-profit route because it can be too limiting for the vision they share for the new center.

"Hilary devoted a year, meeting with people who have been a part of previous attempts in making [a center like this] happen," Barth said, adding that it can be difficult to succeed because many non-profits compete for the same grant money. "You are all fighting for this very small pot."

Instead, the center follows a socially-conscious business model that relies on memberships and other revenue streams to fund its programs and events and to pay its 12-person staff. One of those

streams is the Queermunity Café.

James Beard-nominated chef June De runs the full-service restaurant, designing a menu that is sustainable, accessible and affordable.

"Making a space where anyone can come in and get food is really important and valuable to me," De said. "So, keeping our menu affordable while utilizing and squeezing the most out of one ingredient as we can for everything is really valuable." The café will offer wine in December.

One critical goal of Queermunity is providing a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community, especially folks who come to Minnesota seeking an affirming environment for their trans children or

themselves.

"We also imagine we'll be a landing place for visitors, travelers coming to the area and for this enormous transplant population that we're seeing with all of these laws passing in all of our neighboring states," Anderson-Matz said.

The 11,000-square-foot location is expansive with a bright, open concept offering plenty of couches and chairs for sitting as well as a small library, courtesy of Quatrefoil Library, rooms for ping-pong, arts and crafts, an art gallery and a food pantry.

"This space is perfect," said Tessa Ikala, who with her partner and child, attended the center's open house. "We're really excited and hopeful."

"We want it to be a multi-generational space. We want it to be a multi-cultural space. We want it to be a multi-dimensional space," Anderson-Matz said.

While the goal is to increase memberships to support the many programs offered, a visitor does not have to be a member, he said.

"We're hoping that this is a place for everyone to come," Otey said. "We're really in touch with creating those opportunities."

"Now more than ever we need each other," Minneapolis resident Carly Evans said. "This space will make possible many connections across the city and the country."

Queermunity is open daily from 8 a.m to 8 p.m.

Everett & Charlie
a gallery where art meets experience

FEATURING ONLY MINNESOTA ARTISTS

2720 West 43rd St, Linden Hills
everettandcharlie.com

SHARE AN E-EDITION WITH A FRIEND.

HAYES WINDOW RESTORATION

WE MOVED!

Proudly serving your neighborhood with wood window repair and restoration since 2017.

We are now scheduling restoration and wood storm window projects for this fall and winter. Contact us today to get your project started!

PHONE: 612-259-7855
EMAIL: info@hayeswindows.com
OUR NEW ADDRESS:
2508 24th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

RESTORATION, NOT REPLACEMENT! ★★★★★

SOUTHWEST CLASS OF '74 DONATES TO LAKER LOCKER

The Southwest Class of '74 celebrates 50th high school reunion in late August, and thanks to the generosity of 17 Southwest '74 classmates and two corporate sponsors, a donation of \$1,500 was provided to the Southwest Laker Locker. Reunion co-chairs Steven Mosborg and Patti Arntz presented the donation check to Southwest High School and The Laker Locker.

The Laker Locker, opened in October 2023 by current Assistant Principal Amy Engler and past Assistant Principal Megan Paulis de Rangel, is housed at Southwest High School near the College, Counselor and Career Center (CCC). It is a free student store where students can go to get the necessities they need.

The Laker Locker provides school supplies, snacks, clothing, basic hygiene, household items, and pantry staples for Southwest students in need. It is a no-questions-asked resource for students and their families to ensure their physical and mental well-being is being addressed as an integral part of the student's education.



Left to right: Southwest High School Assistant Principal Amy Engler, Southwest parent Colette Maclver, Patti Arntz (Class of '74), Steven Mosborg (Class of '74), and Southwest High School Principal Dr. Ed Bennett. (Photo submitted)

"Not only is the Laker Locker a great resource for Southwest students, but also

their families – especially those families that are new-to-country or new to the area and are transitioning to a new school community and area," observed Colette Maclver and Steven Mosborg. It is open before school, during lunch and after school or whenever the door is open, students are welcome to grab what they need.

As the school year progresses and the needs of students and families continue, restocking of supplies is always required. The Laker Locker is completely run in-house and relies on donations from the Southwest community. The \$1,500 donation from the Southwest High School Class of '74 will allow the Laker Locker to build a foundation by which to draw funds from on an ongoing basis.

"With partnership and service as core to 'Anchored in Excellence' values at Southwest, it is especially rewarding witnessing alumni integrate so closely to support one of the current student bodies' needs. Laker Pride is alive and well!" said Maclver and Mosborg.

"Thank you to the Class of '74 for your generosity and making an impact in the Southwest community!"

ODIGO WELLNESS OPENS



Odigo Wellness, a collectively-owned wellness center, held the grand opening of its new location at 3115 Hennepin Ave S in the heart of Uptown Minneapolis on Oct. 19. Odigo Wellness – owned by a diverse group of practitioners – represents a new era in community-centered health and wellness. Located in a building previously home to Pathways Minneapolis, Odigo Wellness has undergone significant improvements with the support of the Lake Street Council, including upgraded access for practitioners and clients, fresh exterior paint in Odigo's distinct color palette, and updated signage, as well as essential pre development funding. Earlier this year, a small group of visionary

wellness practitioners pooled their resources to purchase the building and establish a center that promotes both health and equity.

