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**ST PAUL
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INDIGENOUS
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DAY**
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COUNCIL PERSPECTIVES A time for action on gun violence



**ST. PAUL CITY
COUNCIL MEMBER
CHRIS TOLBERT
WARD 3**
columnist

Fellow Saint Paulites, the tragedy that happened at a bar in St. Paul a few weeks ago was extremely frightening, heart-breaking and unacceptable. All law-abiding people should feel and be safe from violence in our city. It is brazen violence like this that, in both feel and fact, challenges that value, and St. Paul cannot and will not tolerate that.

My heart breaks for the grieving family of the young woman whose life was senselessly stolen, as well as for the other innocent victims who were physically harmed and are emotionally traumatized by the actions of the criminals with guns who perpetrated these brazen acts of murderous violence.

I believe Saint Paul needs a well-trained police force to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all St. Paul residents.

While due process is necessary and will be provided, we must also ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable in our justice system so that we bring justice to the victims and their families and so that they cannot harm other innocent people in our community.

Additionally, I am grateful for the police officers, civilians, medics and ER teams at multiple hospitals that provided aid and care to the victims.

I believe Saint Paul needs a well-trained police force to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all St. Paul residents. I recognize that Chief Axtell and the mayor have differences in their proposed budgets for the Saint Paul Police Department, and believe that we can come to a solution, free of unnecessary negative discourse, to properly fund the police department. I am supportive of the Saint Paul Police Department's request for additional resources for two police academies a year so that our staffing stays stable.

Additionally, the police department is currently beginning an academy with 65 recruits who will be ready to be officers by early 2022. After four months of academy, and four months of field training, these officers will replace the officers who have retired, transferred or left the city for other reasons. Although we don't know all the officers who will separate from the city in the next few months, the police department estimates that this academy will bring the department near the 620 sworn strength that Chief Axtell has requested.

I also believe that we all need to do more to prevent gun violence. In addition to local policing efforts, we need our state and federal governments to act now and pass stronger laws that are proven to reduce violence and fund gun violence prevention programs.

I encourage you to patronize West 7th businesses and support our neighbors through this difficult time.

Chris Tolbert is the Saint Paul Councilmember for Ward 3 representing the Highland Park and Macalester Groveland neighborhoods. He can be reached by email at ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Mass Shooting Underscores Public Safety Concerns on West 7th

BY CASEY EK

The mass shooting at West Seventh Truck Park that took the life of 27-year-old Marquisha Wiley and injured 15 others in the early hours of Sunday, October 10, shocked the West 7th community.

Terry Lorenzo Brown, 33, of St. Paul, has been charged with one count of second-degree murder and 11 counts of attempted second-degree murder. Devondre Trevon Phillips, 29, of Las Vegas, has been charged with 12 counts of attempted second-degree murder. Both men have a history of violent crime and were not supposed to be in possession of firearms, police said.

At an impromptu Fort Road Federation meeting called in response to the shooting, West 7th neighbors voiced their dissatisfaction for what they described as elected officials' lack of action on public safety concerns in the area, which have been mounting since early last year.

In early September, the St. Paul Downtown Alliance reported a five-year low in crime. Their analysis showed that crime in the area at the end of August was 23% lower than last year and 10% lower than the five-year average. But for the St. Paul Police Department and some West End residents, these numbers don't paint a complete picture.

St. Paul Police Senior Commander Jeremy Ellison who oversees the West 7th area attended the public safety meeting. He said that while many crime statistics seem promising for the neighborhood, celebration may not yet be in order.

"There's a difference between data and the perception of safety," Ellison said to the virtual attendees at the Fort Road Federation meeting.

SHOOTING, PG 6



Memorial items adorn the Seventh Street Truck Park following a mass shooting that took place early Sunday morning, Oct. 10

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS: 1971-2021

Another look back: News from the 2000s Pt. 1

Editor's Note: The *Community Reporter* is looking back on its first 50 years, finding some connections to the past and present, with thoughts towards the future. Here's a sampling of what writer Margaret Kinney found.

BY MARGARET KINNEY

February 2000

Local historian Gary Brueggemann reported on the history of breweries in the West End in the article, *This Neighborhood Could Be Called Brewerytown*. In the mid-1800s, Melchior Funk started Funk's Brewery and its adjoining saloon at what is now Palace Avenue in between Duke and Colborne streets, producing 2,000 barrels of beer a year by 1880. It was sold only in kegs, and reportedly the neighborhood residents kept Funk's in business.

