



LOOKING THROUGH
EAST AFRICAN EYES

LLOYD'S, MENOPAUSE CENTER BURN TO GROUND

102-year-old pharmacy burns during uprising, owners forgive looters

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The Hamline Midway community is mourning the loss of the 102-year-old pharmacy at the corner of Snelling and Minnehaha that burned to the ground on Friday morning, May 29, 2020.

It was part of rioting and looting following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers earlier in the week. In the Midway, Big Top Liquors, Bole Ethiopian/Napa, Sports Dome, Footlocker and Great Clips were also destroyed by fire. About 170 businesses in the Midway and 530 overall in the Twin

Cities were looted causing as estimated \$500 million in damages. An estimated 67 were destroyed by fire, with the majority of those in the area covered by the Monitor's sister newspaper, the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger.

Lloyd's Pharmacy and the Menopause Center owner Jim Stage plans to rebuild, spurred on by the wish of the community. Right now, customers from Lloyd's are being served by Setzer's Pharmacy in Roseville (1685 Rice St., 651-488-0251).

LLOYD'S BURNS >> 6



Midway resident Beverly Jones has bought medicine at Lloyd's Pharmacy since the 1970s, when they delivered to her home. A few of her kids worked there, as well. "This is a death here, it really is," she said on Friday, May 29 as she looked over the damage. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)



Firefighters were called at about 10 p.m. on Thursday, May 28 to the corner of Minnehaha and Snelling, but weren't able to save the building. Owner Jim Stage plans to rebuild, but estimates it will take one year. (Photo by Rich Trout)

Not ahead of her time, but changing things now

Local educator and author Artika Tyner started her own publishing company when told people of color don't read

By JAN WILLMS

Social justice has been a part of Artika Tyner's life since she was a child. "A big piece of it was growing up in the Rondo community," said Dr. Tyner, an educator, author and advocate for justice.

She serves as the founding director of the Center on Race, Leadership and Social Justice at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. Dr. Tyner teaches leadership coursework on ethics, critical reflection and organizational development. Her research focuses on diversity/inclusion, community development, and civil rights.

Promoting literacy and books led Dr. Tyner to gather a team of volunteers to meet in her

living room and produce books and learning materials.

"Promoting literacy is personal to me as an educator," Dr. Tyner said. She helped found "Planting People, Growing Justice Leadership Institute" from the group that first met in her living room.

The organization has launched a "Leaders are Readers" campaign and donated over 1,000 copies of its book, "Justice Makes a Difference: The Story of Miss Freedom Fighter, Esquire," a children's book on leadership and social justice. It has partnered with local retailers and donated over 1,500 children's books and cases of school supplies.

According to Dr. Tyner, the organization has inspired over

5,000 children around the world through its school visits and has established a social enterprise model to sell books and raise funds to donate books to children in need.

"Planting People, Growing Justice Leadership Institute" has a mission to plant seeds of social change through education, training and community outreach.

"Only 32 percent of Minnesota's African American children are reading at grade levels by the time they reach fourth grade," Dr. Tyner said. "Not reading at grade level at this point increases the likelihood of dropping out of school by four times. This also drastically increases the likelihood of future incarceration."

NOT AHEAD OF HER TIME >> 10

School board chair dies of COVID19

Marny Xiong, 31, the St. Paul School Board Chair, died on Sunday, June 7 of COVID-19. Xiong is the sister-in-law of Ward 1 Council Member Dai Thao.



"Marny will be remembered as an inspiring community organizer, a courageous leader and a fierce champion for education, gender equity, and racial justice," according to Thao. "She was a selfless public servant who made the community's problems her duty to solve. To those who knew her, Marny was more than a loving daughter, aunt, niece, cousin, a devoted friend, and sister. She was beautiful; she was a book of generosity and fire."



Artika Tyner and the Planting People, Growing Justice Board is offering ebooks free of charge on Amazon in order to support youth in their leadership development journey. The Justice Makes a Difference activity ebook is also free of charge. (Photo submitted)



Lights On partnership provides repair vouchers instead of tickets

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Over 170 businesses damaged in the Midway by fire and vandalism

PAGES 8-9



How to shrink the racial divide? Truce Center's Miki Lewis shares ideas.

PAGE 16

Aging Well

Medical ethics professor documents worldwide problem in book

THE TORTURE DOCTORS

By JAM WILLMS

In his recently published book, "The Torture Doctors: Human Rights Crimes and the Road to Justice," Steven Miles, MD, explores the paths of physicians who stray from their Hippocratic Oath and collaborate with dictatorships as well as democracies across the world to mete out pain and suffering.

Miles, who brings extensive research to his book, describes how medical professionals can prescribe torture methods that leave no marks, determine how much suffering an individual can endure and still remain alive, and how torture doctors have the power to falsify death certificates.

A professor emeritus of medicine and bioethics at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Miles previously managed the Doctors Who Torture Accountability Project and is a past president of the American Society of

Bioethics and Humanities.

As a long-time teacher of medical ethics, Miles reflected in a recent interview on whether the subject is emphasized enough for medical students.

"It is adequate for death and dying, inadequate on contraceptive and reproductive rights, and inadequate on how the structure and personnel of the health care system contribute to class and race disparities," he said.

As he writes about the torture doctors, he describes horrendous cases of man's inhumanity to man, and yet these doctors seem able to push aside their ethics for what they consider patriotism and support of their government.

Miles said his research has shown that these doctors vary in their response to their own actions following a war or domestic revolution.

"Most justify their actions as

necessary or patriotic," he said. "A few authentically atone. Some are badly damaged with PTSD or depression." His research follows the early Nazi doctors to doctors in more recent wars and revolutions in South America, Africa, and Europe and to the "enhanced interrogations" by the United States after 9-11.

Miles said he has interviewed torture doctors, but cannot comment on it because the proceeding is still ongoing.

Miles said in working on "The Torture Doctors," he spent 1.8 percent of his time writing and fact checking, .2 percent in TORTURE DOCTORS >> 3

Does he see any hope for change? "I think so," stated Steven Miles. "Despite the rise of autocracies, human rights activism is also increasing. Social media has exposed torture in several countries with regime changing effects." (Photo by Jan Willms)

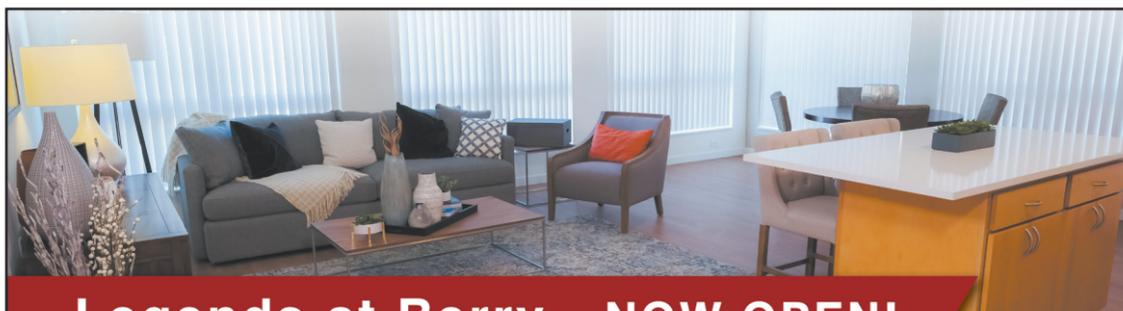


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St. Paul

TORTURE DOCTORS >> from 2
production and 98 percent in research. "This book took seven years to write, on top of about four years for a preceding book, 'Oath Betrayed,' on U.S. torture doctors alone. That earlier book gave me a foundation for this one."

Why isn't profession holding these doctors accountable?

The accountability of torture doctors is a topic that Miles has thoroughly investigated. He suggests in his book that human rights activists have pressed more strongly than medical associations or criminal justice systems to hold torture doctors accountable for their actions. He claims this is clearly still true. "The major national and international medical associations and criminal justice systems pay virtually no attention to either holding torture doctors accountable or suggesting to subsidiary groups (such as licensing boards, professional associations or even clinical facilities) their potential role

in accountability."

As far as what part an independent press can play in exposing the behavior of torture doctors, Miles said, "The roles of journalism should be to illuminate the problem of torture doctors, highlight the need for accountability, document impunity and publicize credible work of human rights activists identifying torture doctors."

Torture in the U.S.

Miles said torture is illegal in the U.S. prison system. "But there are events that the medical personnel participate in that are torture," Miles explained. "The medical participation in the drugging, restraining and non-vaccination of children in ICE prisons is often highlighted," he said. "Another is physician oversight of prisoners in prolonged solitary confinement. Those doctors note without protest the psychological destruction of prisoners, an event the United Nations and other human rights groups define as torture.

Again, impunity for the doctors is norm."

Does he see any hope for change?

Miles has devoted much of his life to researching and writing about the global problem of doctors participating in pain, suffering and dehumanization of individuals at the behest of their governments, with very few of these doctors ever being brought to justice. Does he see any hope for change?