In addition to the grand opening, Odigo is dedicated to providing low-cost wellness offerings, such as Community Acupuncture and Community Reiki. The Odigo Wellness building is BIPOC-, queer-, immigrant- and women-owned, and aims to increase access to healing services in the Twin Cities. Odigo also offers sliding-scale reiki classes, with a deeper sliding-scale for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ community members, reflecting the center's commitment to health equity and diversity.

TELL US HOW YOU REALLY FEEL

And we'll give you a better newspaper.

<https://www.research.net/r/139102>

Take our survey to win \$50 gift cards to Seward Co-Op and Hampden Park Co-op.

Healer
Ghostbuster
Author
Teacher

echobodine.com

MB'S CLEANING SERVICES

- Green cleaning
- Toxin-free disinfecting
- For home and business
- Woman-owned, local
- Since 1994

651-225-1960
MBScleaning.com

LIVING 50+ **GOOD NEIGHBOR**

Know someone aged 50+ that contributes to the Southwest community and inspires those around them? We want to hear about them!

Send your nomination to tesha@tmcpub.com. Please include your contact information, their name, age, and contact information, and a paragraph about what they do that you find amazing about them. We can't wait to amplify the stories of our good neighbors aged 50+.

WHERE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE FAMILIES FIND PEACE

Centro Guadalupano has been providing educational and human services to the diverse Phillips community of Minneapolis for over 20 years. Now they need your help.

I received a nice, unexpected email a few weeks ago.

The subject was "Quick anecdote."

"I just wanted to share that one of our new after school students, who came to us after participating in this year's summer camp, asked on his first day if we were going to have journalism class! He was quite disappointed to learn that it was just for summer camp.

"You had an impact this summer!"

The email was from Ginger Graham, the executive director of Centro Guadalupano, an education and human services nonprofit serving immigrant and refugee families in the Phillips community of Minneapolis.

In July, our Youth Community Journalism Institute at the Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation taught a journalism class with 2nd-6th grade students at a summer camp at Centro Guadalupano.

The journalism class was one week and four days of classes with 31 English- and Spanish-speaking students. In that time, three groups of students (second and third graders, fourth and fifth graders, and sixth graders) all created a print community newspaper.

Each student wrote a story for their group's paper, and every student, from the youngest to the oldest, learned the power of community-centered journalism.

We documented the summer camp at Centro Guadalupano with our youth community journalism microinternship program, which we ran in collaboration with Conversaciones de Salud and Carmen Ro-



By Eric Ortiz



Second- and third-grade students at Centro Guadalupano's 2024 summer camp. (Rebecca Welty/Centro Guadalupano)

bles and Associates LLC at SPEAK MPLS, a community media center in Minneapolis.

This is the power of youth putting community-centered journalism into action.

This is the power of community organizations such as Centro Guadalupano, whose mission is to be companions on the journey with immigrant and refugee families and the poor by providing educational programs and human services.

Centro Guadalupano was founded in 2000 by Sinsinawa Dominican sisters serving at Holy Rosary Church. The sisters recognized the need for culturally competent programming in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis.

This diverse neighborhood has always been an immigrant community, first with Irish, German, and Italian settlers, and more recently with immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries and refugees from East African and Asian countries.

Phillips remains one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Minneapolis, and Centro Guadalupano continues serving the immediate and long-term needs of more than 1,000 individuals and families from this community each year.

Many live at or below the poverty

level, and Centro's programs serve all residents, regardless of religious affiliation, race, nationality, or ethnicity.

They have English language learning (ELL) classes. This is Centro's largest and longest-standing educational service. It serves about 100 adult immigrants and refugees with more than 5,000 hours of total instruction a year.

Centro Guadalupano also has a popular after-school program for youth called ¡Ándale! (Let's go!). The program started in 2008 in response to community demand and concern regarding the growing achievement gap facing Latino students in Minneapolis schools.

The programs work.

In 2024, 30 ELL students gained employment or improved their current employment, and 75 percent of employed students began speaking English or increased the English spoken at work.

One of those students is a Vietnamese woman named Nhung, who has been coming to Centro Guadalupano for 14 years. When she started, she could barely speak any English. Now she is a leader in the advanced conversation class.

Another student is Marina, who quit school in the second grade because her

teacher was so mean. Now in her 50s, Marina has learned how to read. After reading her first complete sentence without help, Mariana looked with a surprised smile. "I just read English."

In the 2023-24 academic year, Ándale had 40 students. Seventy-eight percent of them increased or maintained grade-level reading skills, 80 percent increased grade-level math skills, and 100 percent learned to play an instrument and to read basic musical notes.

"Ándale has helped me with everything," said a fourth-grade student.

"I've learned how to play the bass," said another fourth-grade student.

"I advanced so much in Ándale," said a sixth-grade student. "I got better grades ... and learned how to play the piano and do my fractions."