Brueggemann wrote, "The success of Funk's Brewery is somewhat remarkable given that it operated in the shadow of the large Stahlman-Schmidt Brewery, which was producing 40,000 barrels a year by 1880." Funk's closed in 1899, and what eventually became known as Schmidt Brewery went through many incarnations. The latest incarnation is represented by the Schmidt Artists Lofts, offering over 200 live-work spaces for artists.

The 1855 Schmidt building continues its brewery traditions with Clutch Brewery, in the Keg and Case Market since 2018. West End beer producers Bad Weather Brewing Company and Waldmann Brewery also continue to help make



Charlie Brown on the Levee

St. Paul a "brewerytown."
January 2001

Community Reporter's front-page story by

Irvine Park resident Kurt Schwichtenberg talked about a \$130 million "busway" being planned for the entire length of West 7th St. The first rapid busway transit project in the Twin Cities was on its way to getting an environmental impact statement. At that time, the Metropolitan Council was searching for a less expensive form of rapid transit than light rail and wanted to work with a citizens' advisory committee, as well as county and city councils. The project would have required widening West 7th Street, narrowing its sidewalks, removing trees and making drastic changes to multiple residential communities. Schwichtenberg, board president of the Fort Road Federation at the time, represented many voices of residents who were opposed to the project. By 2002, due to a statewide economic downturn, the GSE controversy, (see October 2002 below) and lack of support by district representative Sandy Pappas and many local citizens, the project died.

Then, as late as 2013, federal and state monies were being allocated to improve West 7th's Route 54 bus service by adding more bus stop shelters, off-board ticket machines and an more buses. Plans were in place to connect the West 7th bus line to the then unfinished Green Line. That project also fizzled out as developers' ideas for a streetcar line began to grow. The *Community Reporter* regularly

THE 2000S, PG 3

FEDERATION UPDATE
fortroadfederation.org

Wanted: West 7th Recipes
We're collecting recipes of West 7th, from you, for a West 7th / Fort Road Federation cookbook which will be sold as a fundraiser for the organization. Tell us about your recipe for consideration to be in the neighborhood cookbook at fortroadfederation.org/cookbook.

Meeting Updates
At the October board meeting the board accepted the resignation of Elyse Jensen from the position of Area 1 coordinator. The Board discussed committee updates, including the Fort Road Cookbook fundraiser and Give to the Max Day, which is Nov. 18.

Board Nominations Needed Area 1
Those interested in the volunteer position should fill self-nomination form at fortroadfederation.org before Nov. 1. Must be age 16 or older and live, own property or own a business in Area 1 between Kellogg and St. Clair.

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

- **Transportation & Land Use Committee**, Wed, 12/1, 6:30 pm
- **Board Meeting** Mon, 11/8, 7 pm
- **Community Engagement and Outreach Committee** - Thu, 11/18, 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

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

Gun Violence Prevention: What We Can Do

BY EMILY BENZIE, MD

The West End neighborhood is still recovering from the mass shooting at the Seventh Street Truck Park on the morning of Oct.10. As a community, we mourn the loss of Marquisha Wiley, who was senselessly killed, and we recognize the pain of the 15 others who were wounded by gunfire. Marquisha is one of more than 440 people on average who die by guns in Minnesota every year, in addition to many others who are wounded and traumatized. We as family physicians are committed to work for the health and safety of our patients and communities. We see the huge impact gun violence has on the mental and physical health of our patients. This is why we are so concerned about the recent rise in gun violence across our country, including communities in our own state. While mass shootings such as the event at the Seventh Street Truck Park are scary to think about, what we hear about gun violence on the news is just the tip of the iceberg. Every time someone pulls a trigger to settle a dispute, end their own life or

take the life of a current or former domestic partner, the effect reaches far beyond those directly involved. The health and wellbeing of their families, friends, co-workers, classmates, witnesses to the event and first responders are often affected too. Additionally, so are neighbors, business owners and even those who just read or hear about the event without experiencing it directly. In our clinics, we unfortunately see the effect of gun violence on a regular basis. It shows up not only as physical wounds and sometimes life-long pain in the victims themselves, but also in the countless patients that we see with anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. It shows up as uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension when our patients don't feel safe enough to exercise outdoors in their neighborhoods. It shows up as decreased quality of life and loss of work productivity. The consequences of gun violence ripple throughout our entire community, affecting all of us. The problem of gun violence is so complex and multifactorial that it can seem insurmountable and therefore inevitable. However, we all deserve to feel safe in our

communities and therefore we absolutely cannot accept this as "normal." There are things that each of us can—and I daresay, must—do to work toward decreasing gun violence. Here are just a few:

- We can talk with young people in our lives about the importance of settling conflicts without violence. We can role model this for them in our own lives as well.
- We can practice and promote secure firearm storage. Storing firearms locked and unloaded in homes and vehicles decreases the chance that guns will fall into the wrong hands, such as children, suicidal loved ones or criminals. A helpful resource is www.besmartforkids.org.
- We can support and volunteer with organizations that are working every day to decrease gun violence in our community, such as Moms Demand Action, Protect Minnesota and Mothers Against Community Gun Violence.
- We can contact our elected officials at all levels, from city council and mayor to our state and federal legislators, to tell them

PREVENTION, PG 3

CPKCS: A Rail Combination for the Greener Community Good

The proposed merger of Calgary-based Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) with Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS) will be an end-to-end combination connecting CPR's Prairie Province and Upper Midwest network at Kansas City with KCS's route to Texas, Louisiana and Mexico. An end-to-end combination with no overlapping routes, Minnesota's stretch of tracks will afford shippers minimal rate or service degradation. But the merger will cost the Twin Cities metro area up to 200 managerial jobs as those functions consolidate in Kansas City. While the freight economics may work for shipping giants like Cargill, ADM and General Mills, there will be a \$15 million annual direct wage hit to the Twin Cities economy and another vacant office building in downtown Minneapolis. But the deal could also be a community godsend that repurposes underutilized local freight corridors into badly needed housing, recreational and environmental assets if our elected and civic leaders step up and use the unique leverage available to them under federal regulations to gain restitution from the merging parties for the job losses. Here's how that can - and should - unfold: CPR will seek and likely need Minnesota public and private sector support to secure federal regulatory approval of the deal. Given that shippers will be no worse off, a more community-friendly Biden administration will likely focus instead on economic and environmental restitution to affected employees and municipalities. Conveying to the public obsolete, under-producing CPR rights-of-way better situated now to address pressing Twin Cities housing and mobility needs would be appropriate



restitution. There are three in or near the West End: The Highland Park Spur: An idle 3.5-mile right of way paralleling West 7th Street and Cleveland Avenue in St. Paul's West End and Highland Park districts. It has significant redevelopment potential due to neighborhood connectivity, a uniformly wide off-street pathway and proximity to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). The Hiawatha Industrial Spur: A once booming 2.6-mile freight corridor running next to Hiawatha Avenue between Lake Street and Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. There, rail traffic has dwindled to 40 carloads per week as trackside flour mills and grain elevators give way to high density residential and light commercial usage having easy access to transit, MSP and downtown. The Eastern Midtown Greenway Extension: A 2.6-mile east-west pathway connecting the Hiawatha Corridor at Lake Street with the CPR main line near Cleveland Avenue in St. Paul via a bridge over the Mississippi River north of Lake Street. Repurposed, it would be the key link in a transformative trail/transit network that extends the popular Greenway into St. Paul's Midway district and beyond.

Combined, the real estate underlying these track segments is now worth about \$50 million as adjacent property finds higher and better use. Contrast that with a declining rail freight traffic base of just one aging flour mill and an intermittent steel scrapper worth, at most, \$20 million. As such, and given their unique linear trajectories, these pathways should be repurposed as:

- **Trail network extensions** offering safer, healthier and greener alternatives to on-street bike lanes and sidewalks. Have you tried to bicycle down West 7th lately?
- **Transitways** providing faster, safer and more efficient alternatives to street-based rail and bus, thereby enhancing rider mobility and opportunity access.
- **Utility easements** more efficient and less disruptive to implement.
- **Playgrounds and green space** offering recreational and well-being benefits, most notably along the densifying and still affordable Hiawatha Corridor.
- **Strategically placed roadways** that offer congestion and emissions relief to dense, traffic-challenged locales like St. Paul's emerging Highland Bridge development.

