

Community REPORTER

SERVING WEST END NEIGHBORHOODS, DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL TO FORT SNELLING, SINCE 1970



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MELVIN CARTER



MIKI FROST



DINO GUERIN



BILL HOSKO



DORA JONES-ROBINSON



PAUL LANGENFELD



ABU NAYEEM

Meet St. Paul's Mayoral Candidates

Rank-choice race is in full swing, early voting is open

St. Paul's ranked-choice mayoral race is in full swing with eight candidates vying for the seat, including incumbent Mayor Melvin Carter. Already, St. Paulites have been casting early votes as of Sept. 17, either in person or by mail. As the Nov. 2 election day approaches, here's a brief look at those aiming to fill the mayoral seat for the next four years. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

For voting information, including voter registration, polling locations and information about St. Paul School Board candidates who will also be on the ballot, visit: sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/

**Denotes submitted biography. Submitted responses may have been edited for brevity and/or clarity.*

Melvin Carter*

I am the son of a retired Saint Paul police officer and a former teacher who now serves as Ramsey County Board Chair. I am a fifth generation St. Paul resident, a proud graduate of our local public schools and am a parent raising children in our city.

As the mayor of Saint Paul, I have sought to ensure that opportunity exists for everyone in this city, with an unapologetic focus on equity. We have raised the minimum wage, eliminated library late fines, provided over \$4 million to families and businesses struggling through the pandemic and prioritized housing investments. We launched CollegeBound Saint Paul to start every child born in St. Paul with \$50 in college savings, our People's Prosperity Guaranteed Income Pilot Program and most recently the Office of Financial Empowerment.

We have revolutionized the way we govern from city hall by engaging our community members in the policy-making process, from community hiring panels to select cabinet members, to public processes guiding our approach on everything from budgeting to public safety. Throughout it all, my administration has landed spending under budget each year, grown our emergency reserves and improved our city's credit rating.

I am seeking reelection because as we emerge from the pandemic, we will enter one of the most prolific phases of economic expansion in our city's history. Our campaign—which we are calling “Run Saint Paul”—is about channeling the spirit of engagement in our city that afforded us incredible

progressive victories during my first term so that we can meet this moment of opportunity with big vision and ensure that our city's path forward is shaped by those who call it home.

There's plenty of work yet to be done: driving safer neighborhood outcomes through our Community First Public Safety framework; housing and job development to meet the demands of our growing population and investing to ensure that every family in our community can access the greater prosperity our city has to offer.

I know the best is yet to come for St. Paul. Building a city that works for us all means we all must do the work, and I am determined to continue working to achieve the bold visions we have for our community.

Miki Frost

A St. Paul native, Frost grew up in the Frogtown neighborhood. On his campaign website, Frost is described as having decided to run for mayor after recounting a childhood desire to play football on a well-kept field. Now, Frost observed, that field exists, but it does so with a fence and lock surrounding it, “locking away opportunities for neighborhood youth,” his website describes.

Frost was raised attending Shiloh Baptist and St. Peter Claver church services. He is the middle child and attended J.J. Hill, Murray Junior High, and Central and Highland Park High School.

In 2019, Frost opened the nonprofit 8218 Truce Center on the corner of Selby and Lexington in St. Paul. The organization seeks to empower youth

to make positive choices in the face of violent crime. The Truce center aims to provide youth with effective communication skills to resolve conflict peacefully and provides children “an opportunity to belong to something positive.”

Frost has five children. His fiancé, Stefanie, was born and raised in St. Paul.

Dino Guerin*

Dino Guerin is a lifelong Saint Paul resident and a longtime St. Paul firefighter, rising to the rank of district chief. Dino currently works at the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office as an investigative assistant. He has been the department's lead person on COVID-19 preparedness efforts. Guerin has served the citizens of St. Paul for over 30 years. He was elected to serve three terms on the Saint Paul City Council in the 1990s. He was then elected to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, representing Saint Paul's East Side. As a resident, firefighter and elected official, Guerin has established himself as a leader in public safety, partnerships and community engagement.

Positions on the following policies:

Public Safety: Advocate proper staffing levels for public safety based on the needs of our citizens. Increase police officers on the street to combat crime and protect citizens.

Economic Development: Let businesses run their own business. It's in their best interest to provide competitive wages and working conditions. Let the

CANDIDATES, PG 6

COUNTY PERSPECTIVES

Ramsey County's big new priority: hunger



RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5 RAFAEL ORTEGA columnist

Ramsey County, in response to COVID-19 in 2020, took on a big new priority: addressing hunger. The federal government allocated \$10 million in CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funding, and we created the Food Security Committee. I chaired the committee, and we included elected officials throughout Ramsey County and included city councilmembers, school board members and staff who worked directly with people in need of food. Funds were used not only to enhance the operations of organizations working in this area, but also to expand services, and we looked very carefully to find the holes in our existing structure.

We were faced with the immediate need to feed school kids who relied on meals at school and families with COVID who didn't have extended family or money to pay for food delivery, but as we looked at the issues, it was clear that there are serious longer-term needs.

We supported three priority areas: Home-based meal delivery; Food shelves and basic needs; and School meals for youth.

Over 500,000 home-delivered meals were provided to those impacted by COVID-19 (which the

HUNGER, PG 3

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS: 1971-2021

Another look back: News from the 1990s

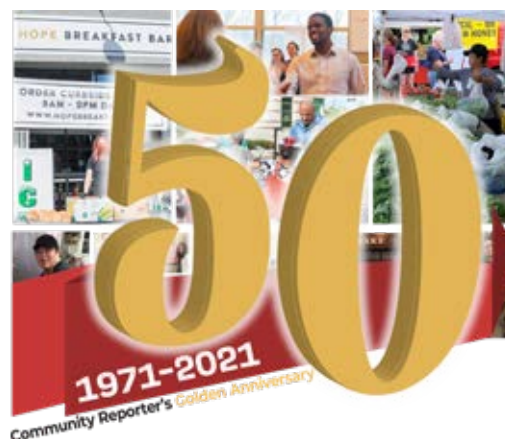
Editor's Note: In the last several issues of the *Community Reporter*, we've looked back at events that shaped St. Paul's West End over the last 50 years. This is not purely an exercise in nostalgia. We're still feeling the repercussions of decisions that were made and events that took place long in the past. Today we'll look at some of the major stories that the *Community Reporter* covered in the 1990s. But don't worry, we'll enjoy a little nostalgia too.