I joined the board of Centro Guadalupano in May this year and have seen the impact firsthand.

English classes are busier than ever with students who represent a number of countries in conflict, including Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Venezuela. These students come looking for a place of peace and refuge. They find it in the community at Centro Guadalupano.

Whatever country or conflict Centro Guadalupano's immigrant and refugee families come from, they all need the stability that its education services provide.

Without the critical support system that Centro Guadalupano provides, families remain isolated and struggle to adapt to their new life in the United States.

Now, Centro Guadalupano needs your help. The demand for services is rising, and expenses are increasing.

You can help Centro Guadalupano continue providing critical services for immigrant and refugee families. Your support will help them grow to meet their needs.

Make a tax-deductible donation to Centro Guadalupano at guadcenter.org/donate, and join the effort to help a diverse and inspiring community achieve self-sufficiency and quality of life.

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.

STORIES & JOURNEYS

There comes a time when I am writing Stories and Journeys that I start to sense that I am done writing the column. It's time to click send to the publisher. At that point, I cease to be a writer and become a reader just like you. As a reader, there are times when I wonder if we, dear reader, are reading the same column. Keep in mind I am tasked to write what I am thinking, learning and experiencing in my life as an elder. Whether I am writing or reading that is uppermost in my mind. I urge you to do the same by way of keeping us on the same page, so to speak. Here are a couple examples that stand out in my mind where I wondered if we were reading the same column.



By Donald L. Hammen

I WILL NOT BE PRESSURED OR CENSURED WITH RESPECT TO WHAT I WRITE.

There is an individual who claims to be a reader of Stories and Journeys who took exception to a column called Potential Rift and Retirement (4/25/24). He being one the subjects of the column. Now I have read that column several

ON BEING A READER OF STORIES AND JOURNEYS

times. There is nothing that I am reading that would suggest that I am not being true to myself and what I am being tasked to do as a writer. This individual chooses not to go public with his objections, but privately is pressuring me with what I write or what he doesn't want me to write even though I am being true to myself and what I am tasked to write. I stand by what I wrote as being true to what I am thinking, learning and experiencing. There are two people who can change what I am tasked to write. They are myself, should I choose to quit writing, and the owner/publisher/editor of TMC Publications CO. The good news is that I sense that I have a lot more columns left in me to write. I've moved on and can only hope that this individual will do the same if he is not going to go public with his perceived grievances.

And if you have read this far you have taken the plunge into the river(flow) of life experience that is Stories and Journeys.

A MATTER OF RELEVANCE

While reading the October Messenger, I noticed a Letter to the Editor in which reader John claims to be resonating with me through something I was writing

about in a previous column called "On Becoming an Octogenarian." In that column, I was writing under the heading 'Not My Mother's Republican Party.' I was making the point that from a distance I see Donald Trump as a scared little boy, etc. What enables me to see Donald Trump in this light is I am a scared little boy. It takes one to know one? What enabled me to recognize that part of myself is a traumatic life experience at a training lab in small group processes years ago that literally forced me to feel my feelings for the first time in my life. It was the beginning of my understanding myself as a highly sensitive person. Reader John references his own traumatic life experience - that being the loss of his wife of 40 years. He goes on to ask me to share the traumatic life experience that brought me to my knees. While I am sorry for John's loss, I am choosing not to share more than what I have written given I was writing under the heading 'Not My Mother's Republican Party.' I don't see how my sharing is relevant to the topic at hand.

As far as I can tell, the two best ways to publically respond to Stories and Journeys' content is email via tesha@tmcpub.com or a letter to the editor in the Mes-

senger or Connector - methods I might try myself some day. For a one-to-one interaction, you can always try showing up at Elder Voices at Turtle Bread on the last Friday of each month.

ELDER VOICES AT TURTLE BREAD

Tom stopped by the September Elder Voices at Turtle Bread. Turns out he is celebrating having just took up residence at Nokomis Square. Like myself, he is an octogenarian. From what I can tell, he clearly grasps the spirit of Elder Voices - that being the belief that everyone has a story to tell and a journey to share. The challenge is how to capture and preserve those stories and journeys.

Elder Voices (Telling Our Stories/ Sharing Our Journeys) is scheduled to meet Nov. 29, 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.

IN GRATITUDE ALWAYS.

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

WANT TO REACH 50,000+ PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? YOU CAN - WITH EACH EDITION OF THE CONNECTOR.

▶ 1 ELECTION RESULTS

out of her current job at the Center for Energy and the Environment in 2025 to dedicate herself full-time to her new job at the legislature.

“Right now, I am getting to know members of the caucus and newly elected representatives because building relationships and working in coalition is how to get work done at the capitol,” she said. She is also “digging into the state budget because that’s our top priority next year.”

“My goal with this campaign was to encourage my neighbors to take up their own leadership. It doesn’t have to be in electoral politics. It doesn’t have to be a formal title,” said Lopez, who has been taking some time to rest and reflect. “With the results of this election season, nationwide, I hope my neighbors take heart. I hope we are able to come together and chip away at the foundations of the systems of oppression that have taught us to fear each other.”