Minnesota should, therefore, support this merger subject to:

- Public ownership and control of the pathways listed above.
- A joint rail-with-trail usage arrangement over the Short Line bridge, then eastward into St. Paul.
- CPR assistance with shipper relocation and track abandonment proceedings where appropriate.
- CPR to assume environmental

RAILWAY, PG 7

BUILDING AN ANTIRACIST COMMUNITY



TIM JOHNSON
columnist

Mosquitoes, Guns and Racism

As a young girl my daughter quickly grasped the concept that creating breeding spots for mosquitoes was a bad idea if you wished to avoid being assaulted by these troublesome creatures. When I showed her the mosquito larvae swimming about in a bucket we had unintentionally left outside, her response was an unequivocal, "dump it out". Somehow, this basic wisdom of a child escapes us when it comes to guns. Sadly, West 7th Street now finds itself on a national register of areas shocked and shaken by a mass shooting, with 14 injured and a young 27-year-old woman dead. A couple people with history and animosity decided to settle their dispute by shooting at each other inside the crowded Seventh Street Truck Park. As is commonly the case, there are those who argue that what is needed to prevent this type of assault is more guns. Increasing the number of guns when gun violence is already at an epidemic level makes as much sense as putting out more mosquito attracting buckets in the summer, ignoring how doing so contributes to the problem. More places for mosquitoes to breed mean more mosquitoes. More guns mean more gun violence. It's not all that complicated. The question is, what is it that keeps us from going beyond the rhetoric of dismay and assertions of "never again" to developing strategies and responses that address this national epidemic? It was only recently that the Federal government ended a 20-plus year ban prohibiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from studying the causes and best way to prevent gun violence. Why such resistance? What is to be feared by a careful analysis of this national epidemic? It would seem if one wishes to avoid future Truck Stop shootings, then understanding the nature of gun violence is an excellent place to start.

RACISM, PG 7



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Community News & Events



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Katherine Lampert Gets Community Sendoff

An original resident at the Superior Cottages when they were opened by Lynblomsten more than 20 years ago, Katherine was all smiles at a recent affair held in her honor. She is now in her 90s and has decided to move to the multi-level Carondelet Village Retirement Community. Teisha Devine, Superior Senior Living director, arranged for a community send-off complete with apple pie and ice cream and many recollections.

Indigenous Arts on Display

The Friedl Gallery, 943 West 7th St., St. Paul, will be spotlighting Indigenous artists from now until Nov. 27. The showcase, entitled *We Are Still Here Standing in the Hearts of our Ancestors*, "seeks to unite through love, healing and unity through matriarchal compassion."

Stricter Tobacco Rules in Order

St. Paul is on track to enact some of the strictest tobacco regulations in the country. After this issue went to press, the St. Paul City Council was set to vote on new restrictions that would set a \$10 minimum price on a pack of cigarettes, ban coupons and would curb the number of tobacco retailers among other measures. The city's seven councilmembers, all of whom co-sponsored the measure, were expected to vote Oct. 27.

Sustain Community Journalism

The *Community Reporter* invites our neighbors to invest in community journalism through a monetary investment. As part of Give to

the Max Day 2021, our newspaper is seeking donations that will allow us to continue building and celebrating our storied community for generations to come. Visit givemn.org/organization/Community-Reporter to make your donation today.

The M Launches Two Exhibits

The Minnesota Museum of American Art will be displaying two new exhibits from now until Jan. 29, 2022. *Sutures*, curated by Michael Khuth, gathers works of Cheryl Mukherji, Prune Phi Sopheak Sam and Daniella Thach as they explore the act of suturing as a multifaceted form of multimedia art. It will be on display in Robert Street window galleries. *Transformation: Art from Inside*, curated by Kylie Linh Hoang, features work by incarcerated artists that reflects their personal transformation and restoration through visual expression. The exhibit will be on display in the Robert and 4th Street window galleries and the skyway Ecolab Entrance.

Allina opens new radiation oncology center
Allina Health announced on Oct. 12 that patients will now have access to their latest radiation oncology center located within Allina Health's United Hospital Campus. "Our mission is to ensure our patients feel supported through every step of their experience," said Mike Koroscik, Vice President, Allina Health Cancer Institute. "We believe that every patient deserves the best in cancer care technology and treatment methods in a coordinated, compassionate setting that is solely focused on their specific needs." The clinic began welcoming patients on Oct. 11.

Water Flows, Life Blooms
Works by Mayumi Amada (below) will be on display at the White Bear Center for the Arts, 4971 Long Ave., White Bear Lake, from now until Nov. 11. The work focuses on eternity and the circle of life through the lens of mortality. With water as a sub-theme, the exhibit attempts to capture the substance's lifecycle through environmental art.