"I think so," Miles stated. "Despite the rise of autocracies, human rights activism is also increasing. Social media has exposed torture in several countries with regime changing effects."

He sees some optimism through his research that the international human rights community and the medical community can come together to end the atrocities perpetrated by the torture doctors.

His book is currently available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble.

THROUGH EAST AFRICAN EYES

Unrest painful reminder of violence immigrants left behind

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The civil unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd is unlike anything most Twin Cities residents have experienced or imagined. For the East African community that has made Minnesota their home however, it is all too familiar for those of a certain age.

Mahmud Kanyare lives in the Midway neighborhood and has run a program called Youth & Family Circle since 2012. He said, "We serve East African families across the metro area. Many of them are under-resourced, vulnerable, and tend to 'fall through the cracks' for a number of reasons."

The clients he sees are breaking under the combined stress of the pandemic and the recent unrest in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Kanyare said, "Our organization is one of the few in Ramsey County that is fighting for culturally appropriate resources for the families we serve."

Ramsey County is home to a large East African community. According to Kanyare, the key components his organization is addressing right now are food insecurity, coping with trauma, and addressing racial equity through collaborative efforts.

The majority of East African people are Muslim, and most of the food they eat is certified halal. Halal is an Arabic word that means "permissible." In terms of food, it means food that is permissible according to Islamic law. They cannot eat pork, any food product to which gelatin has been added (because it often contains pork), and certain cuts of other meats. This can make it difficult to receive culturally appropriate food assistance.

In East African families with male heads-of-household in their 50s and 60s, the men tend to be the wage earners and they often have limited English skills. Kanyare said, "Many of these men lost their jobs when the pandemic began - and most were not successful in applying for unemployment benefits. Youth & Family Circle is partnering with an organization called The Food Group this week to make cultur-



Youth & Family Circle Executive Director Mahmud Kanyare helps during a food give-away for hundreds of East African families at the Al-Ihsan Islamic Center in Frogtown on June 8, 2020. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

ally appropriate groceries available to an estimated 500 East African families. This will help in the short-term. Drivers are needed on an ongoing basis to help bring food to families who don't have transportation.

Large numbers of Somalians began arriving in Minnesota in the 1990s, fleeing the violence of the Civil War in their country. Kanyare said, "During the Civil War, no matter where you lived in Somalia there was unrest. His own family fled from Somalia to Pakistan in 1995, where they waited five years before being admitted to the U.S."

Many East African community members are experiencing trauma from being exposed to the fires, looting, and civil unrest following George Floyd's death on May 25. It is a painful reminder of the violence they tried to leave behind.

Youth and Family Circle is scrambling to set up an online education forum that can help address the fear and frustration people are feeling. Kanyare and his staff will eventually each take a group of 20 families and work with them online throughout the week: moms, dads, and kids all together.

He said, "We hope to offer them a calm, peaceful conversation - but there are technical hurdles to overcome, as many of our East African families don't have access to computers or internet service. It is a work in progress."

The Quran is the central religious text of Islam, and contains a passage that rings true to these times: "Whoever kills one human being innocently, it is as if he has killed all of humanity."

Through East African eyes, there is deep solidarity with African Americans in this struggle and there is anger. Kanyare said, "We have seen throughout the years how African Americans have been shot or abused by some members of the police. When is it going to stop? One can only be patient for so long."

For more information about Youth & Family Circle or to make a donation of time or money, visit www.yfcmn.org.

** Editor's note: Check our web site for articles in this series published between editions of the newspaper at www.monitorsaintpaul.com. The series focuses on letting people tell their stories as it relates to the uprising following George Floyd's death.*

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The Motley Conversation

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Thanks for supporting your local newspaper

Newspapers have your back. We really do. Now more than ever, local is important. Who is open? Who is sick? Who is helping others? Who can you turn to for inspiration and encouragement?

As small businesses take a hit, we're working to keep bringing you trustworthy, relevant and local news. It's not a job we take lightly, but is one that is vital to keeping our democracy strong. But as businesses are affected, so are we because our revenue stream is directly tied to theirs in a symbiotic relationship. When they succeed, so do we; and when other businesses suffer, our small, family-owned business follows along the same path.

Last month, we put out the call for help to support our efforts, and we're so very grateful for those who have sent in donations to our voluntary pay drive. Some of the letters have moved me to tears, so I thought I'd share a few of them.

Notes that have made our day in our virtual office

Dear Editor:

I have been meaning to write you for some time now since reading about your purchase of the paper. I really enjoy getting the paper and value its coverage of our community - the paper isn't recycled at our house until I've had a chance to read through it, often tearing out articles about organizations, issues, or events in our community that I would like

to further explore. I've noticed the change in coverage since you became owner/editor and I really appreciate the paper's significant focus on the environment/nature/climate change and our role in it, and the features of inspiring individuals/organizations doing amazing things in our community.

It's always a bright spot in my day when I see it at my door, and as I work during the day, it's often a "can't wait to read" treat for the evening.

I don't know anything about the newspaper business, but I can imagine that it can be daunting in this day and age. Kudos to you for taking it on - I really admire that and wish you and the paper all the best!

Jane Stockman

Dear Editor:

Happy "belated" World Press Day! I am deeply grateful for the work of you and your remarkable staff as you cover and highlight "our world."

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Please use the enclosed contribution for any purpose you deem appropriate.

Judith Coggins

What's Open, 2020 Grads

These generous donations will help cover the expenses of printing and delivering a free newspaper to over 21,000 homes with another 4,000 delivered via bulk drops at local businesses. (See form on page 5 to make a do-

Too much coffee

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN, Owner & Editor

Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com



nation and enter in a prize drawing for some fantastic gift certificates from local businesses.)

We are the only paper that goes to each and every door in the neighborhood, making sure that everyone, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, socio-economic status or disability receives a paper. With deep roots in the neighborhood, the *Monitor* is a great direct marketing tool for businesses as we get in the hands of local residents - who clip out ads and articles and save them on their refrigerators. We enjoy and value that partnership and synergy.

We've launched a few exciting new projects recently as we seek to support and give back to our community. The What's Open page on our web site (www.MonitorSaintPaul.com) offers free listings for businesses to let customers know how and when they can do businesses with them. Those who want to stand out with more details and deals can opt for a premium listing.

The 2020 Grads web page gives parents a place to honor and recognize their graduates.

The class of 2020 has it tough, and we want to help you do something special for them. Rave about your grad from kindergarten, grade 5, grade 8, high school and college/tech school with a free photo and listing of their sports, honors and activities. We want to hear all about it! Make a bigger splash with family photos, highlights and more in a premium listing - and ask family members and friends to contribute.

It's not necessarily an easy time to buy ads, and when folks are cutting their budgets they may consider slashing their marketing funds. But what history has shown us is that those who stay the course in times of crisis stay in front of their customers and don't lose market share to their competitors.

Let your customers know if you're selling online or doing delivery through ads in the *Monitor*. Share the stories of how you're involved in the community. Take this time to connect with your customers and reward loyalty. You'll reap the rewards now and in the future.

"In good times, people want to advertise. In bad times, they must advertise," said Bruce Barton, an American writer, advertising executive, and politician who lived from 1886 to 1967. It was true during the crises of the 20th century, and it's true during this pandemic.

I'd love to hear more about how you're connecting and managing through the COVID-19 pandemic and following the protests. Email, reach out on Facebook or Instagram, or send me a lovely letter through our valuable United States Postal Service.

COMMENTARY

Do not look away

by DR. RONALD BELL, Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church pastor

My city is burning, but not in the way the media is showing. Did you see the fire, not the one burning down the precinct but the one burning in the hearts of the wounded in my community? The grieving mothers and grandmothers recalling the voice of our dear brother George Floyd, as he called for his mother, while taking his last breath. The burning of the hearts of we who wept, when our governmental leaders refused to arrest the murderer of this wicked and inhumane deed. Did you see that fire?

... You must have witnessed the looting? Not the ones the cameras and social media love to exploit, but instead the looting of our human rights. The looting of our constitutional rights as citizens. The looting of our communities for decades by corporations for greed. Did you see that looting?

I think you were so busy looking for a riot that you missed the gathering of the grieving. I think you were so busy looking for looters that you missed the lament and heartbreak of a community. I think you were so busy looking for trouble that you missed the tragedy of systemic racialized trauma on the bodies of black and brown people. Tonight, tomorrow, and even the next day I beg of you, look again. Look again.

This is an excerpt. Read the entire essay at www.drronbell.com/.

Rebuilding a strong Midway

Without question, these past few weeks have been some of the most stressful and difficult days in the history of the Midway. Following the horrific murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, civil unrest came to the Midway. We saw buildings burn to the ground, and unease fall over our community as suspicious vehicles drove on our streets during our temporary curfew and sirens blared in the background.

But the Midway is strong, and full of pride. After a loud and destructive Thursday night, Friday morning saw so many coming to University Avenue to help clean that the initial clean-

up was already complete before noon and people were seen walking with a broom and nothing to do. At the Midway Chamber, we have fielded several calls from near and far asking how to help. For some, they specifically ask if their skill set or company specialty can assist - such as the person who bakes pies and wanted to give them to business owners, or a company like Aspen Waste who donated the use of a dumpster for used plywood.

