

Closing lock may have affected pollution output

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Independent third parties will do the audits, she added. "We will be heavily involved in the test plan. As far as their strategy, they decided it was best to withdraw and come to an agreement. This is something MPCA wants. It is important to resolve this."

Koelgen added that the air quality monitoring will continue.

She said that when the Upper St. Anthony Lock closed in June, 2015, it changed the way Northern Metals did business. The company had previously shipped out its scrap metal on barges.

"Closing the lock has led to increased truck traffic and a greater opportunity for dirt to track out, and more dust. That's something else we're looking at," she added.

Last week, Northern Metal Recycling President Steve Ettinger confirmed that the lock closing "has indeed halted river transport from all affected companies north of the lock, i.e. Northern Metals and Aggregate Industries." For Northern Metals, he added, "former river transport has been converted to truck shipments."

Koelgen said that Northern Metals sits right on the river in a busy industrial corridor that includes other companies such as GAF (a shingle company), Alliance Steel, Aggregate Industries, and Cermentone. "They are all within a quarter mile of each other." (Neighbors in North and Northeast Minneapolis have long complained about odors from GAF and Northern Metals; their complaints five years ago led to MPCA staff installing the first monitor near Lowry Bridge.)

In December before the agreement was reached, Northern Metals proposed to move out of the metro area if the MPCA would relax its regulation for three years. According to local media reports, an MPCA attorney called the offer "a nonstarter."

The Friends of the Mississippi River, a local non-profit organization, also expressed its opinion to that plan, writing in its newsletter: "Since people in North Minneapolis will still need to breathe for the next three years, MPCA is not in a position to allow these violations to continue." Executive Director Whitney Clark added, "After 25 years of controversy, perhaps it's finally time for this scrap metal

operation to move off the river. The residents of north and northeast Minneapolis deserve a waterfront that supports and enhances their health, not one that makes things worse."

Irene Jones, also of Friends of the Mississippi River, said, "We believe that the river offers a bigger opportunity for many more people. I don't think they should go away, they just shouldn't be on the river."

Last week, when asked by the *Northeast* if the company would soon move or add a plant in another location, Ettinger responded, "With respect to any relocation or additional locations for Northern Metals, we cannot provide any update as of now. We continue to evaluate all options as we move forward."

According to Northern Metals' attorney Jack Perry, however—who commented on the court order and the company's future plans—a move is likely. "It has been broadly reported that the company is attempting to relocate to a different area outside the Twin Cities but still within Minnesota. It doesn't make a lot of sense to be fighting the MPCA when they're attempting to relocate."

"The important part is, with encourage-

ment from the court, that the parties found a way to get the testing of the facility done, so that there is objective evidence recognizing whether or not this small emitter is operating beyond its permit limits. It allows the parties to take a breather and get some objective data to support our respective positions," Perry added.

The Stipulation and Order from the Second Judicial District Court directs Northern Metals to hire an independent third party consultant, within 14 days of the court's entry of the order, to evaluate the pollution control equipment serving the metal shredder and cascade cleaning system. "The consultant will evaluate fugitive emissions issues associated with the outdoor material handling that may be contributing to the exceeding of ambient air quality standards. The company must give MPCA five days' notice of when the consultant will be on its site," reads the court order.

Northern Metals does not own the land on Pacific Street. According to county records, the owner is Atlas Land Company LLC. Its estimated market value is \$3,465,000. Ettinger said Northern Metals leases it long-term.

New multi-tenant office spaces bring business to NE



Story and photos by Liz Jensen

"Our office was located near Loring Park on the edge of the downtown business district. The space was larger than we needed and had no parking for visitors," said Mina Adsit, "our office at the Highlight Center is easy for visitors to find, has ample parking and is newly renovated. Being located in a historic building fits with our architectural practice."

A Northeast resident for 26 years, Adsit owns a small architectural firm called ADSIT Architecture and Planning, with extensive experience in historic preservation and affordable housing. "We also tackle

other kinds of projects large and small," said Adsit, "such as a dog health spa and an artisanal food studio."

ADSI Architecture is one of many businesses calling the Highlight Center, 807 Broadway St. NE, their new home. Purchased by Hillcrest Development, the former Minneapolis Public Schools Headquarters is now a multi-tenant office space with a focus on tech and creative firms. The building's largest occupant, Sport Ngin, a developer of software for sports leagues, holds a 32,000 square foot space on the third floor.

The Highlight Center opened to the pub-

lic September 2015 and has 27 different occupants on their building directory. A couple of those are MyMeds (a secure cloud-based web and mobile application that helps people manage medications) and EntrePartner (a small-business law firm). The rest of the occupants listed on the directory are; KeliComm Photography, Moss Love / Band of Weirdos, OneOme, Empire Coffee & Pastry, Rdio Labs, New Partners, WD Frederickson, EDIAdmin, FocusStart LLC, Reve Consulting, Reve Academy, Rocket 55 LLC, Kellington Construction Inc., Maverick Cutting & Breaking LLC, Atomic Recycling LLC, ProPellet LLC, VIU Global, Mastcom, Cohen Taylor, Kipsu Inc., Verum Staffing LLC, Fox Advancement, and Barometer Inc. Many of those have not fully moved in.