BY PAUL BARD

1990 looks back at 1890

The *Community Reporter* began the new decade with a “Century in Review” souvenir edition of the paper. Editors looked back at the St. Paul city directory of 1890 and found that a century earlier the West End had been home to five breweries, two stockyards, three wagon factories, six dressmakers, seven blacksmiths and five cigar manufacturers—plus 28 grocery stores and 33 saloons. By the year 1990, we were down to only one brewery, eight grocery stores and 10 saloons. It's nice to note, however, that in 2021 we're back up to four breweries (Bad Weather, Waldmann, Clutch and Vine Park). No blacksmiths have returned as of yet. But there have been iron pours at the Schmidt Artist Lofts, so blacksmiths may not be far behind.

Riverview Corridor LRT planning begins
 Yes, planning for the Riverview Corridor



began back in the 1990s, with headlines in the *Community Reporter* of July 1999 reading “Will Light Rail Come to West Seventh?” and “Transit Options for West Seventh.” Calls for public input then were nearly identical to the calls we're hearing today. Yet we appear not much closer to a final resolution. Will the powers that be still be seeking public input 20 years hence? Stay tuned.

Schmidt Brewery changes hands

In the early '90s, union workers at the Schmidt Brewery had a number of disputes with brewery owner G. Heileman & Co. of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The brewery closed briefly in 1990. But before the year was out, a *Community*

Reporter headline announced, “Investors to Revitalize Schmidt Plant.” In November 1991, a front-page story celebrated Minnesota Brewing Company taking over the brewery. Minnesota Brewing replaced the neon Schmidt sign with one that advertised its Landmark brand and the first kegs of Landmark beer rolled out of the plant in January, 1992.

Houses saved and lost, new houses built

The Fort Road Federation took the lead on a number of rehabilitation projects to save homes in the neighborhood from demolition. The *Community Reporter* spotlighted rehab projects at 295 Sturgis St. and 405 Goodrich Ave. in 1990, and at 365 Michigan St. in 1993. The July, 1996 issue featured homes that were being rehabbed at 404 Daly St. and 785 Armstrong Ave.

Sadly, there were also significant losses to the neighborhood's architectural legacy. The Mannheimer House at 270 West 7th. was a grand, three-story brick mansion with a mansard roof similar to the nearby Ramsey House. The Mannheimer House was demolished for a parking lot in 1999. Other houses lost over the decade included an 1871 house on Dousman St. in 1991 and a pre-Civil War house at 463 Osceola St. in 1993.

New housing construction in the '90s included townhouses for the “Brewery Breakthrough” development between Duke and

THE '90S, PG 3



FEDERATION UPDATE



fortroadfederation.org

At the September meeting, the board approved the following:

- Annie Reiersen to fill the Area 2 Coordinator vacancy for the remainder of the term
- Travis Temke, owner of A-Side Public House, extension of liquor license to the parking lot for a one-day event in October, sponsoring sound level variance
- Two recommendations of the Transportation and Land Use Committee to support of solar on Saint Paul Public Schools and request a study of reducing the number of lanes on West 7th (Goodhue to Kellogg) from four lanes to three to make the road safer. Similar lane reductions (called "road diets") have reduced fatalities, crashes and speeding.

Visit us Oct. 8, 6-8pm at Keg and Case Plaza to hear musician and Federation board member Mary Cutrufello. While you're there, chat with a Federation volunteer, buy a "West 7th Believes" yard sign, and learn about rent stabilization.

Upcoming Meetings, via Zoom
Info: fortroadfederation.org/calendar

- **Transportation & Land Use Committee**, Wed, 10/6, 6:30 pm
- **Board Meeting** Mon, 10/11, 7 pm
- **Community Engagement and Outreach Committee** - Thu, 10/21, 6:30 pm

Stay in touch
"Like" us on Facebook. Subscribe to its e-newsletter fortroadfederation.org.

Contact
Emily Northey, executive director,
651-298-5599; emily@fortroadfederation.org; 882 West 7th, Suite 6, Rathskeller Building.

Editorials & Opinions

The letters, opinions, and editorials expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors of this newspaper or any of our advertisers or sponsors.

Your involvement is requested

As a nonprofit organization we are governed by a Board of Directors, and we have openings for community members to join. We encourage your involvement in the creative side of things. We have correspondents, reporters, reviewers and general writers involved. You can write a letter to the editor on a topic we have written about, or in response to one of our columnists, or a

longer "Neighbors Speak Out" piece.

You can also contribute story ideas: We aim to cover a wide range of interesting areas in the neighborhood. Your ideas for stories and topics are always welcome. Discuss the many possibilities with the editor at editor@communityreporter.org.

-- Casey Ek, Editor, *Community Reporter*



WEST END HEALTHLINE

Humanism in Medicine

BY HIMANSHU SHARMA, MD

Sometimes in medicine it is easy to get caught up in lab numbers and current practice guidelines. I learned early in my career, however, that patients are so much more than the test results. My wonderful mentor, who passed away many years ago, taught me to "Get to know your patients as human beings, not just someone with medical issues. That's what medicine is about." This advice reminds me of a scene in the movie "Patch Adams" when rounding with senior staff, Adams was told "Doc, in room 304, patient is here with heart failure, diabetes, high blood pressure and now has pneumonia." He then replied, "Do you know what his name is?" The importance of seeing patients as humans first and foremost seems more important as I continue to practice and teach medicine.

This reminds me of a patient of mine, Mr. P. He came to see me for a Medicare wellness visit. My rooming staff ran his vitals, discussed updating his labs and colonoscopy and then relayed this

information to me before seeing Mr. P. Despite this thorough care, the rooming staff got so caught up in completing the assigned tasks that they never collected the most important pieces of information. I remember asking "How is he doing?" and the rooming staff replied, "Quite good, I think." As I entered the room, however, I could sense that something was wrong.