People directly impacted are asked multiple times a day what they need. And the answer can change by the day too. While they needed cleanup assistance only for a short while, they then needed help boarding up the windows. While the volunteer-

Building a stronger Midway

By CHAD KULAS, Midway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
chad@midwaychamber.com



ing opportunity may change, there will continue to be a need for volunteer help as well as donations. Here are some ways to help.

Donate Food. Many food shelves are taking donations, including Community Emergency Service, Keystone Community Services, Open Hands Midway and Midway YMCA. Many of these food drives are also looking

for volunteers.

Donate Funds. Businesses and nonprofits will need support as they rebuild and every little bit helps. There are many funds set up for donations, including:

- We Love Midway/We Love Saint Paul A fund established by the Midway Chamber, Saint Paul Area Chamber and Saint Paul Downtown Alliance

- Midway United established by the Neighbors United Collaborative Fund, an initiative serving the Hamline Midway and Union Park neighborhoods.

- African Economic Development Solutions/Little Africa has a fund created to "rebuild African immigrant businesses in Minnesota"

- Asian Economic Development Association is raising funds for "Asian businesses harmed by the unrests"

If your building or business has been damaged, do you know what to do? For many business owners, they needed a few days to process it all and think about next steps. There are restoration companies nearby who can help, including Paul Davis Restoration, Restoration Professionals and Steamatic of the Twin Cities. If you are looking for more tips on what to do and what to be thinking about, the Midway Chamber did a virtual meeting called "Your Business Was Damaged-What Do You Do Now?" and can be found on our website, along with other resources, at midwaychamber.com/member-relief.

Now more than ever is the time to check in with neighbors and others in our community to see if they need anything. Together, we will all help rebuild a strong Midway.

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Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the *Monitor*. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@monitorsaintpaul.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

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The *Monitor* 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.

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Rebuild Repair Recycle

Community partnership provides repair vouchers instead of tickets

Program offers healing interactions with police

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

It's been nearly four years since African American motorist Philando Castile was shot and killed by a St. Anthony police officer. In the 14 years since he started driving, Castile was pulled over by law enforcement 46 times for alleged violations. On the night of his death, Castile was stopped because he resembled a suspect in an armed robbery that had taken place four days earlier, and because he had a broken tail light.

On the day Castile's shooter was acquitted of all charges, Don Samuels was in a board meeting. Samuels is the CEO of a South Minneapolis-based nonprofit called MicroGrants. Since 2006, MicroGrants has partnered with local organizations to promote self-sufficiency for lower income people.

According to Samuels, "As a board, our plate was already completely full – but we felt we had to do something extra. We reached out to our more than 50 partner agencies and said, 'If any of your clients has a head light, tail light, or brake light that needs fixing, we'll help them get it fixed.' Someone suggested the idea of police officers handing out repair vouchers instead of tickets."

MicroGrants has a long-standing relationship with Bobby and Steve's Auto World,

who operate eight auto shops across the metro area. They agreed to do the car repairs at cost, with reimbursement provided by MicroGrants.

Samuels said, "Bobby and Steve's Columbia Heights location was the first to participate. I did the math and figured we could cover the whole metro area for \$100,000. This program is funded by donations, not tax dollars."

He added, "I called 20 police precincts in our metro area, and 19 of them said, 'Yes.' We printed out our own vouchers, two vouchers side by side on a sheet of regular computer paper."

The program grew over time, but it was clear that a funding boost was needed to move it beyond what MicroGrants could support. In 2018, the Chicago-based Joyce Foundation donated \$100,000 to fully implement the program and hire a Lights On staff person. Between March-December 2019, the program went from operating in 20 Minnesota cities/counties to 65.

Fast forward to February of this year. Samuels said, "We're currently working with police departments in 93 cities/counties, and also expanding into tribal lands/reservations. We ask out-state participating police precincts to find service providers because they know their own



Keep those car lights in working order! Previously, a broken head light, tail light, or brake light could spark a downward economic spiral that, for some, brought on multiple tickets, confrontations with law enforcement, and even vehicle impoundment. Lights On has the potential to disrupt that downward spiral, and transform hostility into helpfulness. To date, almost 2,000 Lights On vouchers have been issued in Minnesota. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

communities. Service providers are required to sign an agreement that they won't up-sell parts and labor."

Giving help, not lectures

Lights On takes a pro-active approach to getting minor car repairs done. Previously, if a car light was out and the owner couldn't afford to fix it (or didn't know it was broken), a cycle of fines and penalties had the potential to upend a life – all starting with a broken \$5 bulb.

Now if a motorist is pulled over for a non-functioning car light, they will be issued a repair voucher for up to \$250 to cover a new bulb, mounting, and wiring. Repairs above \$250 are the car owner's responsibility – but the

average repair cost, according to Samuels, is about \$50.

The police officer will advise the driver where to go for the repair. Vouchers are issued to all drivers, regardless of race or income. Exceptions to a voucher being issued are when equipment violations result in a crash, or when a driver had an outstanding warrant.

Samuels said, "The money is very helpful, but it's the interaction with the officer that is healing. We want this to be a gift. This effort is aimed at improving police-community relations, and making streets safer for everybody by having more cars in good repair. Officers are being instructed to give a voucher, not a lecture."

"Having dependable transportation is essential to moving people out of poverty."

~ Don Samuels

Steven Anderson is a senior commander with the St. Paul Police Department. He said, "I haven't heard any negative feedback with regard to this program. By most accounts, drivers receiving vouchers are getting the necessary repairs done."

"Obviously, with the current Covid-19 national response, traffic-related contacts are greatly diminished. When we were operating normally, the program was a great tool. It allowed our officers to build bridges within the communities we serve."

Samuels concluded, "I feel really proud that Lights On came out of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and will likely become a national program in a couple of years. It makes Philando Castile's death not be entirely in vain. With our partners, we've been able to take a situation where there has been a lot of mutual discomfort, even tragedy, and turn it into something positive."

For more information, go to www.lightsonus.org or call 612-220-8174.

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Ron Johnson remembers Lloyd's LLOYD'S, MENOPAUSE CENTER BURN TO GROUND

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Ron Johnson was working at Target when he heard Lloyd's Pharmacy was for sale in 1974.

He headed to the longtime pharmacy at Snelling and Minnehaha to meet Lloyd Jensen, the 25-year owner.

"He was one of the nicest people I'd ever met," recalled Johnson, who is 74 years old now. "Thoughtful." It didn't take Johnson long to decide to buy the business.

Johnson sought to be a good asset to the neighborhood as Lloyd had, and Florian Ritschel had before him.

The son of German immigrants opened Florian's Pharmacy in 1918 after purchasing the building at 720 Snelling in Hamline, Minn. It had been built in 1914 and previously housed a millinery shop. "He was the kind of guy who ran a lot of different promotions," recalled Johnson.

Lloyd purchased the pharmacy in 1949, renaming it.

When Johnson bought it, he never thought of changing the name. Everyone knew Lloyd and respected him.

Johnson worked to keep the store as Lloyd had, greeting all of his customers by name. "There's a huge difference between the business at Target and Lloyd's," observed Johnson. "Lloyd's customers are really special people."

Although Johnson grew to own six pharmacies in St. Paul, Rochester, and Arden Hills (where he lived), he always worked out of the Lloyd's location. For a time, Lloyd continued to live in the apartment above the store, coming down to chat with former customers. Florian dropped by, too.

Johnson started as the pharmacist at the store with one other staff member, and his wife helped out on the weekends when she wasn't working as a school speech therapist.

At one time, there were about 10 independent pharmacies along Snelling, Johnson pointed out, and hundreds in St. Paul. Today, there are very few, and Lloyd's is one of the only still compounding medications there on site.

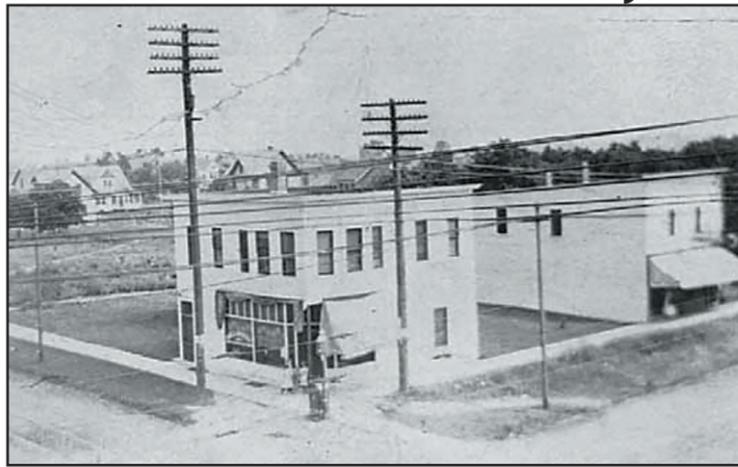
It was important to him to keep it as an independent pharmacy.