She added, “For now, I’ll get another job and have a different title, but I’ll still be out here, supporting my community, in every way I can while receiving support in return.”

As she looks to her first legislative session, Jones is focused on finding ways to support small businesses, incentives for office-to-residential conversions, decarbonization bills, implementing climate solutions in industries to reduce greenhouse gasses, and supporting public schools which could include a moratorium on new charter schools and improving oversight of existing ones.

STATE RACE RESULTS

In other Southwest state representative races, the DFL-endorsed candidates won every seat. Jamie Long won reelection as the 61B representative with 89% of the vote over Republican-endorsed Bob Carney. DFL candidate Aisha Gomez won reelection as the 62A State representative with 90% of the vote against her Republican opponent Alexandra Hoffman Novick. Anquam Mahamoud with 87% of the vote defeated Bob Sullentrop for District 62B, which includes one precinct in southwest; and Emma Greenman defeated Diane Napper with 85.27% in District 63B along the area’s south border.

“With the tie in the House, of 67 DFLs and 67 Republicans, this may be an espe-

cially challenging year,” said Long. “I’m hopeful we can find a way to work collaboratively with the Republicans in the House,” he said, noting that “they only control one-sixth of state government.”

Long is one of three DFLers on an organizing committee who will be working with Republican counterparts to develop a plan for the committee assignment and leadership. “It will be important to identify areas of bipartisan agreement,” Long said.

NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

The other newly elected southwest resident is Greta Callahan, who was elected as the new District 6 Minneapolis Public School Board Member, replacing Ira Jourdain, who did not seek re-election. Callahan received 62% of the vote, and Lara Bergman received 37%.

“This victory is not mine. It’s a testament to the collective voice of our community, educators, families, and students who are passionate about building a strong public school system that works for everyone,” said Callahan. “And we had another victory – the school funding ballot measure succeeded. It is clear that Minneapolis wants to stabilize our school district and see our public schools thrive and grow.”

The Minneapolis Public Schools technology tax levy passed with 66% of voting yes and 34% voting no.

Looking ahead, Callahan said that she would “prioritize stability, student well-being, and programming that families want. I am eager to work with our superintendent, my fellow school board directors, and state legislators to ensure we’re prioritizing our students and making common-sense decisions that will strengthen MPS for generations to come.”

“My campaign sparked honest, hard conversations across District 6, reawakened a commitment to collaboration, and showed how powerful it can be when we unite with shared values and clear priorities for all students,” said Bergman. “I am beyond proud of everything we’ve accomplished, and I’m so grateful for everyone’s support, passion, and belief in what’s possible for our schools.”

She said that next year will bring challenges and opportunities for the school system. “Let’s continue building bridges, showing up with courage and compassion, and holding to the values we embraced throughout this campaign,” she said. “Let’s remain engaged, find new ways

to support each other, and step forward to support the well-being and success of all MPS students.”

Kim Ellison, with 58% of the vote, returns as the at-large school board director. Her opponent Shayla Owodunni received 42% of the vote. District 2 school board director Sharon El-Amin and District 4 school board director Adriana Cerrillo were unopposed and were both reelected with 98% of the vote.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Looking ahead, Long said, “The states are going to be more important than ever. During the last Trump administration, we did a lot to protect our freedoms and rights, and we will likely have to do that again.” He said it would be important to implement recently passed legislation and preserve gains made in areas like choice, democracy, and climate. “All we can do at this point is to make sure we are following through with the progress we have made and make sure we are standing up for Minnesota.”

“Strong public schools are an essential part of a healthy and vibrant city. We can take action to retain the families we have in our public schools and recruit back students not currently enrolled in MPS,” said Callahan. “I promise to all Minneapolis families that I will bring the same energy to the board that I have brought to this campaign, to the classroom, and to the negotiating table.”

“I urge our legislature to support inclusive financing and to oppose lifting the nuclear moratorium. These are key for environmental justice,” said Lopez.

“And in the wake of the election,” Jones said, “I want to do what I can to protect our rights. This district is the home and birthplace of Twin Cities Pride, and we need to do what we can to protect the LGBTQ+ community, access to reproductive health care, and our civil rights in the wake of Trump’s election.”

“I also think it is worth laying out for the Minnesota public what we’d like to do in areas such housing, education, affordable health care and more” to help make the case for regaining a majority in two years, said Long. To regain a DFL majority next election in 2026, “we only need to flip one seat,” he noted, so “it’s worth advocating for the things we need as a community so we are prepared.”

SOUTHWEST VOTES FOR PRESIDENT

Southwest election results show overriding support for Kamala Harris across all the state legislative districts that include any of the southwest area. Here are the presidential results of all candidates who received at least 100 votes in each district. Totals listed as “other” include write in votes.