I had known Mr. P for the past 15 years and could sense when he was not doing well. I knew that following the Medicare wellness visit protocol was not what Mr. P needed, so I asked how he and his family were doing. "Doc, you still ask these questions every time. No one else does," Mr. P said. I replied, "We are fellow human beings first and foremost." Mr. P asked if he had to complete the Medicare wellness visit as the rooming staff suggested, and I reassured him that this was not necessary. "Doc, my sister passed away suddenly three days ago. She was very active. She was diagnosed with COVID. She died three days ago. I could not see her in the hospital due to COVID policies. I was able to talk to her

on video call. Thank God my grandson knew how to do that. At least, I was able to say goodbye. Also, she did not suffer at all. She never wanted to have a breathing tube and never wanted to be resuscitated," he said.

For the rest of the visit, we forgot about colonoscopies, lab tests and blood pressures and simply shared her memories and talked about her. He was working on funeral plans. We focused on what Mr. P needed at that time, which was to process the loss of his sister and how to continue to move forward. Despite the wonders of modern medicine, we still do not have a lab test that can tell us how a person is doing emotionally. Even as technology and science continue to advance, nothing can replace having someone listening to another's concerns. Although so much has changed, one thing remains the same: We are all human beings first and foremost. On this day, Mr. P did not complete a Medicare wellness visit. Instead, he got something much more meaningful: a Mr. P wellness visit.

To schedule an appointment to see Dr. Sharma, call 651-241-5200.

It's Time for a Flu Shot

BY TIM RUMSEY, MD

October to May, every year, is influenza time. Even in this era of COVID-19, we need our flu shots.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends everyone 6 months or older get vaccinated each flu season. Children, 6 months through 8 years may need two doses during a single flu season because of a less mature immune system. Everyone else only needs one dose per year.

The CDC estimates that death due to regular flu in a seven-month span (October 2019 to April 2020) was greater than 24,000 individuals. On the other hand, in the year 2020 there were 689,000 deaths due to COVID-19.

The following are frequently asked questions flu shots in general:

What if I got a flu shot last year? Good point. Each year, a new flu vaccine is made to protect against the most likely influenza virus believed to cause an illness in the upcoming flu season.

Does the flu shot cause the flu? No. The flu shot does not contain a live virus, meaning it cannot cause an illness. However, many patients swear they've gotten the flu from being vaccinated. Likely these folks were recently exposed to the flu prior to being vaccinated and suffered the actual illness, not a secondary reaction to the shot. It is true that for some people, flu-like symptoms can be a side effect.

Can/Should pregnant women get a flu shot? Yes. It is safe anytime during pregnancy for both mother and baby.

How effective is the flu shot? The CDC cites a recent study showing



the vaccination reduces flu illness by 40-60% in overall population.

Can flu shots be given with other shots? Yes. Even the COVID-19 vaccine. Your provider should advise you on the matter.

Why do we need a flu shot at all? Flu shots prevent risks for oneself or others from flu-related complications like pneumonia, bronchitis, worsening asthma, ear infections and even death.

Are flu shots mandatory in Minnesota? No, Minnesota officials do not require flu shots, but some employers may require it for workers in health care or public safety positions.

How risky is a flu shot? Most common side effects are soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site. Fever, muscle aches and headaches can also occur. There is a very small risk of Guillian-Barré syndrome (GBS) after a flu shot. As with any injected medicine, there is a very rare chance of serious allergic

reactions or death.

Are there reasons to not get a flu shot? If someone has a current illness and fever over 100 degrees, they should wait to get vaccinated. If there was a previous reaction to a flu shot that included lips swelling, difficulty breathing or hives on the body, the patient should not get the vaccine at all.

Is there a lab test for the flu? Yes. Clinics or hospitals can do a nasal swab (not as uncomfortable as the COVID-19 swab.) Results are available within a short time span.

Where can I get the flu shot and how much does it cost? Drug stores, private pharmacies or any healthcare clinic should carry the vaccine. The cost is covered by insurance; if someone does not have insurance, they are free at community clinics, including Minnesota Community Cares, Open Cities and United Family Medicine.

How can I prevent flu illness? Influenza is air-borne so the preventive measures are similar those adopted during COVID-19: frequent hand washing; cover nose and mouth when coughing, use a prescription medicine when symptoms begin (Oseltamir) and Get a Flu Shot.

You can do it. We can do it. We can help each other. Get the flu shot. It's available now. More information about influenza available at: mdh.flu or cdc.flu.

Dr. Tim Rumsey is a physician emeritus at Allina United Family Physicians. He can be reached at 651-241-5200

BUILDING AN ANTIRACIST COMMUNITY



TIM JOHNSON
columnist

Let your voice be heard

You never know when people might listen to your voice. Often, the teenage boys in my charge ignored whatever it was I had to say. The group home that hired me as a childcare worker was begun by well-intended members of a Saint Paul congregation who believed that showing love to troubled youth would

be sufficient to help them get their lives turned in the right direction. Unfortunately, many of the teenage boys with whom we worked had little trust in adults, much less love. Without question they needed people who truly cared, but they also needed guidance, dependability, structure and accountability. On most days they treated our kindness and inexperience as an opportunity to do whatever they wished regardless of what we said.

The building where the boys lived together was the former church building for the people who founded the group home. From the outside it looked like a church, including a steep roof line and a bell tower at one end. It had never occurred to me that I needed to tell the boys to stay off the roof, but had I done so, more likely than not, they would have treated it like most other admonitions as optional. When I stepped out of the building, looked up and saw six teenage boys traversing the steep roof line on their way to the bell tower. I had little reason to believe they would heed my voice. It was exceedingly dangerous, but there was nothing I could do to get them down other than to use the most authoritative tone I could muster and tell them to get off of that roof "Now!". One thing I did know was that silence was not an option.

To my surprise, all six of those boys did exactly what they were told, turning on a dime, without argument or complaint, slowly and carefully returning to the safety of the ground. It is a fair assumption that each of them

VOICE, PG 7

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Community News & Events



Class of '59 throws itself a birthday party

Members of the St. Paul Central High School class of 1959 threw themselves an 80th birthday party on Sept. 23 at the CSPS Hall. Nearly all the class was born in 1941, so class organizers thought to throw a joint party. About 35% of the class of 540 have passed away, and 81 classmates, along with spouses and guests were expected to attend. The class has celebrated five-year reunions since 1964 and celebrated its 60-year reunion in 2019. The class threw itself a 50th birthday party in 1991.