"Lloyd's Pharmacy has been a great part of the community, and I'd like to see it stay that way," said Johnson. He sold the pharmacy in 2014 to his head pharmacist, Jim Stage.

One of his former staff members called Johnson on Thursday, May 28, 2020 to let him know the store had been looted. He discovered the next morning that it had also been set on fire and burned to the ground.

In his grief, he held onto what his son said to him. "The lumber, the wood is gone, but you still have the memories. That was an important time in my life," said Johnson about the 40 years he spent at the pharmacy.

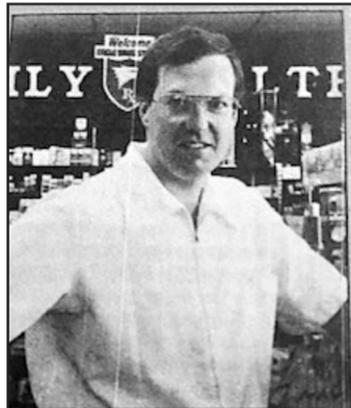
- Four owners in 102 years
- Florian Ritschel: 31 years, 1918-1949
- Lloyd Jensen: 25 years, 1949-1974
- Ron Johnson: 40 years, 1974-2014
- Jim Stage: 2014-present



Historical photos of Lloyd's. (Photos courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society)



Lloyd's Pharmacy in 1985, during the 40 years it was owned by Ron Johnson. Johnson sold the pharmacy to Jim Stage in 2014. Johnson is grieving the loss of the building where he spent so many years fulfilling prescriptions for local residents, but he's grateful he still has his memories. He started off running the store with one other staff person and his wife on the weekends. When he took over, Lloyd still lived in the second floor apartment above the store and dropped in to chat with customers. (Photos courtesy of Ron Johnson)



By midday on Friday, May 29, only a pile of rubble remained of the building that housed a 102-year-old pharmacy. Many residents stopped by to pay tribute and mourn the loss. (Photo by Tesham. Christensen)

LLOYD'S, MENOPAUSE CENTER BURN TO GROUND

LLOYD'S BURNS >> from 1

They're also seeing customers from other pharmacies that were damaged.

Lloyd's to set up temporary location in Midway

Stage also owns Setzer's, and was among the 20 staff members from Lloyd's and Setzer's working out of that location on Thursday, June 4 when he spoke with the *Monitor* via phone. Unfortunately, with the loss of the compounding lab on the second floor of Lloyd's, pharmacists are not able to do any compounding right now, according to Stage. Customers using this service came from across Minnesota and Wisconsin.

He is working to set up a temporary location in the Midway for Lloyd's and hopes to have that up and running soon. He was waiting for his computer records system to be recreated on Thursday, but pointed out that his longtime staff know their customers so well that they were working with them to fill orders earlier in the week.

'Police never came'

It started as a regular day on Thursday, May 28. Stage had bought the staff lunch from Checkerboard Pizza, and while picking it up the staff member saw CVS Pharmacy being looted across the street.

He returned to the pharmacy, alerted Stage, and they began locking the door between customers. At 3:15, they made the decision to close for the day. In hindsight, Stage wishes they would have grabbed the server and other items. The Menopause Center staff member at the back of the building also left.

At about 4:30 p.m., people began to break in and loot the store. Based on surveillance footage, Stage estimates that 100-150 people vandalized the store.

"The police never came," Stage said. "That still baffles me. There was no help. They had to protect Alliance Field and all the big things, I guess."

At about 10/10:30 p.m., the fire was set and firefighters responded.

Stage didn't realize how badly the building was damaged until Friday morning at 7 a.m. The fire department had leveled the building in so that the fire didn't spread. Up until then, Stage had thought they could fix the existing structure.

"When I drove up to it on Friday morning, I was pretty devastated," said Stage. A week later, Stage views the complete destruction as "almost a relief from God. We would have probably had to rebuild the whole main level and [the building] might have needed to go anyway."

Stage doesn't know who set the fire or why.

"It doesn't matter the reason," said Stage. "We forgive the people who did it."

At first, he wondered what to do next, and he's been buoyed up by the care and concern members of the community have shown. They've told him how much the pharmacy means to them and that they don't want it to go away, but are pushing him to rebuild.

A GoFundMe page had raised over \$100,000 as of press time. "The community has been great," said Stage. "It's really amazing to me, my wife and our five kids. With God's help, we'll be able to do it. We know it is a tall order."

Stage has also been encouraged by his staff of just under 40 people, who want to continue working at Lloyd's and have risen up to help figure out details for customers despite the loss of records immediately after the fire.

"It's a beautiful thing. That's what encourages me," said Stage. "I was devastated, but my employees have shown the resolve and so many people want the pharmacy rebuilt. It inspires me and gives me motivation."

Lloyd's serves 8,000 customers

Stage grew up in the Midway and graduated from Concordia Academy in Roseville class of 2000. His uncle suggested he might enjoy a career in pharmacy because he liked science and math, so he tried it out and agreed. He earned his degree from North Dakota State University and interned at Lloyd's. His first job was at CVS as there wasn't an opening at Lloyd's, but after two years Lloyd's owner Ron Johnson called him up and asked if he'd like to work as a pharmacist at his Rochester location. Stage moved the family down and worked at Hunt's Pharmacy for three years, but he wanted to return to the Midway area.

"I learned a lot about independent pharmacies," Stage recalled, and he realized he wanted to own and operate his own. When a position opened up at Lloyd's in December 2011, he returned.

LLOYD'S BURNS >> 7

Menopause Center: determined to persevere

The Menopause Center had switched to telemedicine appointments due to the coronavirus, and appointments continue to be available Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the center at 651-698-0891 or www.menopausemn.com. (For more details on the center, read the article featured in the March 2020 edition of the *Monitor*.)

"The Menopause Center of Minnesota, and Lloyd's Pharmacy, have great hope for an expeditious rebuild and recovery from the loss of not just our building (720 Snelling Ave. N. which the Menopause Center shared through the 1576 Minnehaha Ave. W. entrance) but the immediate livelihood of those directly affected," stated Advanced Practice Registered Nurse/Certified Nurse Midwife Catherine Mascari.

"The ugly wound in the death of Mr. Floyd, along with the painful and senseless destruction, rioting and looting, is in need of both righteousness and healing for our community, along with so many other communities. Our determination is strong and steadfast to persevere through these tragic and difficult times."

In 2014, at age 33, Stage purchased the pharmacy and its building. Much of running the business has been learned as he

goes. "If you wait until you're ready, you'll never do it," Stage observed.

He bought Setzer's in Roseville from Gary Raines in 2017. The two stores have operated

independently. He also owned Schneider Drug off University but sold it to CVS last year.

It's a tough time for independent pharmacies, according to Stage, because of Pharmacist Benefit Managers (PBR). "They've been brutal to us," Stage said. "They manipulate the market." Pharmacies are punished if

customers don't refill their prescriptions on time and money they were paid is pulled back, so a business owner never fully knows what their income will be, he explained.

Because of its compounding work, Lloyd's income has been steadier. The store serves 8,000 people, and about 15% of the

work is compounding.

"The goal is to serve the community, and get back into business and fill people's prescriptions that are needed on a daily basis," said Stage. "As a business owner, I'm just called to forgive. I'm thankful no one was hurt and we can move on."



Ward 4 City Council Member Mitra Jalali visited Lloyd's Pharmacy owner Jim Stage and his hardworking staff on June 3 at their sister location, Setzer's on Rice Street, with donuts and coffee for the team that works long hours to help impacted customers still get medications. "The loss of Lloyd's has been nothing short of tragic to our Midway neighborhood, but they're planning a pop-up location nearby their old spot in the coming weeks, and will also be working on a public art memorial for their beloved Snelling location lost to fire. My heart goes out to the entire team at Lloyd's, and we'll keep working with you to support your rebuilding in any way possible," said Jalali. "Our community will continue to show up for you, just like you have for us for decades." (Photo courtesy of Mitra Jalali)

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Over 170 businesses damaged in Midway

People step up to help, city council members talk about needs for honest dialogue



The building at Syndicate and University that housed Bole Ethiopian, Napa and Jackson Hewitt was destroyed by fire. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

By JANE McCLURE

Clean up and recovery efforts continue throughout St. Paul after the vandalism, looting and arsons that began May 28. Several area district councils, business associations and community groups organized clean-up groups and were out sweeping up glass and picking up debris May 29 in Midway and Frogtown.

The morning of May 29, hundreds of volunteers helped clean and board businesses. Hamline Midway Coalition,

Frogtown Neighborhood Association and Union Park District Council worked (UPDC) to help organize the groups.

Hamline Midway Coalition and Union Park District Council (UPDC) have expressed gratitude for the help rendered. Both district councils have not only helped on the ground in many ways. They also have had to sort through rumors and real situations of possible illegal activities in the neighborhoods.

"There's been a lot of ways



Volunteers pass out water to those cleaning up and boarding windows on Friday, May 29. "There's a lot of ways that people have stepped up to help," observed UPDC President Henry Parker. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

that people have stepped up to help," UPDC Board President Henry Parker said. Volunteers have worked to clean up and board up businesses, collect and distribute food, and continue to help affected businesses and residents. UPDC volunteers alone helped board up 10 businesses. Others have helped at food distribution points at Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue, University and Fairview, Celtic Junction and at Bethlehem Lutheran Church-in-the-Midway. The church has become a major food hub.

