

VOLUME

3

JUNE 20 2024



COPAL NEWS

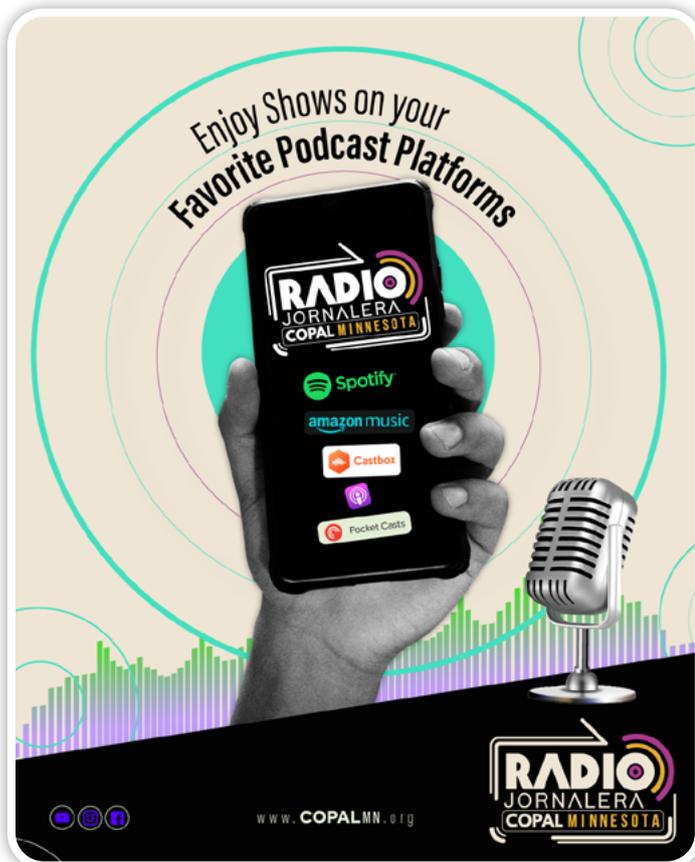


NUMBER 6

Hello community,

Welcome to June! We're thrilled to kick off another month with all of you, our fantastic community members. Grab your favorite beverage, settle in, and let's dive into the latest updates.

We're excited to share some thrilling news with all of you! Our Radio Jornalera MN shows, which you can tune in live 24/7 on radiojornaleramn.org, are now available as podcasts. This medium allows us to connect and share stories, news, and conversations relevant to our community more broadly. From interviews with community leaders to discussions on important topics, our Radio Jornalera MN podcast is a window to explore and celebrate the diversity and vibrancy of our community. Tune in on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Cast Box](#), and [Pocket Casts](#).



In the Spotlight with COPAL!

- [Spanish-language tests spiked since passage of Driver's License for All law](#)
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- [Local movement pushing for temporary protected status for Ecuadorians gains momentum](#)



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Southern Minnesota Rochester, Minnesota



The COPAL team cuts the inaugural ribbon at the opening of the Rochester office

Historic Inauguration in Rochester!

May 18 marked a significant milestone for COPAL MN with the opening of our new office in the city of Rochester. On a day filled with excitement and celebration, members of the community, local elected officials, and community leaders came together to welcome this new chapter in our history. With around 50 attendees, we enjoyed delicious food, live music, and words from COPAL members, staff, and elected officials Representative Kim Hicks and Senator Liz Boldon. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests had the opportunity to explore our office and learn more about the programs and resources we offer for families in Southeast Minnesota. This inauguration marks another step in our mission to ensure that Latines in Greater Minnesota have access to the tools and resources available in the metropolitan area so that they can lead dignified lives.

Success in the Driver's Manual Study Program

In another notable achievement, we are pleased to report that the first group of the Driver's Manual Study Program, organized at our COPAL MN Southeast Initiative office, has concluded with excellent results. Two of our participants successfully passed the knowledge exam! We highlight the incredible success of one of our students, who, after four previous unsuccessful attempts, finally managed to pass the exam thanks to the help and support provided during our classes. Their story is an inspiring testament to perseverance and determination. Congratulations to everyone involved in this achievement!





Mankato, Minnesota

The team at the Mankato office continues to work diligently on health and wellness programs, growing both as a team and as a community. One of our standout projects is the Driver's Manual study program, aimed at preparing the community to take the knowledge exam and obtain a Minnesota driver's license. Additionally, we are organizing various community events, including the back-to-school program in Watonwan County and Greater Mankato. Learn more by calling our navigators hotline at **612-249-8736**



Our team working alongside the community.

We are thrilled to share a success story with you! Recently, we welcomed a family of three who had just arrived in our country and needed assistance with housing services. Our team successfully connected them with resources for children, furniture for their home, and enrollment in public schools, thanks to the collaboration of our community partners. We are overjoyed by this news!

We extend our gratitude to you for helping to make our vision a reality! If you haven't yet, join the [South Central Committee](#) and contribute to the creation of an inclusive community for all. Your participation truly matters!