Federation director resigns

Emily Northey, who served as the executive director of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation for the last four years, resigned at the end of last month. In an email to community members, Northey said she did so to pursue work with her husband's business. "While there are more projects and efforts that I would have liked to shepherd through, the opportunity's window was small," Northey wrote. "I am thankful for the community's welcoming of me and for the opportunity to aid in the evolution of the organization to where it is today. The work has been very rewarding to me both personally

and professionally." The Federation is now in the hunt for Northey's replacement, and the job posting can be found online at www.fortroadfederation.org/workforum.

Learn to square dance

Dakota Squares and AR-Dale Dancers are offering weekly classes at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St., with a free class Oct. 4. Classes run from 6:15 to 8 p.m. Additional classes for those 18 and older are \$5 each. For those 18 and under classes are free. Attendees can learn from professional caller Larry Fruetel. Call John and Rose at 651-225-9709 or Andy and Beth at 763-442-1673.

THE '90S, PG2

Colborne streets, south of Jefferson Avenue. The "Superior Street Cottages" were built on the former site of Holm & Olson Florists at the intersection of Erie and Superior streets.

Tank farms make way for housing and green space

The Texaco/Mobil/Koch tank farm dominated the landscape between West 7th and Shepard Road near Otto Avenue for decades. They symbolized the industrial nature of the riverfront in St. Paul. The tops of those enormous cylindrical tanks could be seen as motorists made the turn from West 7th onto 35 E and the Lexington Bridge. The tanks were demolished in 1994 and planning for reuse of the land began at the same time, as did planning for the rerouting and rebuilding of Shepard Road. The first proposals for housing

at the tank farm site were discussed in the *Community Reporter* in Nov. 1996.

Hollywood visits the West End

A Hollywood production company visited in 1995, bringing stars Keanu Reeves and Dan Aykroyd, among many others to the neighborhood. The headline "Feeling Minnesota Is Being Filmed in Uppertown" appeared on the front page of the *Community Reporter* in May 1995. Shooting took place along the railroad tracks below Irvine Park, and at a house on Goodrich Ave and Leech St.

Neighborhood historian Jim Sazevich recalled meeting the stars during a recent architectural tour. He reported, happily, that Keanu Reeves lived up to his reputation as one of the nicest people in Hollywood and Dan Aykroyd proved to be every bit the inspired comic that we know from his years on Saturday Night Live. Movie critic Leonard Maltin gives

DHS Awards \$250,000 to MN organization

The Dept. of Homeland Security awarded the International Institute of Minnesota just under \$250,000 as part of a 2021 grant aimed at citizenship integration. The funding will allow the Minnesota organization alongside Rochester Public Schools to assist families in the process of naturalizing with literacy, language and citizenship services.

Keystone's keys to success

Join Keystone Community Services event at Allianz Field Oct. 7, 5:30-8:30pm. The event is the organization's annual fundraiser and will include games and prizes, a dinner and will feature stories from the community. Keystone has a detailed COVID-19 safety plan, which includes the requirement for all guests to show proof of vaccination or a negative test. For more info, visit keystoneservices.org. The event comes as the organization is in the midst of a campaign to build a new, consolidated food shelf.

Fare for All at West 7th Community Center

After many months of drive-through events, Fare for All is returning to their original model. The event will be held in the gym at the community center, and masks will be required. Stop by Oct. 15, 10 am-12pm to purchase low-cost and delicious food packages.

Halloween Fun returns to Landmark Center

Have some in-person spooky fun, without the fright, at the kid friendly Great Pumpkin Halloween Festival Oct. 24, 1-3pm. Free event is meant for costume-clad attendees of all ages and features a kids DJ, crafts, treats, and a costume parade. On Oct. 28, 6-9pm adults and older kids can enjoy a gangster ghost tour. Groups are guided through the halls of Landmark Center, stopping to hear from ghosts, such as Police Chief "Big Tom" Brown, Alvin "Creepy" Karpis, and Ma Barker. Tickets are \$10, and space is limited. Reservations are required and buy online or call 651-292-3063.

Feeling Minnesota only two stars. But that doesn't diminish the fun of seeing familiar streets in the background of a major film.

Looking back and looking ahead

It's impossible to summarize the events of 10 years (and 120 issues of *Community Reporter*) in only a few paragraphs. But we hope that looking back provides a helpful perspective as we look ahead to the 2020s and beyond. One thing is certain. Community involvement by the Fort Road Federation and other local community groups really does matter. And we hope that the *Community Reporter* has played a useful role in getting the word out.

Paul Bard is a lifelong St. Paulite. He has served on the board of the Community Reporter since 2017.



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HUNGER, PG 1

county continued through April 2021); food shelf and food programs were supported to purchase culturally appropriate foods and to support infrastructure like staff and supplies; and funding allowed youth-serving organizations to be nimble in response. This also proved to be a great way to support small restaurants that struggled during the first year of the COVID-19 crisis.

As a direct result of this work, we at Ramsey County created a new position to continue food security work. Carissa Glatt is serving in this role and is assessing what our food needs are. Additionally, she is interviewing health care providers, food shelves and schools to learn the role of the county in working toward food security now and

envisioning our role in the future.

Based on preliminary input, we may do more to support food shelves and expand urban agriculture, as well as coordinate communication for SNAP, WIC and other county benefits (since accessing one area of benefits can lead to better food access).

I want to thank all the community members and organizations that supported the food work in response to COVID-19. If you have input or would like more information, please contact carissa.glatt@co.ramsey.mn.us or sign up for Ramsey County Food Security information: https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNRAMSEY/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNRAMSEY_501



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Sundays at Landmark

Oct. 12, 12-1 pm: Ballet Tuesday
Join Landmark Center and Ballet Co. Laboratory for the first Ballet Tuesday of the season.

Oct. 24, 1-3 pm: Great Pumpkin Halloween Festival
Little ghosts, princesses, and superheros will show off their costumes, make Halloween crafts, and collect a few treats.

