

# Congratulations, Bottineau Leaders!

On February 1, Third Ward Minneapolis Council Member Jacob Frey held his annual “3<sup>rd</sup> aWards” event. Three Bottineau women were nominated for recognition. BNA President **Mariam Slayhi** was nominated for Community Leader of the Year; **Anna Bierbrauer** for Community Project of the Year; and **Salama Mohamud** for Youth Leader of the Year. The event was hosted by Council Member Frey at the Minneapolis Event Center.

## **Mariam Slayhi, Community Leader of the Year**

**Nominee**, has been involved in Bottineau Neighborhood Association for over 20 years. One of Mariam's first involvements was as a key leader setting up the Mulberry Junction Community Garden involving artists and residents in that joint endeavor. As her leadership skills evolved, Mariam coordinated improvements at the Bottineau Park playground and instituted the Bottineau Beautiful neighborhood flower planting that continues to this day. Mariam supported the Mississippi River 5 K races to raise awareness to clean up storm water entering the River. Her environmental leadership resulted in the Green Gala Events whereby residents and artists used recycled materials for the creation of fashion show quality clothing.



Mariam Slayhi, Jacob Frey, Anna Bierbrauer

Four years ago Mariam was elected President of the Bottineau Neighborhood Association. Under her leadership, the Somali Reading program was piloted and new park benches were added to the Bottineau Park tot lot. Further, Cancer and Asthma public health studies were launched to show how air pollution affects human health in Bottineau neighborhood and elsewhere. Those studies continue today. Mariam loves to coordinate the annual neighborhood clean sweep and Mississippi River clean up each April in honor of Earth Day. She works tirelessly to make Bottineau a beautiful place to work, live and play.

In her personal life, Mariam works as a yoga instructor, massage practitioner and physical therapist assistant for people facing pain of many kinds. She also enjoys performing at the Xelias Aerial Arts School in Northeast Minneapolis. Mariam is married to Rich Fenton, an artist in the Northrup King Building and a small business owner. They have one daughter, Juna, who is an accomplished Junior Honor Society middle school student at Marcy Open School and an athlete with the Minneapolis Police Department Junior Olympic Volley Ball Team.

## **Anna Bierbrauer, Community Project of the Year**

**Nominee**, has tirelessly worked on the Eastside Environmental Quality of Life (EEQL) committee for the past three years. While she lives in Bottineau, Anna has included residents from the Marshall Terrace, Hawthorne, Folwell, McKinley and Sheridan neighborhoods in her efforts to improve air quality in Minneapolis around the Lowry Bridge. Anna is the Bottineau Neighborhood representative on the Above the Falls Citizen Advisory Committee. Anna owns a design and planning studio called Floodplain Collective and has worked on many local projects including Hennepin County's Lowry Ave NE design, Eastside Storage and Maintenance Facility, and, in partnership with Metro Blooms, green infrastructure projects in NE neighborhoods bringing environmentally sound and cutting edge practices to our city. Further, Anna is an Adjunct Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota. Anna is married to Dieter Bierbrauer, an accomplished professional actor in local and national theater. She and Dieter have two children, a son, Seeley, age 5, and a daughter Sonnen, age 3. Anna's life and works is a wonderful example of her integration of values, vocation, volunteerism and family. The EEQL community project would never have been formed and succeeded without Anna's dedication and vision.

## **Salama Mohamud, Youth Leader of the Year**

**Nominee**, is 19 years old. She graduated from South High with a 3.5 grade point average and currently works part-time for Bottineau Park while she attends Normandale College. She has been accepted at Augsburg College for the spring semester. Last spring, Salama noticed that there were many activities for boys at the park but few for the girls. Salama set up a girls only gym time and recruited lots of girls to come to the park to learn how to play basketball and to have time to make friends. That pilot project proved so successful that this April it will become part of the regular Bottineau Park activities schedule. For these reasons and many others Salama is a fine example of youth leadership.



Salama Mohamud with Jacob Frey

# I-94 UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS

COMING SPRING OF 2017

Interstate I-94 between Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis and Shingle Creek Parkway in Brooklyn Center is getting some much needed attention.

This highway corridor averages more than 140,000 vehicles in daily traffic. The past 35 years of heavy traffic, coupled with our tough Minnesota climate, has significantly deteriorated the road. Improvements are planned for 2017. The construction will prolong the life of the pavement and repair 50 bridges on the road.

This work will affect the community so the Minnesota Department of Transportation wants you, your neighbors and anyone else who travels this section of I-94 to know about the work before it starts.



## POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- ♦ Local residents, motorists, transit users, bicyclists and pedestrians
- ♦ Involves lane restrictions and/or closures that include reducing I-94 to 2 lanes north of Highway 55 each way and closing one side of Lowry tunnel
- ♦ Requires entrance and exit ramps to be temporarily closed

## EXPECTED BENEFITS

- ♦ Prolongs the life of the pavement on I-94
- ♦ Provides for a smoother road
- ♦ Improves safety and accessibility

## STAY INFORMED

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