Primero de Mayo Workers' Center

This May was full of action and achievements for us:

- We participated in the May Day March in Washington DC, advocating for labor rights.
- We celebrated the third anniversary of our Workers' Center, highlighting our ongoing commitment to labor justice.
- We awarded certificates to graduates of computer and citizenship courses to our last cohort of students.
- We donated five computers to residents of Hennepin County, expanding their access to technology.
- We helped pass resolutions in three Minnesota cities in favor of TPS for Ecuador, urging the federal government to act now for immigrant rights.
- We presented at Columbia Heights School, providing vital information on Driver's Licenses for All.
- We started citizenship and tablet classes for seniors, with 100 people passing the exams.
- Three people obtained their GED!
- We created a scholarship for young Latines and offered a workshop on FAFSA to break down the financial aid process.

 [LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIMERO DE MAYO WORKERS' CENTER HERE](#)

Health and Wellness

Our commitment to health remains a priority. We are proud to report that we are working diligently to ensure that Latine Minnesotans receive the updated dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, we are providing vital information on preventive health, focusing on chronic diseases, healthy lifestyles, and mental health.

Our Health and Wellness team remains dedicated to ensuring Latines have access to vaccination, community health classes, and other resources. Last month, we facilitated conversations such as "Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress" and "The Connection Between Mind and Body" with Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, which were well-received by the community. Additionally, we collaborated with Neighborhood HealthSource, engaging in approximately 130 conversations with community members.





We want to express our sincere gratitude to all our collaborators and partners, including the MDH, Assumption Church, Folwell School, and many others. Without their support and collaboration, we could not have achieved as much in our commitment to improving the quality of life of our Latino community in Minnesota.

What is coming?



**VACCINATION
EVENT**

**CONSULADO
DE ECUADOR**
2310 Central Ave NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55418

JUNIO 24
9 A.M. A 1 P.M.

We look forward to your presence and participation in this important community initiative!

Environmental Justice

May brought fantastic outdoor events: Fishing and Tennis Fun!

Last month, more than 20 families came together with COPAL for some outdoor fun under the sun, where we not only enjoyed the activities but also picked up new skills. It was a day filled with gratitude!

First, we teamed up with Baztec and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization for an exciting fishing day at Boom Island Park. Participants not only learned the importance of keeping the Mississippi River clean but also pitched in to collect trash around Boom Island, ensuring it stayed out of the river. With bilingual fishing experts on hand, everyone had a chance to learn how to fish and cast their lines into the Mississippi River. Second, we partnered with USTA Northern for a Tennis Pop-Up event at Augsburg Park in Richfield. It was a fantastic opportunity for families, regardless of their skill level, to come out and enjoy a game of tennis.

If you want to be informed about our next outdoor event, sign up to receive [COPAL's Monthly EJ Newsletter!](#)



NEWSLETTER

Environmental Justice

COPAL NEWS





Organizing

Passed new housing laws!

Excellent news! Two key housing bills have been approved by both chambers in the Minnesota Legislature and now await the governor's signature. These new laws will protect tenants' rights and expand housing access for ITIN holders, thanks to the tireless efforts of community members, leaders, and organizations.



We also, are excited to share with you that we passed 3 city resolutions in support of national TPS for Ecuador:

Minnesota city councils back TPS for Ecuador! Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Columbia Heights urge federal protection for Ecuadorians in the U.S. We continue to work for our Ecuadorian community.

And now, we're excited to invite you to our annual Family Day! Join us to celebrate our victories and connect with community, while enjoying a day filled with entertainment for the whole family, with activities, live music, food, and much more. We look forward to seeing you!

COPAL
Family Day
Come celebrate with us!

22 JUN 2024
11AM-3PM

Longfellow Park
3435 36th Ave S,
Minneapolis, MN 55406

[Register here](#)



Interested in becoming a member and taking leadership for social change?
Become a member here!





The Latino Center for Community Engagement (LCCE) still needs your help!

The joyful echoes of our festival on April 10th still resonate, signifying a significant milestone in the construction of the Latino Center for Community Engagement (LCCE). We express our appreciation to all who supported this endeavor. Our aim is to construct a center that will support the entire community, providing essential resources for families to have a better future. Funding from the Margaret A Cargill Fund of St. Paul, Minnesota Foundation, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) facilitated the demolition of the building, a crucial step towards realizing our goals. You can read more [here](#).

Will you join us in making a positive impact on our community? [Donate here](#).

With your donation, we can continue our mission to provide essential services and opportunities for a brighter future. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference.



We at COPAL can do this work thanks to your support.



Make a donation to increase opportunities and foster a dignified life for Latinos in Minnesota!



Mental Health Resources

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact the MN Mental Health Crisis Line:



****CRISIS or **274747**

Dial from your cell phone and you will be connected to your county crisis team.

Please see the following summary of mental health, general health and dental services compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health for the lowest cost or at scale. Look at the column that specifies if they have interpreters or people who speak Spanish.

Low-cost healthcare resources



If you liked this newsletter, share it so others can read it!



COPAL

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Established in 2018, COPAL is a member-based organization leading social impact initiatives to improve the quality of life for Latine families and communities. COPAL advocates for a legislative agenda and mobilizes the Latine community to take action on issues that impact their lives such as health care for all, dignity for workers, environmental justice, popular democracy, immigration and public safety, and education for all by building collective power, transforming systems, and creating opportunities for a dignified life. COPAL envisions a future where the Latine community thrives and is fully empowered to lead significant change in their communities and beyond.