All dates are subject to change. Please check website for current COVID-19 protocols and schedule updates. Full details at landmarkcenter.org or call 651.292.3063

Sundays at Landmark is supported by: **ECOLAB** **XcelEnergy** **RAMSEY COUNTY**

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Community Nourishment

Our New Editor: A Star Arrives

BY JERRY ROTHSTEIN

Casey Ek has been named the new Editor of the *Community Reporter* after he prevailed over a very competitive group of candidates. His first issue — August-September 2021 — shows that he has hit the ground running, and we hope to enjoy his inquisitiveness, community focus and excellent writing for many years.

Casey grew up in Mankato, where his family owned several businesses in which he worked. He cooked and served at their Mexican restaurant — his father is of Mayan descent, and initially came to the U.S. as a migrant worker. Casey also learned maintenance, cleaning and painting skills in another of the family's businesses — and these have come down to the present as he now works for a local, family-owned building management company.

After graduating from Loyola Catholic School, Casey started college at the University of St. Thomas in communication and journalism. A certain restlessness saw him transfer to American University in Washington, DC, where he completed his BA in journalism, with a minor in religious studies. Looking for something new, challenging and experiential, he took a semester abroad in India at the start of his senior year, where he hoped he would have an opportunity for spiritual life “to hit me in the face.”

The rigorous program at a Buddhist monastery immersed him in meditation and mindfulness practices that he has continued to follow. He recalls, “The program, the discipline required, helped me open my eyes to who I was and how I was living my life.” The classes in India also brought some unique opportunities. They had a private audience with the Dalai Lama at his monastery in Dharamshala and met Morgan Freeman and appeared in his remarkable documentary “The Story of God.” Casey’s view of storytelling began to



Casey Ek in Mears Park

form more clearly from his experiences in India.

After graduating from American University, Casey set out on another adventure, landing an internship in Nepal as a multimedia journalist, working with Online Khabar to help launch their English-language service.

Returning to Mankato, Casey started work as a photographer for the *Mankato Free Press*, and then as reporter-writer-photographer for the *Belle Plaine Herald*, a historic family-owned newspaper founded in 1882. That experience confirmed for Casey that community news work was right for him.

In 2018, Casey and his fiancée Bridget Ireland moved to St. Paul. He continued freelance writing and photography, while she pursued her work as a pediatric occupational therapist. When he heard

about the *Community Reporter* position, it felt like something through which he could make a mark.

He loves the idea of building on the *Community Reporter's* 50-year legacy and challenging the idea that community newspapers are done for. He says, “Community newspapers have passion, not only about reporting but also about improving the communities they serve.”

He spoke about these early days with the paper: “So far, I have often been humbled by how complex a neighborhood can be, how many factors are involved in every issue. We rely on the neighborhood to tell its own story with our help.”

As we welcome Casey to our iconic neighborhood, let's also point out that the Mayan name “Ek” translates to star in English.

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Keystone names Oneida Scholarship recipient

Keystone Community Services announced Melissa Garcia as the recipient of the 2021 Oneida Scholarship Award last month. She is a senior at the College of St. Benedict studying psychology and Hispanic studies.

Melissa grew up in the West 7th neighborhood of St. Paul and attended summer programming at the West 7th Community Center with her sister throughout her childhood. When a close friend from Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) sent her the information about the Oneida Scholarship, she was excited to apply.

“College is pretty expensive, and I’m so grateful to have this scholarship to help with my tuition,” Melissa says.

Although she is currently a senior, Melissa has a few years of school yet to come, as she plans to go to graduate school to become a child psychologist. She says she loves working with children and became confident in her decision to pursue this career path while interning at the Boys and Girls Club.

“I worked with both teens and little kids, and I created nice bonds and relationships with them,” she explains.

In addition to her interest in psychology, Melissa is passionate about her Hispanic heritage. She is a strong advocate for her community and says that she is always eager to speak up and help peers learn about race and culture. She is excited to keep her culture close to her throughout her career.

“I really want to use my bilingual skills to help minorities who don’t speak English. I know there’s a lot of need in the community for mental health resources, I and want to use my skills to help those people. I’m very close with my culture,” Melissa says.

After completing her master’s degree, Melissa plans to remain in the Twin Cities to give back to the community she loves.

She says, “I’m really happy I got this scholarship, and I’m grateful that I get to further my education and hopefully make a difference in the future.”



Keystone Community Services selected Melissa Garcia as the recipient of the 2021 Oneida Scholarship Award. Garcia is a senior at the College of St. Benedict studying psychology and Hispanic studies.

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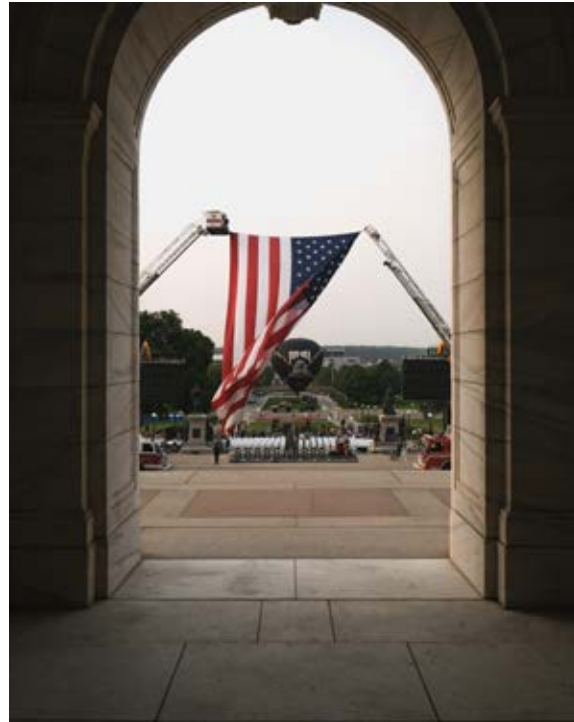
“It’s an honor to be your voice at the Minnesota Legislature.”

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In the Community



Retired Army General and St. Paul native Joseph Votel addresses the crowd at the Minnesota State Capitol on Sept. 11. (right) Shown through an archway at the Minnesota Capitol, an American flag blows in the wind on the 20th anniversary of 9/11.



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St. Paul reflects 20 years after 9/11

BY CASEY EK

The events of 9/11 20 years ago irreparably shifted the course of the world, and for a moment, according to some residents of St. Paul, the United States came together to grieve the loss of thousands of lives and the less visible loss of feelings of collective safety.