Both Merriam Park, Frogtown and Hamline-Midway Facebook pages set up regular neighborhood watches during and after the nights of violence, to keep each other informed and report activity. Some volunteers walked neighborhood streets in violation of the state-imposed curfews and county state of emergency. Others kept watch from their yards and porches.

Elected officials have been out helping, and are appreciative of the volunteer efforts to help the community. "It's been an extraordinary, extraordinary week

in many ways," said St. Paul City Council President Amy Brendmoen. City council members have not only been out observing damage and helping with clean-up, they are also looking at the need for an upcoming policy session on steps St. Paul and its Police Department can take to prevent tragedies tied to police brutality. Brendmoen said there is a need for an honest dialogue to continue making changes.

University Avenue businesses sustained the heaviest damage in terms of looting and fires. Two local businesses, Lloyd's Pharma-

DONATION SITES

- Midway Chamber of Commerce – We Love the Midway: <http://www.midway-chamber.com/we-love-midway>
- Neighbors United Funding Collaborative: <https://midwayunited.org/>

- Bole Ethiopian: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/rebuilding-bole-ethiopian-cuisine>
- Lloyd's Pharmacy: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lloyd039s-pharmacy-rebuilding-fund-st-paul-riots>

FREE LEGAL CLINICS

A series of rapidly organized free legal clinics for individuals, businesses and families impacted by the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd began June 6. The clinics aim to provide safe, confidential and free legal advice, resources and forms for anyone who needs assistance in the community.

Running every weekend while there are those in need, the clinics are organized by the Community Law Collective, a coalition of Twin Cities law firms and Zeus Jones, which will host the first three clinics at 2429 Nicollet Ave S., Minneapolis. Future clinics may be held in the Midway. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/FreeLegalClinic>.

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TIP: Get word out about your GoFundMe and talk about how you're rebuilding and fixing your business up so the community knows how to support you.



Hundreds of people pitched in Friday morning, May 29 to sweep and clean up after the damage done Thursday, May 28 to businesses in the Midway, including the hard-hit Midway Center. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

cy/Menopause Center and Bole Ethiopian restaurant, were lost to fires. Both business were the focus of separate, successful GoFundMe campaigns and plan to rebuild or relocate in the area. Lloyd's, which is serving customers through its sister pharmacy Setzer's in Roseville, is planning to open a small interim location in Midway. (See related story beginning on front page.)

Midway Center was hit very hard with looting and then fires. Foot Locker was looted and set ablaze. Adjacent businesses were damaged including Great

Clips, Rainbow clothing shop, GameStop Midway, To New York Midway and Peking Garden. Big Top Liquor, in the former Midway Perkins, was looted and set ablaze.

Across the street, businesses damaged include Midway Tobacco, DTLR Sports Dome, Boost Mobile, Maxx It Pawn, Culver's and neighboring businesses. The eastern half of the Maxx It Pawn-Sports Dome group of businesses was leveled after looting, vandalism and fire. But crews were inside the western half of the structure making repairs the first week

of June.

CVS at University and Snelling was looted and vandalized, as were businesses to the east including Ax-Man Surplus, JJ Fish and Chicken, and Metro Sound and Lighting. Metro Sound and Lighting was hit very hard. "We were broken into last night and majorly looted and vandalized," the business owner stated in a Facebook post. "They tried breaking a front window, and when that didn't work, they went around to the back of the building, gaining access by virtu-

ally destroying a back door. Recession, light rail construction in front of our building, pandemic....and now this."

At Midway Marketplace, businesses were looted and fires set. Cub, Dollar Tree, TJ Maxx and the Healtheast Clinic were hit hard. The strip mall along University at Hamline had a fire set at the UPS store and businesses including Discount Tire were vandalized and looted. LeeAnn Chin restaurant sustained heavy damage.

Furniture Barn was set on fire and looted.

Midway SuperTarget was looted and vandalized, as were the nearby shops in the building at Hamline and University - Verizon, Noodles and Company, and the Vitamin Shop. The closed BP station at Hamline and University was vandalized.

Stores and restaurants on the first floor of the PPL Building at Hamline and University sustained damage. The building housing Bole Ethiopian restaurant, NAPA Auto Parts and Jackson Hewitt at University and Syndicate was destroyed by fire.

Goodwill at Griggs and Syndicate was vandalized and a dumpster set on fire.

Enterprise's University Ave. vehicle rental business was damaged by fire. Anaya Dance Theater was vandalized and a wig shop in the former Arnellia's nightclub was looted and set ablaze.

Office buildings at University and Syndicate were vandalized.

ALDI and Gordon Parks School were vandalized, with a fire set inside of Gordon Parks.

Businesses at Lexington and University were damaged including UnBank, White Castle and TCF Bank. O'Reilly Auto Parts was vandalized and set on fire.

Many convenience stores including Speedway and Holiday Station stores were damaged throughout the area including stores on Snelling, University and Lexington. A fire was set at the Speedway at University and Chatsworth.

Many liquor stores around the city were looted and/or vandalized including Snelling Avenue Fine Wines and Liquors.

A few stores have reported break-ins and attempted break-ins during the first week of June.

Overnight May 28-29, the St Paul Fire Department responded to 295 calls for service, 169 of those calls were EMS calls for service and 126 were fire calls. The fire department deployed almost 200 of its own firefighters and had mutual aid from Roseville, Roseville, Maplewood, Little Canada, Lake Johana, North St. Paul, Dakota County Washington County, South Metro, Woodbury and MAC Fire.

Of the 126 fire calls, 55 were actual working fires primarily to commercial properties.

"I want to thank the women and men of our department for the incredible work they performed. Our firefighters responded in challenging conditions which included them having rocks, bricks, and bottles thrown at them. They do this work to serve the residents and visitors of St. Paul and to ensure that every person is cared for and safe," said Chief Butch Inks.

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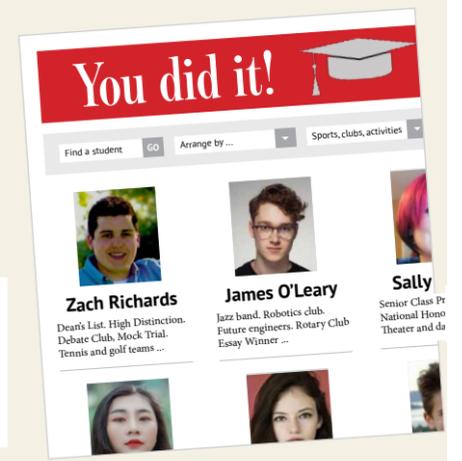
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Naga la soo xiriir wixii suala degdeg ah ku saabsan fayraksa COVID-19: 651-201-3920 ama 1-800-657-3902



Como Hamline Midway

Dock & Paddle open at pavilion

Dock & Paddle

The restaurant in the Como Lakeside Pavilion opened June 5 with a new name – and at least one feature that doesn't exist anywhere else. Dock & Paddle (which is under the same management as last year's version of Spring Café) debuted in a scaled-back version in order to meet the outdoor dining limits required under state pandemic restrictions.

The initial menu started with grill fare such as sandwiches and burgers, a children's menu, and locally sourced salads. Dock & Paddle's biggest coup, however, is an exclusive arrangement with the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild. The Guild will curate a rotating selection of brews from around the state. That means Dock & Paddle will serve beers on tap that are rare – or even impossible – to find in the Twin Cities. Dock & Paddle intends to open weekdays 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

'Como Kindness' lawn signs

Our first printing sold out in the first weekend, but "Como Kindness Dwells Here" lawn signs are available once again. The design, by Como artist Monique Hussey, was chosen after the Como Community Council put out a community call for ideas.

After the district council covers costs, proceeds go to the Como Park block nurse program, which works to handle the health-care and everyday needs of neighborhood seniors. Sug-

gested donation is \$15. Order yours at: www.district10comopark.org/kindness.html

Bird sightings in park soar

There are a lot more bird species around Como Lake and the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom than there used to be, according to a newly released report. The new bird survey, carried out by 15 community volunteers from February 2019 through January 2020, counted 109 species around the lake and 80 species in the Woodland. That's a big increase from 2006, when a similar survey counted only 84 species around the lake and 48 species in the Woodlands.

Get a full summary of the survey, including comparison tables, on District 10's website.

Updates to be aware of

- **New Apartment Building:** The city council was scheduled to vote June 10 on whether to approve rezoning 1015 Bandana Blvd. from B3 commercial to T3 traditional, to allow construction of a 152-unit apartment building atop the existing parking ramp. The city's Planning Commission voted 12-0 on May 1 to recommend the rezoning.