Next door to the Highlight Center is the Waterbury Building at 1121 Jackson St. NE. Built in 1932 and renovated in 2007, this building has also become a multi-tenant office space, home to a variety of small businesses and creative artists. The building is at the edge of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District and is a member of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA).

The Waterbury Building is home to 23 different businesses and organizations, all very different from one another. Some of these include the Mercy Vineyard Church,

as well as a couple of non-profit organizations: Everyday Miracles (a non-profit supporting mothers during pregnancy), and the corporate offices of Loaves & Fishes (a nonprofit meal program serving hot meals to those in need).

Speaking of meals, Waterbury is also home to Create Catering which offers fully customized catering and bar services for all types of events throughout Minnesota. Owners Philip & Desiree Dowart have over 30 years of fine dining restaurant and catering experience and strive to use organic, sustainable and local ingredients and products whenever possible. They host corporate events and parties, weddings, birthday parties, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and more. Create Catering has their own dining studio/event space in the Waterbury Building. Here, guests can help plan their entire menu and have a restaurant dining room solely for them and their guests.

You'll also find some health and fitness businesses in the Waterbury, such as Xelias Aerial Arts Studio where adults can take acrobatics classes, Lifelong Health Family Chiropractic Studio, Specialized Treatment Services Inc. (an outpatient treatment facility), and Integrity Living Options Inc., an organization that provides "Responsive and Respectful Services and

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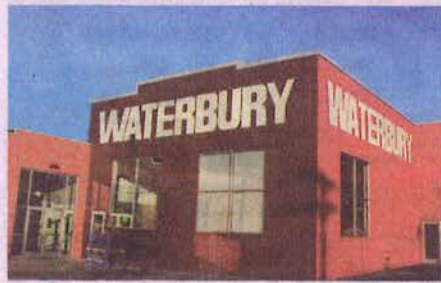
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For local businesses, "NE is where it's happening"



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Supports for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities).

And of course, you'll find a number of artistic businesses here as well. One Light is a production partner assembled from the best producers, directors, cinematographers and editors in the Twin Cities. Studio Starfish is a boutique photography studio specializing in unique wedding

photography, boudoir photos, fashion photography and senior portraits. Risen Drums has been building custom drums out of Minneapolis since 1998.

The Geek Partnership Society also resides in the Waterbury, "a community institution dedicated to serving the local geek community with the tradition of year-round programs by and for local geeks."

In other words, it's a community center for comic artists, science fiction writers, photographers, gamers, anime enthusiasts, and everything awesomely geeky. But this isn't the only place in the building where you can get your inner geek on. Waterbury is also home to the creative studio of Geekiana, an online shop whose motto is "get your geek on, literally." At geekiana.com you'll find hoodies, t-shirts, scarves

and more from some of your favorite TV shows such as "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock." They have other geeky products as well as Minnesota pride merchandise. So if you've been searching high and low for a Tardis scarf or a Dalek t-shirt, Geekiana is your dream come true.

Last but not least, Waterbury is also home to the Chess Castle of Minnesota. Tuesday nights are "Casual night" where beginners can learn chess etiquette and how to say, "checkmate" in Russian. This night is recommended for anyone looking to start out in the royal game. Free to members, a guest that a member brings along, or any first time visitor and only a \$3 nightly fee for all others.

Other businesses and offices listed on the Waterbury Directory are Miles & Associates Inc. (a construction management company), Seven Elights Studios LLC, SpaceCrafting, Marshall G. Jones, Scot Combs - 3rd Planet Media, Universal Screen Arts Inc., Unleashed Productions (a company that develops images, content, and experiences for digital media and print), and the offices of Primp LLC, a boutique with seven different locations in

the metro. Lisa Elias Metal Studio is in a separate outbuilding nearby.

More and more businesses are moving into buildings like the Waterbury and Highlight Center in Northeast Minneapolis because as Adsit puts it, Northeast is "where it's happening." "I like the energy generated by the traditional arts community and its newer neighbors; breweries, restaurants, coffee shops and creative professional offices," said Adsit. "The Northeast Arts District has earned a very positive image throughout the metro area."

Items of Note

compiled by A. Scott & M. Ashmore

Don Anderson, whom many called "The Mayor of Johnson Street," passed away recently. His funeral service will be held Wednesday, Jan. 13, noon at Salem Covenant Church, Silver Lake Rd. & 5th Street NW, in New Brighton. Visitation will be at Miller Funeral Home, 6210 Hwy. 65 NE, Fridley Tues. Jan. 12, 6-8 p.m., and half hour prior to the service at the church. Don was a true gentleman, not only volunteering for all kinds of community causes, but also making it easy for others to volunteer as well. We'll have a detailed tribute to his life in the January 27 edition of *Northeast*; anyone who would like to comment should contact us in this next week; contact@MyNortheast.com or 612-788-9003.