At the Minnesota Capitol, hundreds gathered on Sept. 11, 2021, to reflect on the 20 years that have passed since the terror attacks that leveled the Twin Towers and marred the Pentagon.

Attendees heard the tolling of bells in alignment with flights 11, 175, 77 and 93 crashing into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and an open field in Pennsylvania.

Michelle Byrne, who resides in downtown St. Paul, who was at work at a neighborhood organization the time of

the attacks, recalls not knowing how to respond to the immediate aftermath.

“The main thing I remember is hearing the news and really not knowing what to do,” Byrne said. “It was a different experience. Do you go grab your kids from school? Do you stop work?”

“My recollection is that before 9/11 we were not a cohesive nation either. It was that extraordinary event that brought us together when we were in sort of disparate positions,” she later added.

Mother and daughter Charlene and Ona Wilcox were among the family members of the military servicemembers who died in conflicts after 9/11 in attendance at the event. Their son and brother Spc. Carlos Wilcox with the U.S. Army, along with fellow Minnesotans Spc. Daniel Drevnick and Spc. James Wertish, was killed in Iraq in 2009.

Of the 20-year anniversary Charlene said, “I am feeling very proud. I’m not saddened. I’m feeling very proud to represent my son.”

“I think this should be a day when we remember we are all one family,” she added.

This is a sentiment Gov. Tim Walz echoed in a speech to the gathered crowd as he reflected on the country’s current political and cultural tensions. Ona, who lives in the Twin Cities, said she feels optimistic that remembering the events of 9/11 can help bring the United States back to a place of unity.

“We’ve pulled ourselves together before, and it’s time we do it again,” Ona said.

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Arts and Culture

The Schmidt Art Crawl is back

BY LARK GILMER

*Pag Schmidt Artist Lofts - "Where Art Lives"
What do artists do? They create art.
What do artists do in a pandemic? They create more art.*

Schmidt Artist Lofts will host the Saint Paul Art Crawl Oct. 15-17. This unique artist community, along with other artists and gig workers, were faced with many challenges with venues closed, events canceled and lifelines suddenly gone. Thankfully, many were given the gift of time and a temporary financial safety net. Time, patronage and talent form a renaissance. This October, the doors will reopen at The Schmidt Artist Lofts to an explosion of unleashed talent featuring two pivotal headliner art exhibitions and the exquisite work of 60 residents and guest artists.

Headliner Art Exhibitions: Oct. 10 - 30:

The Artists of Ugly Daisy Studio

Landmark Gallery

Event information: www.eventbrite.com/e/175919749707

When you cross-pollinate a flower, you never know what you're going to get except that it will be uniquely beautiful.

This exhibition features the work of three stellar accomplished artists, each with a completely different abstract style. Together, they have collaborated on paintings that are strikingly breathtaking. This show introduces you to both the individual and the collaborative



process of artists Petra Johnita Lommen, MaryBeth Garrigan and Rick Pirtle. It is rare and opus work.

Do not walk, run to see it!

Welcome to my World

Atrium Gallery

Event information: www.eventbrite.com/e/166824012111

At first glance, it may not be what it seems.

Large-scale elegant photographs adorn the atrium for the first time at the Schmidt. A natural sanctuary that comes to life with this exhibition, it is a perfect venue for large-scale works. The common thread throughout the exhibition is the challenge of perception. The images at first

glance may not be what they seem. Curiosity pulls you in to have your beliefs affirmed, your sight questioned and offers (in my own case) a release of gratitude, whether intentional or not. The images—photographic or acrylic—are the work of a passionate and skilled artist Lark Gilmer, deeply rooted in humanity with a profound connection to the land. It is a premier exhibition, an unveiling, a reveal of a gifted artist.

Featured Artists: Oct. 15 - 17

Over 60 artists will be on view throughout the Brewhouse building featuring show-stopper works by Schmidt residents like DC Ice, Brad Menninga, Stephen Poling, Sara Nogle, Carin Eckstrand, Kelly Ludeking and other invited photographers, painters, printmakers, candle makers, clay artists, textile artists, illustrators, a metalworker and more. Please note, the Bottlehouse will not be open.

The full list of artists can be found on the Schmidt Artists website: schmidtartists.com Join us at Schmidt Artist Lofts Brewhouse, 900 W. 7th Street, Saint Paul, Schmidt Art Crawl Friday, Oct. 15, 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 16, 12-8 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 17, 12-5p.m.

Tickets are free and can be reserved at www.eventbrite.com/e/168011126803

Reservations and masks are required for entry. For more information on Schmidt Art Crawl - www.schmidtartists.com For information on other events in Saint Paul Art Crawl - www.stpaulartcollective.org.

CANDIDATES, PG 1

market set the standard.

Reduce red tape to allow business to thrive. Reduce the tax burden on residents and businesses.

Public Service: All services should and will be reviewed to ensure they are of value and important to city residents. Conduct listening sessions throughout the city to determine what services are valued, wanted and needed most by citizens and business leaders.

Education: Motivate and encourage students to be the best they can be by partnering with local business leaders, athletes, religious leaders and community leaders.

Call on our adults to speak at schools, events and churches to show what can be accomplished when you apply yourself. Ensure that each student has the tools they require to be successful. Proper rest, nutrition, school supplies and a safe learning environment are crucial. Resources will be made available to aid and guide families in need.

Additional Initiatives: Promote the City as the family-friendly entertainment and work destination that it can be.

Minimize regulations when possible.

Rid the city of graffiti and litter and provide a safe and clean work and living environment.

As Mayor, I will enforce curfews for juveniles as one component of my policy to reduce crime and protect youth in our city. This will allow us to identify our youth that may need protective services, counseling or access to resources.

Bill Hosko*

I've led a full and rewarding life. I'm now 59 and have been self-employed for 30 years as an architectural artist and as a downtown gallery and frame shop owner. My artworks specialize in St. Paul—my hometown. I also have an attached intimate music venue I designed and built. I renewed my leases in 2019 for 10 years.