- **Another Rezoning Request:** The city's Planning Commission voted unanimously May 29 to recommend rezoning 978 Front Ave. from B2 community business to T2 traditional neighborhood. The property, at the southwest corner of Front and Chatsworth, now is mixed use – with a

District 10 Como Community Council

By **MICHAEL KUCHTA**, Executive Director
district10@district10comopark.org



dog-training business on the first floor and residential on the second floor. The property's owners say the rezoning would give them more residential options than they have now. The request now goes to a public hearing and vote before the city council.

- **Get Appointed:** Saint Paul currently has 20 committees, commissions, and specialized boards that have vacancies just waiting for the right community volunteers. Some of the vacancies are set aside exclusively for members of the Como neighborhood. Take a look at the District 10 website for an overview of what's available, where to find out what the panels do, and how you could apply. Among the most timely: The Saint Paul Charter Commission is taking applications for nine vacancies: seven of them are four-year terms that begin Aug. 1, two are existing vacancies that run until July 31, 2022. Applications are due June 17.

- **High School Gets Sign Variance:** The city's Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously approved zoning variances May 18 that will allow Como Park Senior High School to mount new outdoor signs as part of the



The Como Community Council collected 25 car loads of food and household supplies May 31 donated by neighborhood residents. The donations were distributed to food drives being organized by other district councils in Frogtown, Hamline Midway, and on the East Side. (Photo by Jill Henriksen)

school's multi-year renovation. The main variance allows the school to mount a 10-by-12-foot version of its Cougar logo 60 feet up the chimney, facing the intersection of Rose and Grotto. The other, smaller signs would be the school's name and address over the main entrance. The signs are not lighted.

Online voting ends June 16

Community members in District 10 have until Tuesday June 16 to request a ballot and vote online in the 2020 board elections for the Como Community Council. Because of pandemic restrictions, there is no in-person voting this year. All voting is absentee.

Ballots can be requested at: www.district10comopark.org/ballot_request.html. Community members can request an online ballot until 5 p.m. June 16; voting closes at 7 p.m.

Renters, homeowners, and other residents of District 10 who are at least 16 years old can vote. Information about candidates is available on District 10's website.

Call or video into D10 meetings

District 10 board and committee meetings are continuing but, for the time being, they take place using technology rather than face to face. To obtain links, phone numbers, or other information to join a meeting remotely, send a request by email to district10@district10comopark.org. Or, call in your request to 651-644-3889.

Upcoming meetings:
 • Annual meeting: June 16
 • Land Use: July 1
 • Neighborhood Relations: July 7
 • Environment: July 8
 All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Eight Como staff members retire

The 2019-2020 school year has concluded. Distance learning during the coronavirus became even more challenging following the fear and destruction in the community surrounding the death of George Floyd.

The Class of 2020 endured a teacher strike, global pandemic, economic collapse, a societal tragedy and civil unrest during the spring of their senior year without the ability to process with peers and teachers in person.

As many have suggested,

2020 could be a chapter in future history textbooks all by itself, the scope of which has completely overshadowed the accomplishments of a special and resilient class of high school students.

In that context, it was joyful for graduating students to spend the evening of June 1 viewing the Como virtual commencement ceremony with their loved ones. The pre-recorded video featured pictures of every graduate during the pomp and circumstance processionals music, followed by

Como Park Senior High School



By **ERIC ERICKSON**
Social studies teacher

messages from Principal Stacy Theien-Collins, district administration, Como teacher David Stahlman, and student speaker Ridwan Yussuf.

After the inspirational messages from the speakers, each of the 248 Como graduates was featured in their own unique cap and gown photo, alongside their name on the screen for several seconds. Enough time for joyful cheers in each home, and enough time for every student to celebrate their friends and classmates when they appeared in the alphabetical rollout.

The graduation ceremony was shared out in a link to all Como families, can be viewed on spps.eduvison.tv, and will be replayed on St. Paul Cable Channel 16 several times this summer.

With the close of distance learning for underclassmen on June 9, eight longtime Como staff members concluded their careers in education. Each retiree has positively influenced countless students, with their own unique gifts, skills, dedication and service.



Como's virtual commencement ceremony on June 1 successfully celebrated each of the 248 graduates from the Class of 2020.

Kathy Kahn – teaching for 37 years, including the last 30 at Como as a biology instructor.

Maryclare Bade – health teacher at Como for the past 34.5 years. She has spent 36 total years in education.

Carole Whitney – Como Park choir director and theater director for 26 years.

Lori Belair – 26 years with the St. Paul Public Schools. She has been teaching Family and Consumer Sciences at Como since 2009.

Dave Stahlman – social studies teacher at Como for 25

years.
Walt Lofquist – a math teacher at Como for 20 years, and has 21 total years in St. Paul.

Joy Fausone – worked in the Como cafeteria with nutrition services for 30 years.

Ruth McPhillips – educational assistant for 28 years, with four years of service at Como.

That's 229 combined years of service to kids, all concluding with a retirement year of 2020, a time that no one – in education or any walk of life – will ever forget.

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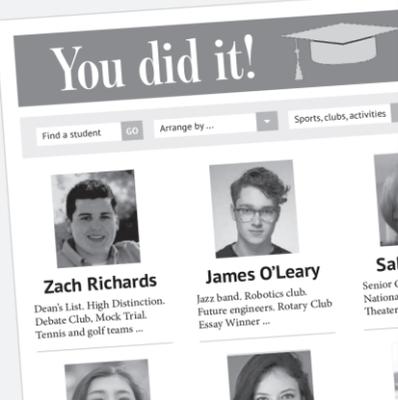
The class of 2020 has it tough and we want to help you do something special for them. We've launched an online feature to help parents tell the world how proud you are of your grad.

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{ Development Roundup }

By JANE McCLURE

How will fires affect Midway Center 'superblock'?

Development at the Midway Center "superblock" is moving toward a fall groundbreaking for new construction on the western part of the site. But how a devastating fire in the remaining part of Midway Center will affect redevelopment remains unclear.

Much of the remaining shopping center building along Pascal Street was extensively damaged by fire overnight May 28-29, as was Big Top Liquor. Big Top had relocated to the former Midway Perkins building along University Avenue. As of *Monitor* deadline plans for the shopping center hadn't been announced. The western section was slated to eventually come down, but it was almost largely occupied.

Union Park District Council (UPDC) heard a development update at its May meeting from Bill McGuire, lead owner of the Minnesota United FC soccer team and lead partner in site redevelopment with RK Midway.

The developers are working with the St. Paul Port Authority to obtain \$2 million in site cleanup grants from the state, Ramsey County and Metropolitan Council. The applications were submitted May 1. It's anticipated that much pollution is from an old streetcar garage and Metro Transit bus barn and repair facility at the site.

The United Villages at Midway development's towers would include 234 dwelling units over a 148,470-square-foot parking podium, with 15,780-square-feet of retail and coworking office spaces above the parking and below the towers. The parking is to be in one level underground. McGuire said that while changes are considered for tower placement, the design is largely as shown in April. Construction drawings are still in the works.

Stadium designer Populous is project architect. The goal is to open the building in spring 2022.

The towers would be nine to 18 stories tall and would be adjacent to an "activated alley" of retail and live-work spaces, with a smaller 3 to 3.5-story structure with retail and small business/nonprofit incubator space. That building footprint is about 20,000 square feet. McGuire said one focus would be local food businesses.

One point McGuire made is that without parking spaces, investors will not consider the project. Parking and ways to promote more mass transit use were brought up district council members.

Other parts of the development are moving ahead, although a proposed movie theater may have to be shelved due to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced crisis movie theaters everywhere face, said McGuire. It's more likely a proposed hotel will eventually be built as part of the development. That also may face delays.

17-story apartments, YWCA replacement

Area projects, including housing at Fairview and University avenues and a replacement for the YWCA of St. Paul, are among four city submissions vying for development funds. The St. Paul City Council voted May 6 to seek Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) grants for the projects. Cities must apply for the funds with developers.

Two projects, including apartments planned for 1845 University Ave., are in line for Metropolitan Council Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) dollars. Two 17-story apartment buildings are proposed by Minneapolis-based Reuter Walton Development. The buildings would go up on property owned



Hundreds of volunteers showed up to help on Friday, May 29, 2020 in a cleanup organized by the Hamline Midway Coalition and Union Park District Council.

by Goodwill/Easter Seals of Minnesota. The project began community review in late 2019. Apartments planned are affordable housing, in a mix of unit sizes.

Reuther Walton is seeking \$111,814 in TBRA funds and \$654,080 from DEED. Both funding sources would assist with site cleanup. Part of the property was once a gas station.

Another request is from Keystone Community Services, which has locations in Merriam Park, the North End and West End. Keystone is also seeking pre-development funding of \$100,000 from Metropolitan Council, for a site to be determined.

The YWCA request would replace the YWCA that has stood at Selby and Western avenues for many years, possibly with a mixed-use development. Awards are to be announced in the weeks ahead.

University-Raymond development wins approval

Development of the former US Bank property at University and Raymond avenues is moving ahead. The St. Paul Planning Commission May 29 approved a needed variance and conditional use permit for 2383 University Ave.

The development company

Kraus Anderson obtained approvals for the project. The project is already zoned for traditional neighborhoods 3 use so no zoning change is needed. The approvals are final unless an appeal is filed with the St. Paul City Council within 10 days.

