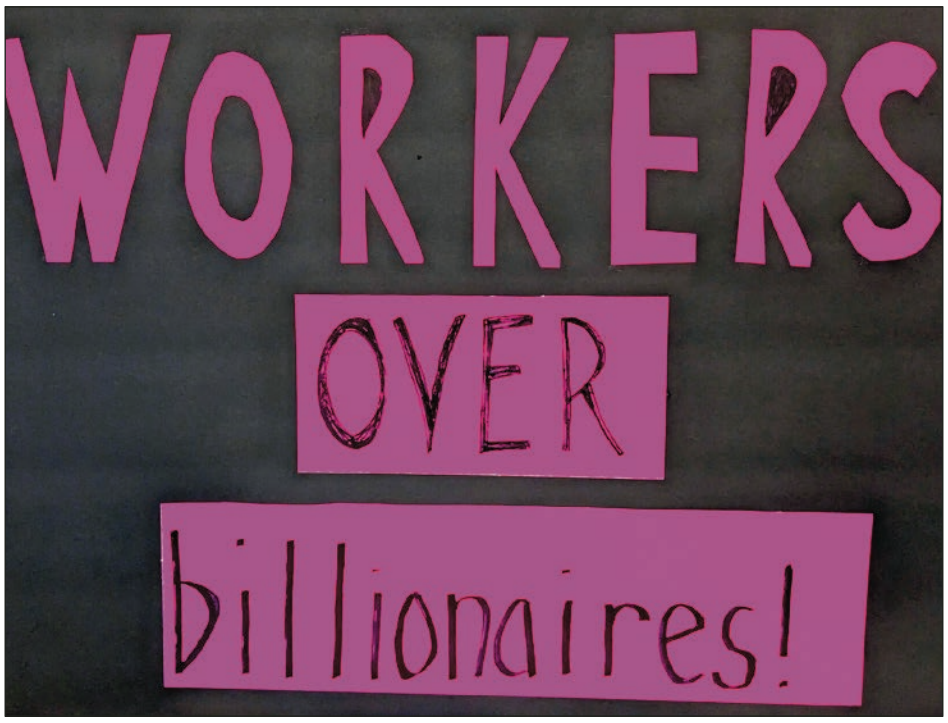




(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

LEFT: Barbara Brooks, left, and Monique LaCroix pose with their homemade signs at the "Workers Over Billionaires" protest Sept. 1 in Minnetonka. **RIGHT:** Monique LaCroix's homemade sign for the "Workers Over Billionaires" protest on Sept. 1.

Over 400 people in attendance at Labor Day protest in Minnetonka

'Workers Over Billionaires' mass-mobilization took place Sept. 1

NATALIE TRIMBLE
natalie.trimble@apgecm.com

Protesters gathered at the intersection of Highway 7 and County Road 101 in Minnetonka on Labor Day to call for fully funded schools, universal health care, workers' rights and protections for immigrant and minority communities as part of a nationwide "Workers Over Billionaires" movement.

The May Day Strong Coalition organized over 1,000 events nationwide. The protest aimed to defend the rights of the working class and to "reject the billionaire takeover of government," according to the organization's media advisory.

Karl Bunday, Dave Olson and Julie Cole–members of the 501©(4) social welfare organization, Indivisible MN03–led the Minnetonka Labor Day protest.

Topics of key importance to event coordinators and protesters include fully funded schools; universal access to health care; defending workers' rights and stopping attacks on immigrant families and Black and brown communities.

"The current administration does motivate me to want the people in general to be represented and not just have a government for the billionaires," Bunday said.

Bunday explained that the Minnetonka protest was formatted like an open-house, where attendees could come and go as they pleased to best fit with their individual schedules. Some stayed the whole two hours while others came and went halfway through the demonstration.

Monique LaCroix was one of the people in attendance at the Minnetonka event. She felt the urge to participate as a way to express her concerns with the current administration and the lack of consideration for the working class.

LaCroix said the responses from passersby were mostly positive and that the simple, straightforward manner of the protest allowed attendees to have thorough conversations about each other's concerns and values.

"There are a lot of conversations. You meet a lot of people and people are talking about the issues that are important to them," LaCroix said. "Part of it is just being around other people that share your values. It's very inspiring and it's uplifting and it fills your cup up."

A "Workers Over Billionaires" protest was also held at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport on Labor Day.

Bunday and his fellow Indivisible MN03 members regularly host protests at the Highway 7 and County Road 101 intersection in Minnetonka, including a weekly protest every Wednesday. May Day Strong will be organizing another mass-mobilization protest on Oct. 18 that will be addressing similar concerns.

Fall State Fair Special



Cabinetpak Kitchens

Family Owned Since 1965

Save $1500.00 on Refacing project or Save $2500.00 on New Cabinet projects Offer valid through October 31st 2025



Your Full Service Kitchen Remodeler

- Complete New Kitchen Design Projects
- Cabinet Replacement Projectsw
- Cabinet Refacing Projects

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Call today to schedule your free estimate
952-854-5118

CABINETPAK KITCHENS Since 1965

Visit Our Showroom!
7843 12th Avenue South Bloomington, MN 55425
Phone: 952-854-5118 • Fax: 952-854-3004
www.cabinetpakkitchens.com