THE 2000S, PG 2

reports on this current scheme.
Since 1999, West End resident Diane Gerth has been following the numerous controversies surrounding the various "transportation improvement" ideas for West 7th Street. Referring to the proposed busway plan of 2002, Gerth says, "That idea of making West 7th Street a dedicated transportation corridor has never gone away." Stay tuned to the *Community Reporter* for ongoing developments of the proposed streetcar plan.

October 2001

Then-editor Maxine McCormick reported on the John M. Armstrong House, a duplex built in 1886, which was being moved by the city of St. Paul to its present location on Eagle Parkway, across from the Science Museum of Minnesota. It took nine days and \$2,375,000 to move and improve the building, which now contains three privately owned units. The Fort Road Federation assisted in funding part of its development.

October 2002

Reporter Shirlene Perrin wrote that the St. Paul City Council voted 6-0 to close the Gopher State Ethanol plant, then located in the Schmidt Brewery building. The City had been inundated with complaints related to increased odor and health issues that resulted from emissions from the plant. The Environmental Protection Agency filed a formal complaint due to emissions of significant quantities of volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants.
West 7th citizens' serious concerns about the plant began in the fall of 2000, when the plant (the only urban ethanol plant in the country) opened its ethanol production. It became clear that the plant had not followed

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city ordinances, which resulted in lawsuits, investigations by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Dept. of Health. Litigation and resident protests against the GSE plant continued until May 2004 when the plant finally closed down.

Also in the October 2002 issue:

The bronze statue Charlie Brown on the Levee was dedicated to the Italian immigrants who for many decades had filled St. Paul's Little Italy, a colony of residents located near the river between Chestnut Street and the High Bridge, beginning in the mid-1800s and continuing until 1965. The statue was commissioned by Dave Cossetta and Nick Mancini, whose families had emigrated from Italy and settled in St. Paul.

July 2004

Brueggemann commemorates the 150th anniversary of the City of St. Paul. Brueggemann was looking back 20 years to when he first began writing a series of articles about the role the Mississippi River played in shaping the West 7th Street community. He wrote, "Back in 1984, the river was clearly the 'back door of town'. The local levee land was an eyesore of oil tanks, grain elevators, junk and scrap metal yards, sterile industrial buildings, cyclone fences, decaying concrete walls and an all-imposing high speed heavy truck highway hugging the river." Brueggemann was celebrating the "reclaiming of the river,"

by noting the absence of those eyesores and the addition of pedestrian-friendly and tree-lined Shepard Road, as well as bike paths and wooded parks. He called the West 7th Street neighborhood a "child of the Mississippi" and reminds us that we in the West End should "never forget its deep connection to America's greatest river."

Margaret Kinney is a West End visual artist and writer and a board member of the Community Reporter. She has lived in the West End since 2000.



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PREVENTION, PG 2

again and again how important the issue of gun violence prevention is to us. We can tell them we need common sense laws like criminal background checks on all gun sales, including internet and private sales. We can also ask them to support and fund evidence-based gun violence prevention strategies like violence intervention programs.

- Find contact information for and upcoming events with Ward 2 Councilmember Rebecca Noecker at www.stpaul.gov/departments/city-council/ward-2-councilmember-rebecca-noecker.

- Find contact information for your state and federal lawmakers here: <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts>.

Please raise your voice with us. Our communities' health and safety depend on it.

Dr. Benzie is a lifelong St. Paul resident and practices family medicine at a community health clinic in Northeast Minneapolis. She leads the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group with the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians and is a volunteer with the Saint Paul group of Moms Demand Action.

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Community Nourishment

Little Bohemia volunteers beautify bike trail with fall planting

BY PAUL BARD

A group of 25 neighborhood volunteers took advantage of unseasonably warm fall weather back on Sept. 25 to continue work on phase 3 of a long-term landscaping effort called the Little Bohemia Trail Enhancement Project.

On that warm Saturday, volunteers dug, planted, mulched and watered more than 400 plants, including trees, shrubs and perennial flowers on either side of the Little Bohemia Trail, a bike path that runs along the east side of Interstate 35E between Grand and St. Clair avenues. The project, which has been ongoing since 2015, is the result of a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the City of St. Paul and the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association.