My attendance record was near perfect when I served on three district council boards. I excelled in getting new faces to attend meetings and to run for board and committee positions and in 'cleaning up' and untangling bylaws and to enlist term limits for board and committee chair positions. I've run for St. Paul City Council, Ward 2, five times, placing second four times.

Thousands are disappointed in how little they are getting for their increasing tax dollars and 'fees'. The massive, needless backlog in basic services like maintenance and repair work will be addressed. We will also work to install policies, via referendums if need-be, to ensure these conditions are not repeated in the future.

It's time for a change at city hall. My campaign's theme is that it's time we place St. Paul back onto a higher track again. Restoring the public's faith in city hall and reversing policies harming our quality of life are most needed, including getting crime and growing lack of accountability under

control and reversed. Restoring safety, permanently, onboard public transit will be another priority. As well, plans to bring the 'honor-system' problems of the LRT Green Line, to the planned LRT line down West 7th will be addressed.

As a non-partisan Mayor, who isn't a politician, whose had a wonderful 30-year career being a small business owner and volunteer in countless ways, I will bring back the fun, enjoyment and excitement that St. Paul once possessed. Will this require raising taxes? No.

Projects, in part, we together will work on: creating The Railroad and Riverboat Museum of Minnesota within financially failing Union Depot; bringing new life to our famous Winter Carnival, which is in real danger of moving to the fairgrounds in Falcon Heights and restoring our July 4th celebration, which united people across this city.

I've knocked on 75% of this city's doors since my campaign began Feb. 25. I intend on lit dropping the balance until election day. This work ethic will continue if I become mayor.

Dora Jones-Robinson

Dora Jones-Robinson plans to make public safety her top priority if elected mayor, according to her website. Her strategy would be to utilize the latest technologies, such as Shot Spotter and others to keep St. Paul on top of gun violence, she says.

Jones-Robinson is the founder of Guns Down St. Paul and is the executive director of Mentoring Young Adults, a nonprofit that seeks to teach young adults leadership, employment and entrepreneurial skills, among others.

Jones-Robinson worked with on Mayor Melvin Carter's campaign to get him elected but has publicly stated that she believes he is not doing enough to aid St. Paul's unhoused populations. She has also stated that Carter is not doing enough to prevent gun violence, particularly among youth of color.

Jones-Robinson was a former resident to the storied Rondo neighborhood before highway construction displaced its residents.

Paul Langenfeld*

As a native Minnesotan and proud son of a World War II veteran, Paul Langenfeld has called St. Paul his home for the past 40 years. Paul's dedication to our community runs deep. He is the founder and president of the Langenfeld Foundation (est. 2006), an organization dedicated to improving the lives of those with developmental disabilities through increased access to opportunity.

Paul holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of St. Thomas and has received many awards for his public service. Today, he remains firmly committed to the people of St. Paul and, as your next mayor, will serve as a catalyst to bring our community together and strengthen our city to create more opportunities for everyone.

Paul's campaign is about putting common sense back into municipal government. He

strongly believes that the following priorities must be focused upon for the City of St. Paul and its diverse people to thrive:

Law and Order: It's time to prioritize the freedoms of our citizens, and their businesses, over the freedom of criminals. As Mayor, Paul will work to restore law and order in our city because our community cannot economically thrive without safe streets first.

Economic Opportunity: While major employers and multinational corporations continue to weather the pandemic economy well, St. Paul's small business sector isn't as fortunate. Without a healthy, vibrant small business sector, the quality of life in our community is adversely impacted. Therefore, it is incumbent upon our city government to provide us with a safe economic environment that is conducive to restoring and growing our small businesses sector.

With a strong small business sector, the citizens of St. Paul will enjoy a vibrant local economy and increased access to good jobs. Having a stronger local economy is foundational in providing increased access to economic opportunity for everyone in our community. Paul's vision is to help build an economy in St. Paul that will work for all of us.

Infrastructure: Aging infrastructure remains a concern. It is paramount that we focus on renewing local infrastructure now given the increased national attention and funding coming from the federal government. Getting ahead on infrastructure not only helps to make our roads, bridges and walkways safer; rebuilding our infrastructure also helps to grow our economy, enhance our local competitiveness and creates good jobs.

Abu Nayeem*

My name is Abu Nayeem. I'm a programmer, data scientist and Frogtown community organizer. I have a Master of Science in agricultural a resource economics from UC Berkeley. I'm the founder and programmer of the Saint Paul Open Data Initiative. I'm the lead cleanup organizer in Frogtown and Midway. I've done some political organizing addressing the rise of catalytic converter thefts, creating a petition that received 1600 signatures, which led to a virtual town hall meeting bringing citizens and state legislators together.

My campaign is about giving voice to the disenfranchised and empowering citizens. Did you know two out of three registered voters did not vote in the last mayoral election? Disenfranchised citizens are fed up with the increase in crime and feel powerless. My top priorities are public safety, and citizen agency.

For public safety, Mayor Carter is supporting community alternatives to policing by underfunding the SPPD. This translates to officers being stressed, which increases the likelihood of officers making a grave mistake, and, for citizens who are victims of crime, they experience longer wait times for police response and more unresolved crimes.

CANDIDATES, PG 7

BEA'S BOOKS Dear America Books

★★★★★ (5 out of 5 stars)



BEATRICE COSGROVE reviewer

Dear America Books

Sunday, Jan. 5, 1919
The "Dear America" series is a collection of fictional journals of children from long ago, including Nellie Lee Love, Madeline Beck, Zipporah Feldman and many more, telling their stories about living in

America. For example, a "Dear America" book I am reading is called "My Secret War, The World War II Diary of Madeline Beck", about a girl living in an old boarding house with her mother and several other people including Mrs. Rosenthal and her daughter Clara. They escaped from Nazi-

occupied Germany because they were Jewish, making it too dangerous to stay in Germany. I enjoy reading these books because I

can get a grasp on history from the perspective of kids. To describe the books in two words, I would say they are factual and informative. These books are great for kids 9 years and older wanting to dig into history.