Columbia Heights residents: Remember, there is an election for an open position on the (Columbia Heights) ISD #13 school board. **Hala Asameral** and **Naty Severson** were the top vote-getters in a sparsely attended primary back in December. Even if you believe that both candidates would be great at the job, show that you care what happens in the schools, go cast a vote on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at Valley View or Highland Elementary Schools, from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m.

Mark your calendars: **Precinct caucuses** will be held on March 1. These are the first step toward action relating to any of the political parties.

The **Columbia Heights Sister City-sponsored Young Artist Showcase** is Tuesday, Jan. 26 at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill St. NE. Heights has produced national contest winners in the past. "It's truly international art," Liz Bray said. "The theme is Peace." We agree, people should go out of their way to enjoy it and give the students good feedback. There will be an open mic opportunity on the stage while the judges are deliberating; the event starts at 7:00 p.m.

For the 8th annual "We Love Our Presidents Walk" event, Saturday, Feb. 13, folks can come out for a 1.5 mile walk to learn about the history of U.S. presidents while passing by the streets named for them. There will be three warm-up stops where the information will be presented, so that participants won't have to stand shivering. The walk will

begin at 10 a.m. and end with lunch at noon-ish at Northeast Middle School, where winners of the "Paint the White House" contest will be announced. Inserted in this January 13 edition of the *Northeast* for Northeast residents, and at local schools, there are copies of a poster to be colored, painted, or decorated with any artistic medium. Winners in age categories earn \$25 gift cards courtesy of Northeast Bank. Entries for the art contest are due Feb. 3. More info in the next *Northeast*.

There will be an **Empty Bowls** event at Murzyn Hall on Thursday, April 14. The last time we attended, it was one of those magically catchy events where folks were calling each other from cell phones saying "every-one's here, you've got to get over here."

The **Columbia Heights Fire Department** has promoted firefighter **Thomas Mattson** to Fire Captain Jan. 1, 2016, his primary responsibility to run one of the department's three shifts. "The City of Columbia Heights is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of Fire Department personnel and I congratulate Mr. Mattson on his promotion. The many years of knowledge and expertise that he brings to his new position is sure to be an asset to the department," praised Fire Chief Gary Gorman. An appointment ceremony was held on January 4 in front of the entire department where Mattson received his Captain's badge and helmet.

Jace Burton, age 12, from Columbia Heights, has placed well in the NFL Punt Pass & Kick competitions these last two years. He ended up placing 13th in the country for his age group in 2014 and appears to have done well again in 2015, taking first place in the secondals at College of St. Thomas, then first place at Winter Park against two 13-year-olds. His name was announced the next day while on the field at the Vikings game December 6. When we spoke with his grandma Pat Burton she said since there are many competitions around the country, the results were not all in yet, but it appeared he would do well.

The now four-member **Columbia Heights School Board** elected officers Jan. 5. For chairman, Ted Landwehr self-nominated; Molly Lewis nominated John Larkin; he will continue as chair. For the position of Vice Chair, Molly Lewis nominated Laura Palmer, and Ted Landwehr self-nominated; Palmer is the new Vice Chair. Landwehr will serve as parliamentarian. Committee appointments were also made.

Anoka County Commissioner **Jim Kordiak** was named chair of the county's Parks and Community Services, Recycling and Resource Solutions, Internal Audit, Property Records and Taxation, and Fairgrounds Advisory Committees at the county board's recent organizational meeting.

Noah Wiggins, of Columbia Heights, has been named to the Graceland University dean's list for the 2015 fall semester.

Collin Myhrs, of Columbia Heights, and **Alison Shannon**, of Northeast Minneapolis, were named to the Carthage College dean's list for fall 2015.

Tim D. Tapp, of Northeast Minneapolis, graduated from The Art Institutes International Minnesota with a Media Arts & Animation Bachelor of Science degree.

Kayleen Hackenmueller, of Northeast Minneapolis, and **Rachel Fadina**, of Columbia Heights, were named to the St. Cloud State University 2015 fall semester dean's list.

The **Columbia Heights/Fridley Rotary Club** currently meets every Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., at Basha Mediterranean Wood Grill, 4920 Central Avenue NE. Upcoming speakers: Jan. 13: John Berg, Fridley Fire Chief; Jan. 20: Terry Kerber: Story of a black cyclist and the men who helped; Jan. 27: Stephanie Szeremeta: Cars for neighbors.

Starting in February, the meetings will change to the Livinn at 5201 Central. For more information, go to www.fridleyrotary.org.

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