PARTIES & CANDIDATES

- Republican
Donald J. Trump, JD Vance
- Democratic-Farmer-Labor
Kamala D. Harris, Tim Walz
- Libertarian Party
Chase Oliver, Mike ter Maat
- We The People
Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Nicole Shanahan
- Green Party
Jill Stein, Samson Kpadenou
- Socialism and Liberation
Claudia De la Cruz, Karina Garcia
- Socialist Workers Party
Rachele Fruit, Dennis Richter
- Justice For All
Cornel West, Melina Abdullah
- Independent
Shiva Ayyadurai, Crystal Ellis

RESULTS

District 61A

Harris 20,711
Trump 2,713
Stein 250
Kennedy 105
Other 275

District 61B

Harris 25,062
Trump 2,518
Stein 234
Other 400

District 62A

Harris 13,629
Trump 1,591
Stein 300
Other 412

District 62B

Harris 15,490
Trump 1,735
Stein 305
West 116
Cruz 109
Other 226

District 63B

Harris 24,207
Trump 3,141
Stein 161
Kennedy 142
Oliver 106
Other 242



3 IN ONE

Ask about our multi-newspaper discount!

Advertise in any or all of our 3 neighborhood newspapers and reach your customers at their front doors.

Contact us at 612-345-9998

denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
tesha@swConnector.com
ads@swConnector.com



LIVING 50+

Quarterly in December, March, June & September.

Contact us: Tesha@swConnector.com | 612-255-1180





SUMMER CAMPS

Coming in February

Contact us to be a part: Tesha@swConnector.com | 612-255-1180

Reliable.

Delivered responsibly.

Relevant.

Informative.

You can count on your community newspaper.

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

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



DONATE & SUPPORT THE CONNECTOR

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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

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

I'M INTERESTED IN READING:

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

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

MIDWEST CLASSIFIED NETWORK ADS

AUTOMOBILES

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-844-588-6535.

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-977-7030 today!

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-429-2331 today!

CABLE/INTERNET

AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-866-472-7954.

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount +, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-866-296-1409

FINANCIAL

The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 1-866-552-0649.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-888-815-4903.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-973-9175 www.dental50plus.com/

midwest #6258.
Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411.

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-916-2093.

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-772-8454. You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

HOME SERVICES

Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-877-743-7971

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-750-8025. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-750-5574. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Want a greener lawn? TruGreen's your go-to for a tailored lawn care plan. Act now and get 50% off your first service with a purchase of an annual plan. Call us at 1-833-912-3666 to learn more

MISCELLANEOUS

LONG DISTANCE MOVING: Call today for a FREE QUOTE from America's Most Trusted Interstate Movers. Let us take the stress out of moving! Speak to a Relocation Specialist, call 1-855-315-1216.

Reach over 1.6 million homes for just \$249! Advertise your business or item with a classified

ad in the Midwest Free Community Papers. Simple, cost-effective, and powerful. One call, and you're done! Boost your visibility now! 888-899-6327.

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-844-588-6590.

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-855-315-1330.

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$1000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-767-0798

YOU MAY QUALIFY for disability benefits if you have are between 52-63 years old and under a doctor's care for a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. Call now! 1-888-924-0449.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-228-5789 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-577-1268.

Safe Step. North Americas #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-290-5083.

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-833-618-1178.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer- up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs:

1-844-907-2386.
 Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-326-1608.

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-877-518-0356.

When you want the best, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package makes a great gift and comes with 8 FREE Burgers ONLY \$99.99. Call 1-844-319-4662 and mention code 77318DGB or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe9693

REAL ESTATE

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-349-1639.

WANT TO BUY

PAYING TOP CASH FOR MEN'S SPORT WATCHES! Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 1-888-815-5873.

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-855-399-2203.

FOR RESULTS THAT AD UP

Get an ad in front of 1.6 million people with the Midwest Classified Network. Contact Tesha at tesha@tmc-pub.com or 612-235-4464 to learn more.



LINDEN HILLS

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BY Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos, coordinator



Join local businesses for a day of family-friendly holiday fun, with crafts, food, storytime, and more at the 43rd and Upton intersection. Reindeer Day will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. After listening to your feedback last year, we have requested closure of this intersection during the event for safety and community building.

BRING DONATIONS TO LIBRARY

LHiNC is not hosting a coat drive this year, but the Linden Hills Library is a drop-off location for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Annual Cold Weather Donation Drive. This drive collects cold-weather items for those in need, including homeless and unsheltered individuals in Hennepin County.

Requested items include:

REINDEER DAY DEC. 7

- New or gently used coats, hats, mittens, boots, and scarves
- New socks
- Disposable hand/foot warmers

Please do not donate used items that require extensive cleaning or repair. Drop off your donations at the Linden Hills Library through Feb. 28, 2025.

TOY AND FOOD DRIVE FOR WAITE HOUSE

This year's Toy and Food Drive for Waite House will occur from Dec. 7 to 15.

We're aiming to provide food and toys for 300 families (1,000 children) receiving support from Waite House. Wait House is a long-standing pillar of the vibrant Phillips Community in South Minneapolis.

This Toy and Food Drive is sponsored by Big Blue Box, St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Carondelet Catholic School, Jones Coffee, and the Linden Hills and Fulton Neighborhood Councils.

MAKE STOPLIGHT PERMANENT?

Neighbors have started a petition calling on local elected and appointed officials to make the temporary stoplight at

the intersection of 39th Street and France Avenue a permanent fixture. More at <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/39th-StreetStoplight>.