The developers will tear down the longtime Midway Bank and its drive-through lanes. Parking lots are also part of the development site. The lots and bank will be replaced by a six-story building. The building will have 222 dwelling units, 2,200 square feet of first-floor commercial space and amenity spaces for tenants. Three of the first-floor dwelling spaces will be live/work units.

The building will have frontage along University, Raymond and Charles avenues. It will be V-shaped with a courtyard. Its design plans got a nod of approval May 18 from the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission. The site is in the Raymond-University Commercial Historic District.

The conditional use permit is needed for a 66' 7" building height, with 73' 4" for the elevator penthouse. Floor area ratio or FAR variance is needed as well. The 3.0 FAR maximum is slightly exceeded as a 3.6 FAR is proposed.

St. Anthony Park Community

Council recommended approval, with conditions. Conditions sought include asking that the commercial space become community incubator space if it is not leased, that there be a publicly accessible pedestrian path on the east side of the building where there is currently an alley, and that the building meet sustainability conditions outlined in city plans.

No one has come out in opposition to the project.

Bandana Square project moves ahead

One hundred and fifty-three housing units will be built atop a parking ramp near Bandana Square, as a result of St. Paul Planning Commission approvals May 1.

TJL Development's affiliate Pacific Ramp LLC is leading the project, which requires a zoning change and a front yard setback variance. The commission approved the requests, and sent the rezoning request for final approval from the St. Paul City Council. The rezoning will be the focus of a public hearing later in June, for rezoning and the front yard setback variance.

The property is currently occupied by a parking ramp that serves adjacent commercial uses including a hotel. The applicant wants to rezone the property from B3 general business to traditional neighborhoods 3 use, to allow proposed construction of 153 residential units on top of the existing ramp. A portion of the ramp will be leased to the adjacent hotel for guest and employee parking.

The Bandana Square area was historically a rail yard, with its building converted to office, retail and commercial uses. The current uses include a hotel, event center, and office space. Multi-family housing was developed to the west.

City staff recommended approval of the zoning change and variance as did Como Community Council. No one has expressed opposition to the project.

{ Monitor in a Minute }

By JANE McCLURE

COVID-19 measures continue

St. Paul city officials were working to help restaurants open for outdoor dining June 1. It's the last effort in a flurry of activities since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March.

St. Paul City Council members and Mayor Melvin Carter's administration discussed next steps May 27. City officials are working to provide flexibility with sidewalk cafes, patios, parking lots, green spaces and even street parking lanes to provide outdoor dining space. In some places restaurant owners are seeking city approval to close short sections of streets and install small park areas or parklets.

The loosening of restaurant restrictions are just part of the city's

response to the pandemic. It has closed and then slowly reopened some parks facilities. Business license fees have been lowered. City employees have been redeployed into different jobs.

One measure that took effect June 1 is that everyone must wear a mask before entering city-licensed businesses.

Changes in regulations are happening constantly. Keep up at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19>

Snelling property's fate unknown

A Snelling Ave. property that has been called out for its historic significance will be the topic of city hearing June 23. The St. Paul City

Council May 27 postponed action on the fate of 678 N. Snelling Ave.

Past historic surveys of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood have noted that the longtime commercial building is considered to be significant. But it has no local or national historic designation, and has been vacant for more than three years. Recently its certificate of occupancy was revoked.

The city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) has determined that the two-story brick structure is a nuisance building and is in need of rehabilitation or demolition due to its condition. The property's owner is SG National LLC out of New York City. The owners have indicated to city officials that they are trying to sell the property.

The original remove or repair order from the city was to be met by mid-March. The building, which housed a lighting and fan company and other businesses re-

cently, has been on the city's vacant building list since fall 2016.

The property has an estimated market value of \$158,400 on the land and \$282,200 on the building. Real estate taxes are current, as are vacant building fees. City property code staff estimate that costs to repair the structure exceed \$250,000. Demolition costs exceed \$75,000.

The building has been on the city's radar for some time with 14 summary abatement orders for trash, building boarding/securing, tall grass and weeds, and now and ice removal. The city has asked that a \$5,000 performance bond be posted and that a detailed work plan be prepared. Another request is that the prospective buyer attend the upcoming legislative hearing.

Events center obtains licenses

Despite concerns from a neighboring property owner, the St. Paul City Council May 13 ap-

proved licensed for Essence Event Center, 1217 Bandana Blvd. N. Licenses approved are liquor on-sale for 291 or more seats, Sunday liquor on-sale and entertainment Class B.

Wellington Management, which owns and operates office and commercial buildings in the area around Bandana Square, raised objections about potential problems with spillover parking, noise and litter. The licenses were sent to a legislative hearing this spring, and operating conditions agreed upon.

No liquor sales, service, display and/or consumption is allowed outdoors without prior written approval and additional licensing from the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). Sunday liquor sales may only occur in conjunction with food service, the establishment shall close at midnight and all patrons must be off of the premises by 12:30 a.m.

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'2020 Elections: Protected or Infected?'

The League of Women Voters St. Paul (LWVSP), with support from the St. Paul Neighborhood Network, are partnering to present "2020 Elections: Protected or Infected?" a free program on Tuesday, June 30, 6:30-8 p.m.

In the interest of public health and safety, this will be a virtual event. The event will be cablecast on LWVSP's Facebook page, as well as SPNN channel 19. Interested participants can register on the LWVSP website, (www.lwvsp.org). The program will be recorded for future viewing.

As Minnesota finds itself dealing with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the

League is working to ensure that all voters have an opportunity to learn how this has affected legislation this session, especially regarding bills addressing voting and elections. The event will feature a discussion between Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Director for the League of Women Voters Minnesota, and Junior Alvados of Minnesota Voice, a coalition of non-profit organizations working toward permanent change in racial, social, and economic justice by increasing civic engagement and voter participation across the state, especially focused in underrepresented communities.

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Frog Food by Z Akhmetova



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'Tree Frogs' aim to plant 1,000 trees

Did you know that by planting a tree, you can increase your home's value by up to 20%? That's a fact, according to the US Forest Service.

"A mature tree also can also improve your health by cleansing the air you breathe; lower anxiety; and produce more sociable neighborhoods," says neighborhood tree advocate Aaron Backs. "And in Frogtown, these benefits can be had for free."

Backs is working this summer with the Tree Frogs, an all-volunteer group of Frogtown residents whose ambitious goal is to plant 1,000 new trees in the neighborhood. "Frogtown has the lowest tree canopy of any residential neighborhood in the city," Backs explains. "We'll be giving away and planting 70 new shade and fruit trees in Frogtown yards this summer, which will bring our total so far up to 520. We hope to reach 1,000 trees by 2025."

The Tree Frogs' efforts, supported this year by a grant from the Forest Service, will concentrate heavily on Frogtown rental properties, which tend to have fewer trees. Landlords and homeowners can choose among maple, linden, apple pear and cherry trees. "The Tree Frogs will help you select a good site and will get the utilities marked before we plant your tree in the fall," Backs says.

For more information, visit the Frogtown Green website, www.frogtowngreen.com or call 651-757-5970.

Not ahead of her time, but changing things now

>> from 1

Dr. Tyner said she served on the board of African American Babies Coalition. "I was confused about being on the board since I was not a parent," she claimed. "I was not sure I was the best advocate."

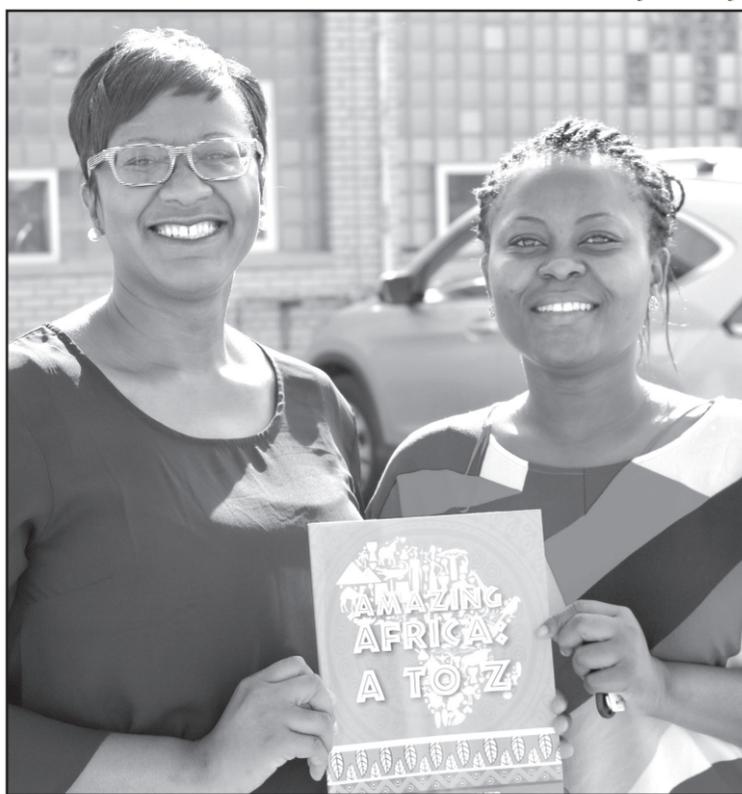
But she became alarmed by the early learning gap from ages 0 to 3. "There is not enough advocacy and support for children of this age," she noted. "We focus on K-12, so one of the goals of our publishing company is to cover the whole spectrum of learning for the whole family."