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Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved, support your neighbors, and meet new people? Keystone Community Services is looking for volunteers. We are currently in need of volunteers to deliver free groceries to seniors and adults with disabilities in Ramsey County, as well as food shelf volunteers to stock shelves, sort food and assist participants at both of our food shelf locations. Volunteers can help on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis. Get started by visiting www.keystoneservices.org/volunteer

Career Exploration Opportunities for Teens

Applications for Keystone's Career Pathways Cohort Program are now open. Teens ages 14-18 are invited to apply to be part of a cohort that will help develop workplace skills, explore potential careers, tour college, learn to use tech equipment and more. The cohort will culminate with a paid internship at a local business in the summer of 2022. This program is 100% free, and students will meet afterschool at Keystone's Best Buy Teen Tech Center. Application and more information can be found at www.keystoneservices.org/youth.

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Not in our Neighborhood! at History Theatre

Tom Fabel and Eric Wood's *Not in Our Neighborhood!* at History Theatre, located at 30 East 10th St., Oct. 14, and will run until Oct. 24. Set in St. Paul in 1924, the play details the lives of real-life figures Nellie and William Francis, residents of the Rondo neighborhood, who had the courage to buy a home in the 'all-white' Groveland Park. The work details the hardships the couple went through in the face of racism in St. Paul. In-person or virtual tickets can be found at www.historytheatre.com

OCTOBER DRUM EVENTS

Oct. 15: Dan Engebretson will host a free-spirited drum circle. \$10. **Oct. 16:** Frame drum making workshop with Alex Connett. \$140 for a 12-inch drum or \$170 for a 14-in drum. Registration required. Standard COVID protocol followed. Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Email info@womensdrumcenter.net to register.

FREE FIRST SATURDAY: EXPLORE

Stop by the Walker Art Center Oct. 2 to explore the galleries with a scavenger hunt, create a giant collaborative artwork, watch a fun, family friendly short film, and grab an art kit to make art inspired by artwork at the Walker or in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden all for free as part of the Center's monthly program that allows the public to enjoy activities and exhibits at no cost. Info: walkerart.org/calendar/2021/free-first-saturday-explore

GENOCIDE OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS: FROM 1492 TO TODAY

World Without Genocide is hosting a webinar Oct. 12, 7-9pm, that aims to put a spotlight on the

genocide of American Indians. This program defines genocide, examines the atrocities perpetrated against the American Indians as 'intentionally genocidal,' and looks at the legacy of the genocide in today's challenges of violence and murder of American Indian women; the ongoing trauma of the boarding schools; the failure of reparations for sterilizations and slavery; and other atrocities enacted by the government, businesses and organizations, and individuals. Register at: worldwithoutgenocide.org/

INDIGENOUS FOODS CLASS SERIES

Join the Seward Community Co-op with Dream of Wild Health, Division of Indian Work, and Minneapolis American Indian Center for a series on Indigenous foods and recipes. Hosts will make a series of delicious meals, drinks, medicines and desserts using local and traditional foods as attendees explore nutritional and cultural significance of their ingredients. On Oct. 27, Alanna Norris will show how to make a Four Sisters Pasdayapi Salad, a fresh and healthy recipe using wild rice, black beans and hominy, from *Dream of Wild Health's Youth Leader Cookbook*. Register at: bit.ly/39F6bnA

EMAIL CALENDAR ITEMS TO: INFO@COMMUNITYREPORTER.ORG
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CANDIDATES, PG 6

Instead, I take a 'Yes and...' approach where we can fund SPPD and support community alternatives.

For example, currently, Mayor Carter wants to spend \$40 million of federal one-time money to create the Office of Neighborhood Safety, whose goal is to replace officers with social workers (or equivalent) to handle priority 4 and 5 calls. I agree with the goals, but not the execution. First, this program will increase the stress of officers who will now only be handling high-priority calls. Second, the program will put non-officer safety and the respondent at risk as these calls can escalate. My approach is for citizens to call a non-emergency line and/or call 911, and the operator can ask if a police

officer should be sent. The citizens make the assessment of the danger and choose the appropriate staff to handle the situation (a co-responder is a possibility too). In addition, I want to implement 30% paid time for patrol officers to engage with the community building relationships.

For citizen agency, I want to implement a participatory budget in which citizens can allocate a portion of their taxes to public proposals, which are open to citizens and nonprofits. Citizens will be investing, leading their own initiatives and holding themselves accountable.

Scott Wergin

Wergin could not be reached for comment and does not have a campaign website.

VOICE, PG 2

recognized the perilousness of their situation. But, none of them had the courage to confront the group and say, "Hey, maybe this is not a good idea. Maybe we should turn around." Instead, they kept sliding along on this steep pitched roof knowing that they had put themselves in a situation that could end badly for each of them.

For years, decades, there have been people raising their voices about the racial inequity that afflicts our cities and nation. Many of those people have grown accustomed to being ignored. As Eddie Glaude notes in his book "Begin Again", they have called out the destructive lie woven into our nation's founding, which continues driving the inexcusable disparities that afflict our common life. The lie is the belief that Indigenous, Black and people of color have less value than people who are white. Courageous people have raised their voices to seeming little avail.

It would be easy to conclude there is no reason to believe or think that this time, our time, our voice speaking up will be treated any differently than previously. People will continue along this perilous roof as if we are exempt from the rules of gravity. And yet, with the tragedy of George Floyd's killing and the many other killings smart phones have documented, it is necessary to ask the question. Is this

the time when enough people's eyes are at last opened to this perilous place in which we find ourselves? Is this the time when voices speaking out on behalf of racial justice will be heard? Is this the time when we together turn around and make the changes that are long overdue? One never knows when our voice may be heard. But, perhaps we are in a moment with racial justice and other significant issues, like climate change, where we can speak with confidence, with authority and be heard.

This year's annual Overcoming Racism Conference takes as its central theme: the hope and possibility we may have in such a time. The title of the conference is "The Fierce Urgency of Transformation Now." It is an invitation for individuals and organizations to ask the following questions: "Is now the time when we need to raise our voice? Is it possible that enough folks have begun recognizing the need for change and that what is required is the courage of people to speak out?" It may be with a neighbor, family member, our place of worship, our place of work, with elected officials, but if silence is no longer an option, then the time to speak out is now. If you are interested in learning more about the conference, scheduled for Nov. 12 -13, go to <https://overcomingracism.org/programs/conference/>. Registration opens on Oct. 4.

Tim Johnson is a retired pastor of the United Church of Christ.

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