NEW COORDINATOR

When Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos moved back to Minneapolis, she was looking for an outlet to share a love for local economies. She founded Coimatan, a think tank for local retail with that in mind and has most recently gotten involved with neighborhood organizations, coordinating for East Harriet and Linden Hills. She works at the intersection of social, environmental, and economic impact. Prior to starting Coimatan, Vasiliki was a part of startups, corporations, and venture capital firms leading marketing, procurement, strategy, and business development projects. Vasiliki is a B Leader certified by B Lab, the leading social organization for business and holds a B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

WINTER WONDERLAND MARKET NOV. 23

The Winter Wonderland market returns to Seven Points on Saturday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shop local for the holidays while enjoying live music, a roller skating party, treats from local eateries, arts activities, games and more.

CAROLING PARTY ON DEC. 2

Join the East Bde Maka Ska Holiday Caroling Party on Monday, Dec. 2, 6:30-9 p.m. Meet at St. Mary's at 3450 Irving Ave. S (enter near the flagpole by Kumi's House of Children, in the southernmost part of the building). End the evening with a neighborhood social at a local eatery. Bring the whole family, invite your friends and neighbors - singers of all abilities welcome!

BRYN MAWR WINTER BIKE RIDE DEC. 7

Join Bryn Mawr's Active Transportation Committee for a winter bike ride to the Minneapolis Farmers Market Annex to pick up holiday decor on Dec. 7. Wreaths, garlands, and even trees will be available for purchase. Meet at the Garden of Hope and Healing at the intersection of Cedar Lake Rd. S and Laurel Ave at 9:45 a.m. and roll out at 10 a.m. Check the Instagram page @activetransit.brynmawr, Bryn Mawr e-newsletters, or send an email at activetransit-brynmawr@googlegroups.com to learn more. If you don't want to bike, an alternate bus option via Route 9 may be available.

HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR

Enjoy the colorful city streets and light displays of the Armatage and Kenny neighborhoods this holiday season. The self-guided tour runs from 5-8 p.m. each night from Monday, Dec. 9 through Wednesday, Dec. 18. Sign up by Friday, Dec. 6. By signing up, you agree to have your decorations up each day of the tour and to have your address published on the map. Instead of voting this year, there will be a random drawing for \$50 gift cards to a neighborhood business.

ART AT SKATE PARK?

The Lyndale Neighborhood Association (LNA) is raising \$5,000 to bring vibrant, local art to the Painter Park skate park. The funds will go toward the design, installation, and maintenance of a mural that will transform the skate park into a colorful, welcoming space for all.

THE WATKINS BUILDING

Hillcrest Development LLLP announces the completion of its latest redevelopment, The Watkins Building, located in the heart of Minneapolis' Lowry-East (Wedge) neighborhood. Hillcrest, known for its creative renovation and adaptive reuse of challenged real estate assets, transformed the former Vision Loss Resources building, a fixture at the corner of Lyndale and Franklin Avenues since 1900. The Watkins Building now boasts a mix of commercial and retail tenant types as the new home for White Crane Construction, Queer Space Collective, Uptown Chiropractic, The Wedge (general offices), A Proper Pour, Unlimited Arts and more. The Watkins Building is actually four different building structures that are linked together. The first tenant moved into Watkins in September 2024.

CITY BRIEFS

POET LAUREATE CELEBRATION

The city and The Loft will be hosting a community celebration for the city's inaugural Poet Laureate, Heid E. Erdrich, on Dec. 5 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center at 1530 E Franklin Ave. Erdrich's year-long tenure ends at the end of December and has included workshops, readings, and gatherings at Eloise Butler Garden and Bde Maka Ska.

METRO TRANSIT NETWORK PLAN

The regional transit authority that operates bus and light rail services in the Twin Cities has released a Metro Transit's Network Now plan that proposes expanding service by 35% and increasing the rate of metro area jobs accessible by a 45-minute transit ride by 25% by the end of 2027 by redistributing service to offer frequent service throughout the region to continue growing ridership. The plan will be refined based on the public feedback received this fall and presented for possible council adoption in early 2025. For more information visit www.metrotransit.org/network-now.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR STANDARDS BOARD

Following an hours-long discussion on Nov. 14, the city council approved a resolution to establish a new Labor Standards Board. The proposal, which faced some vocal opposition from some businesses and business groups, would establish a 15-member advisory board, with five seats each for employers, employees, and community stakeholders. Two years ago, the idea of the advisory board was supported by most council members and Mayor Jacob Frey, but recently Frey has shared concerns. He has not said if he will veto it or not.

ICE RINKS

After announcing tentative plans to save \$1.5 reducing the number of ice rinks this year from 22 to 17, on Nov. 8 board members decided to add rinks back

at Windom, Logan, and Van Cleve Parks. They have until Dec. 10 to finalize the list of closures.

SOO LINE GARDEN

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is seeking input on the design for the new Soo Line Garden along the Midtown Greenway. The garden was closed earlier this year due to contaminated soil. You can find more information, see the three concept designs and complete a survey until Dec. 6 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SooLineGarden2024. Soil clean and construction of the new garden is expected to begin next year.