'Kofi Loves Music'

The publishing company, Planting People Growing Justice Press, has published seven books that Dr. Tyner has written or co-written. The latest book, published in January of this year, is "Kofi Loves Music." It is the first board book that focuses on early learners.

Dr. Tyner said the story emerged when she was visiting Ghana and watching a documentary about going to different places to enjoy music. The book features African instruments, such as the Udo, and instruments that can sound like jazz or rock and roll. Dr. Tyner said the book honors cultures of the world.

During her visit to Ghana, Dr. Tyner had an opportunity to introduce some of her books to young people. "I had an impromptu opportunity to visit Hawamu Kingdom and was asked if I could speak with a few students," she said. "I agreed, and there were over 1,500 students in the room."



Dr. Artika R. Tyner (left) and Monica Habia hold the book they worked on together, "Amazing Africa: A to Z. The Minnesota Coalition of Black Publishers will be hosting a virtual town hall forum on June 27 from 2-4 p.m. It will showcasing local authors and their work in advancing anti-racism. More details to be announced via the Facebook page @plantingpeoplegrowingjustice. "The tragic death of Mr. Floyd and the aftermath has only deepened my resolve to continue the work of Planting People, Growing Justice," said Tyner. (Photo submitted)

Only 10% of authors are black

Dr. Tyner said she tries to focus on writing on weekends and evenings. "I have had a book inside me for my whole life, the book I wanted to see as a child," she said.

Although she said her moth-

er is a lifelong educator and she was very fortunate in having many education lessons happen at home, she did not see books with characters who looked like her.

But she did have mentors and people who inspired her, such as Ida B. Wells, journalist;

and Thurgood B. Marshall and Charles Hamilton Houston, who fought for civil rights and the desegregation of schools.

Dr. Tyner said she started her own publishing company after some publishers she went to tried to indicate that people of color didn't read. "Or they told me I was ahead of my time, and this happened just within the last decade. It's the same way some don't think African Americans have assets or capital for small businesses."

Only 10% of authors are people of color, according to Dr. Tyner. She said lack of access is the biggest reason for this statistic.

"I had business acumen and community support to make my project come alive," she said, noting that not all authors or activists have that. "I crowd-funded my first book and got \$10 donations, which built up to over \$20,000 for us to donate books around the world."

Race matters

Dr. Turner explained that although the United States has only about 5% of the world's population, it incarcerates over 20% of the world's prison population.

She said that race matters when "African-American adults are 5.9 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites and Hispanics are 3.1 times as likely."

Dr. Turner said she was a child witness to the "War on Drugs" and saw firsthand the criminal justice challenges at the intersections of race and poverty. "I decided to take action," she said.

"It took me on a mission. If inmates learn how to read in prison, they can read their indictments. It shows how essential the literacy piece is."

Reflecting on her work as both educator and writer, Dr. Tyner said she was inspired by Chinua Achebe, who said, "The writer cannot expect to be excused from the task of re-education and regeneration that must be done."

Dr. Tyner, who is currently researching diversity in dolls for her organization, said she believes education is the key to justice.

"You can learn how to think critically and problem-solve," she said. "Education also unleashes real magic, an ability to imagine, innovate and create."

Peace bubbles

By MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com



Dear friend,

Though we won't gather in person, we wanted you to know That you are on our minds.

Thank you for the seeds of peace you plant.

Thank you for the love you cultivate.

Thank you for nourishing Yourself and those around you.

Thank you for working for justice.

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Listening and ready to work

I am angered by and strongly condemn the tragic and unjust murder of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. Imagine yourself on the ground. Put yourself on the floor in the position that Mr. Floyd was in. Now have someone put 200 pound of weight on your neck with their knee. I bet it won't end well. It's murder, and I urge and support Attorney General Keith Ellison to increase the charge against Derek Chauvin to first-degree murder and to swiftly bring justice to all officers involved. In my capacity as the city council member for Ward 1, I am committed to further and increased transparency and accountability with the city of St. Paul's operations.

I hope to see open and renewed dialogue around how our city prioritizes its funds. In regard to the St. Paul Police Department, I want to see a continued and in-

vigorated focus on de-escalation practices and shift to building and funding mental health resources for those in crisis. I also want to continue working with my city council colleagues to focus on community-first public safety strategies; for example, creating a People's Cabinet and funding community organizations working with youth and restorative justice organizations.

As we move forward as a city in our rebuilding and healing process, I hope that the hunger

Ward 1
St. Paul
City
Council



By
DAI THAO
ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us

for justice and change remains. I want to hear from more people and bring more voices to the decision-making table. I am listening and ready to work with you all.

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Blues 4 George

By Seitu Jones

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THERE'S ONLY ONE

RACE, AND THAT'S THE HUMAN RACE

Valerie Castile encourages people to work together for change

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Valerie Castile became known to the wider world when her son Philando was murdered by a St. Anthony police officer almost four years ago.

In a recent phone interview, she said, "This has been a really emotional time for my whole family, since George Floyd was killed. If someone does something wrong, it's their civil liberty to have their day in

After her son's death, Valerie Castile created the Philando Castile Relief Fund to help families of victims with funeral costs and resources for grief counseling. (Photo submitted)

court. There's no reason to take a human life unless you are sure that person is trying to kill you. I mean, really trying to kill you – and George Floyd was lying handcuffed with his face in the street."

In the years since her son's death, Castile has built a foundation to help victims affected by gun violence and police violence. The Philando Castile Relief Fund helps families of victims with funeral attire and resources for grief counseling, among other things.

Castile, who talks regularly with elected officials about issues related to policing, community relations, and use of force, spoke

with Governor Walz the day after Floyd's murder. She told him, "People are going to rebel. I was so angry. Somewhere there's a piece of paper 30' long with all the names of people killed by police in this city. It's too much to take."

She continued, "Everybody is trying to understand how things got so out of control with the riots. It seems like when the anger comes in, common sense goes right out the window. We've got to remember that there's only one race, and that's the human race. If enough of us continue to work on this together, something IS going to change."

HOW TO SHRINK THE RACIAL DIVIDE?

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The first time Summit University resident Miki Lewis saw George Floyd he thought, "Now, there's a big guy. Being from African American neighborhoods,

a lot of us come up thinking we have to show aggression – but George was different. He was very peaceful."

Lewis explained, "We met in truck driving school in 2017,

when George had been in Minneapolis for a couple of years. We naturally gravitated toward each other, and got to be friends.

"We were together for three months in training. I learned a lot about George in a short period of time. He was from Houston. He came to Minnesota for a fresh start. We both completed the training, and saw each other a few times after that. I hadn't seen George in five months prior to this happening. When I learned about it on Facebook, I couldn't believe it."

Lewis continued, "For a lot of us, it's the way George was killed that is fueling the anger right now. We've seen officers shoot us over and over again. To a certain extent, we've gotten desensitized to shooting. In the eyes of our community, it was the level of non-compassion that we saw in the killing. That officer just tucked his hand in his pocket and looked down on George as if he were nothing."

Lewis runs a non-violence initiative in the Summit University neighborhood called the Truce Center, and he is no stranger to violence himself. He said, "I've been stabbed, I've been shot, I've been homeless, I've been hungry, I've been cold."

Out of these hard times,



Miki Lewis is the founder and director of the Truce Center in St. Paul. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Lewis emerged with a strong faith and a commitment to assist in making the world a more peaceful place. It can often feel like an uphill battle, but Lewis presses on. He said, "I'm not scared anymore because, unfortunately, I've gotten used to this. There will be another unarmed black man murdered by a white officer, that's no secret. We have a president who is inciting racial differences among us: I believe he's trying to fuel further division, to fuel a race war. That divide is being driven even harder as time goes on. It seems like the divide is growing bigger, not smaller."

The work at the Truce Center

A conversation with the Truce Center's Miki Lewis

is to help young people develop a positive sense of self through learning African American history and conflict resolution skills.

Lewis explained, "If there's a kid being taught since he's little that you don't like or tolerate certain kinds of people, and that kid grows up to be an adult who acts like that. Is it his fault? Is it his parents' fault? Is it society's fault? The only thing we can do is to try and educate each other about our pasts, and to try and develop empathy for what we've been through."

He continued, "You can feel the energy in the air right now; racism is really coming out of the closet. It's becoming more blatant than it has ever been before, but we can't continue to divide ourselves as human beings. We will rebuild our cities. I guess we'll see if the change comes then. We see what this divide has done to us."

Lewis concluded, "It's critically important for white people to open their mouths and say when things are wrong and not fair, to stop keeping a closed mouth to the racial injustices happening around them. Somehow or other, we're all going to have to come together."

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