MIDTOWN GREENWAY REGIONAL TRAIL PLAN

The Midtown Greenway Regional Trail Plan is scheduled to be considered for final approval by the full Board of Park Commissioners on Dec. 4, 2024. While the trail is owned by the city and operated by them in partnership with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, the park board is the only agency within the city eligible for regional park and trail funding. The plan fulfills the requirements of the Metropolitan Council and also includes an agreement between the city, rail authority and park board focused on ownership, operations, and use of regional funding for the Midtown Greenway if it receives status as a regional trail.

COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has adopted the 2024 - 2029 Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Plan and concluded a significant effort in solid waste planning that began with the Climate Action Plan in 2021, and the creation of the Zero Waste Plan in 2023. It includes a prioritization of the highest impact zero-waste and, if implemented, would provide resources to cities to increase waste prevention and recycling, increase food waste diversion and recycling, expand collection and drop-off options, complete a food waste prevention plan, develop a plastics prevention plan, launch a new Community Zero Waste Grant program and more.



MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT (MMU)

The city's health department has purchased a new mobile medical van that they hope will help bridge healthcare access gaps and reduce barriers in underserved communities. More than \$1 million from opioid settlement funds were used to purchase and equip and staff the new vehicle that is intended to help reduce opioid overdose deaths, increase access to treatment, and expand access and delivery of medications for opioid use disorder. The health department's Opioid Response Team will operate the unit, offer basic health screenings, and provide medication consultation, wound care, vaccinations, mental health counseling and referrals and youth health services including physical exams, dental care, and wellness check. Services are expected to begin early next year.

LYNDALE AVE.

Hennepin Count is reconstructing Lyndale Avenue S. between Franklin Avenue and W. 31st St in 2027, and they are seeking input on newly released concept layouts now. They have three design options created from input gathered over the last two years, and will choose a preferred concept in spring 2025 based on survey results and technical analysis.

Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.

Double YOUR IMPACT with Print & Digital ADVERTISING!

DRAGONS WYND Environmental Entomology
For hire: Presentations, parties, insect safaris, garden consult & more
www.dragonswynd.com
jessica@dragonswynd.com

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY
Sunday services | Mens Group | Womens Group | Itty Bitty Get Togethers | & More
 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH TWIN CITIES
Bethlehem-Church.org | 612-312-3400
4100 Lyndale Ave S | 16023 Minnetonka Blvd



Family Owned for Over 60 Years

Insured | References



Free Estimates

greg@chileen.com 612-850-0325

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

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

CRISIS HOTLINE

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

HOUSECLEANING

Blue Spruce Eco-friendly Cleaning. Owner does all work. A+ BBB rating. Thorough high-quality, non-toxic cleaning for 30+ years. \$20 off first two repeat cleanings. www.housecleaningminneapolis.com 763-498-2638

SERVICES

snow . Tree . Shrub . Lawn

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

SNOW REMOVAL

Driveways, sidewalks, Boulevards. Call Larry. 652-635-9228

Paint, patch, wallpaper removal. Caulking. Stain. Interior. Exterior. Jim. 612-202-5514.

NEXT AD DEADLINE: Monday, Dec. 2 | PUBLICATION: Thursday, Dec. 12



Treating your house like a home

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

FREE ESTIMATES

(612) 827-6140 or (651) 699-6140

WWW.PAINTINGBYJERRYWIND.COM

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

Roofing Gutters Windows



40+ years experience, licensed and insured.
Greg Johnson
701-831-1379

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING



Matthew Molinaro
FREE ESTIMATES
612.239.2508
MolinaroTree.com

lic&insured | certified arborist MN-4551A

Buying

★ Free Appraisals ★

Memorabilia Sports Card Collections


★ Consignment Available ★

Info@minnieandpaul.com

612-208-6405


HIRING:

CARRIERS FOR WALKING ROUTES



WACO

COMMISSIONS AVAILABLE. HOUSES, CABINS, PETS ETC.



www.WacoWasHere.com waco@mac.com



Want to play the cello?

- Lessons
- Online
- Cellist for hire
- Cello Choir

mcello.com
megan@mcello.com

Get exercise.

Work flexible hours.

Save up for that trip. Support democracy. Say hi to your neighbors.



TMC Publications is looking for newspaper delivery carriers for walking routes in Longfellow and Nokomis. Reliable car needed to pick up papers, or we can drop off to you. Routes available nearly every week.

Email Delivery@tmcpub.com or call/text 612-235-7197.

Deliver newspapers. Earn \$15/hr



Butcher's Deluxe Package

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)**

77318DGB separately \$221.94 **\$99.99**

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

8 FREE BURGERS (A \$37 VALUE)

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Standard S&H applies. Exp. 12/31/24. | Omaha Steaks, LLC

Go to OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe9693 or call 1.844.319.4662 Ask for 77318DGB

SAVE \$160

12 HOLIDAY WINES + BONUS GIFTS



OMAHA STEAKS® WINE

POWERED BY LAITHWAITES

Go to GetOSWine.com/MBAGJF18 or call 1.877.201.4648 and mention code AGJF002

Omaha Steaks Wine is operated independently from Omaha Steaks, LLC. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

"BUILDING THE FUTURE – RESTORING THE PAST"™



MN License # BC-693563



SMITH COLE

STUCCO & STONE

OUR SERVICES

MOISTURE INTRUSION | FOUNDATION REPAIRS

NEW STUCCO | STONE | SANDBLASTING

PATCHING | STUCCO REPAIRS

STUCCO REFINISHING AND RESTORATION

FREE ESTIMATES 612.709.4980

REUSE, REPLAY, OR RECYCLE YOUR OLD ACOUSTIC PIANO

Pianocycle keeps pianos out of landfills and incinerators

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

It's one thing to cull outgrown or unused clothes from your closet, but what do you do with a piano that's outlived its usefulness in your home? Pianocycle is a Public Benefit Corporation in southeast Minneapolis that finds new homes for acoustic pianos in the Twin Cities area, or a second life as art materials if the pianos are no longer playable.

Their mission, according to owner Zero One, is to extend the life of acoustic pianos whenever possible, and to reduce waste through reusing and recycling piano parts.

One has been tinkering with pianos for as long as he can remember. He grew up taking lessons, and by age 18 was selling used pianos out of his parents' garage. He went on to found the non-profit Keys 4/4 Kids, and served as the executive director until 2017. As the years went by, he felt the need for recycling pianos was growing more urgent.

REST IN PEACE

Acoustic pianos are big and heavy, weighing anywhere from 500-1,200 pounds. Their parts are many: hardwood, metal, wire strings, and keys made of various materials.

All pianos are brought back to Pianocycle's workshop before their future is decided. If a piano isn't playable or the cost to repair is too high, team members dismantle it into its component parts.

One said, "Pianos often have high sentimental value. Even if your family piano can't be played anymore, we ensure



Pianocycle founder Zero One is a music maker and mathematician, as well as a piano recycler. "Pianos often have high sentimental value. Even if your family piano can't be played anymore, we ensure that it still leaves a legacy," said One. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

that it still leaves a legacy. Usable wood is donated to local artists and hobbyists for creative projects, and we recycle the metal responsibly. Most of the weight of a piano comes from the metal harp, as it's called, which holds the strings in place. It's a high priority to keep these out of landfills and incinerators, due to their size and weight."

Pianocycle gives away the upcycled wood sourced from retired pianos free of charge. Check their website for open houses or Facebook Marketplace for availability. The wood may have sharp splinters or leftover screws. Always use protective gloves, eyewear, and appropriate tools

when working with this material.

In addition, Pianocycle often gives away free piano benches, piano lights, and music.

NEW HOMES FOR WORKING PIANOS

Pianos in good working order are available through Pianocycle's online inventory at www.pianocycle.com. There is no cost to receive a piano, other than the \$88 fee to deliver it to the main floor of a home or apartment in the Twin Cities metro area. Additional charges for stairs or distances greater than 20 miles outside the metro area will apply.



Wood salvaged from recycled acoustic pianos is available to artists and makers at no cost. Piano benches, sheet music, and lamps are sometimes available, as well. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

There is a cost to have a piano removed from your home, starting at \$299.

One said, "We delivered a piano to a young couple recently. The husband had played when he was younger, but it had been awhile. They were dumbfounded to receive a free piano and, like most people, wondered if there was a catch. There was not, and there never is."

Pianocycle stands behind their pianos with a 30-day warranty. Pianos are inspected before going to their new homes but if an issue develops, you can exchange it for another or return for a full refund during that time period.

One and his team are looking into replicating Pianocycle in other U.S. cities. This combination of re-homing and recycling isn't being done anywhere else – and the need exists everywhere there are pianos.

In 2023, Pianocycle picked up 215 unwanted or outgrown pianos. Of those, 195 were recycled and 20 were given away to new homes.

For information about receiving/donating an acoustic piano, or future Pianocycle Open Houses where you can get piano wood and other component parts for free, call 612.208.0553. You can also send a text to 651.343.4703 or email drew@pianocycle.com.

\$ + = \$ + = % + = \$ + = % + = \$ + = \$ + = % +

DO THE MATH!

It costs 50¢ /piece to mail a promotional flyer to local residents letting them know about your business, organization or upcoming event. *That does not include design, production, and printing charges.*

For only **16¢/piece** you can have a 4-color flyer **PRINTED AND DELIVERED** with the *Connector*!

Contact Denis for details
Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com
 651-917-4183

KELJIK'S RUG WASH

AREA RUG CLEANING ♦ ORIENTAL RUG SALES

SINCE 1899

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

4255 Bryant Ave. S., Mpls. • 612.823.6338 • WWW.KELJIKS.COM
 HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30-5 • SAT 10-2

20% OFF

RUG CLEANING

Bring in your rugs with this coupon good thru 12/23/2024.

We Win Multiples

And I can tell you why.

Give me a call!

LAKES AREA REALTY

Locally Owned,
Community Focused.

612-845-5273 TeamLarry.net | larry@larrylavercombe.com