The Little Bohemia Trail runs on MnDOT land, and the enhancement project operates through an arrangement called a “maintenance partnership.” Little Bohemia’s Jenny Gehlhar, who holds a Minnesota Master Naturalist certification from the Minnesota DNR launched the project. Gehlhar explained to the Community Reporter that MnDOT pays for plants while the neighbors provide labor, with the agreement that the neighbors will do the planting and maintain the trail long term.

“This is not a grant,” she emphasized, as she outlined the partnership’s shared responsibilities. “The Little Bohemia Association does not get money—only plants.”

The Little Bohemia group started the project with the help of MnDOT’s Tony



Sarah Gleason, a Little Bohemia resident since 2000, helped supervise the September planting event.

Wotzka, who drew up the original landscape design. For Phase 1, in 2015, MnDOT crews removed dead and dying trees as well as ash trees threatened by the emerald ash borer. Crews also repaired sound walls and made other improvements to the site in preparation for landscaping. Neighborhood volunteers then took on the job of planting. In that first year, they put in nearly 1000 trees, shrubs and perennials along the bike path and in Pleasant Place, a small neighborhood park at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Garfield Street. Weeding, watering and other care and maintenance were carried out all summer long. After

Phase 1 wrapped up, The City of St. Paul awarded a grant for paving and lighting the trail. Lighting was installed in 2016 and 2017.

Jenny said that the leadership at MnDOT is “totally on board” with the neighborhood’s efforts. While this summer’s drought has not been kind to gardens anywhere in Minnesota, the timing of this fall’s event coincided with the return of at least moderate rainfall in days following the planting. Additionally, neighbors have been watering the new trees, shrubs and flowers wherever possible.

Neighbors who want to learn more about the Trail Enhancement Project are invited to visit the Little Bohemia website: www.littlebohemiastpaul.org/little-bohemia-trail.

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

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In the Community

Indigenous Peoples Day Commemorates Wakan Tipi Center

BY CASEY EK

St. Paul's Indigenous leaders celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day, Oct. 11, by dedicating the land at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary that will be an interpretive center that commemorates the Wakan Tipi Cave, a sacred Dakota site where tribal leaders brokered deals with other tribes.

The interpretive center, which will occupy about three acres, is set to break ground this fall and is slated to open in 2023.

The Oct. 11 celebration was marked with dances from Kalpulli Yaocenxtli, a local ensemble, and other Indigenous dancers from multiple tribes as well as drumming and singing.

The crowd of around 200 heard from local leaders, including Prairie Island Indian Community President Shelley Buck, who underscored the importance of remembering Minnesota's history and its treatment of Indigenous peoples.



Angel Ochoa was among the dozens of Indigenous dancers in full regalia at the Oct. 11 celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

CASEY EK

Schmidt Artists Invigorate St. Paul

From Oct. 15-17, over 60 artists brought the halls of the Schmidt Artist Lofts to life with works from all genres. Headlined by Petra Johnita Lommen, MaryBeth Garrigan, Rick Pirtle and Lark Gilmer, the art Crawl had a little something for everyone. If you missed the art crawl, don't sweat.

If you're wondering what to do for the upcoming holidays, concerned about shipping delays and supply chains, mark your calendars for the reboot of the Schmidt Holiday Market, which runs Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 26-28, at The Schmidt Brewhouse.

Over 30 artists, artisans and Schmidthens will be selling inspired hand-crafted gifts for everyone on your list, the good (the not so good) and the extraordinary.

Good cheer and a healthy dose of holiday spirit will rule the weekend. Schmidt artists will help make this holiday season the best yet.

The full list of artists can be found online: schmidtartists.com.

The Schmidt Artist Lofts Brewhouse is located at 900 W. 7th Street, St. Paul.

Schmidt HOLIDAY Market
Friday, Nov. 26: 10am-6pm
Saturday, Nov. 27: 10am-6pm (Buy Local Saturday)
Sunday, Nov. 28: 11am-3pm

How to attend
Please follow CDC guidelines, respect vendors and Schmidt residents, by wearing a mask. Free tickets for timed entry can be reserved and will be available at the door to ensure a safe environment for everyone. Parking is available on bordering city streets and the Rathskeller parking lot located directly behind the beer bottle billboard on West 7th.

For more information on the Schmidt Holiday Market, please visit: www.schmidtartists.com



Art crawl visitors look through prints set out at the Schmidt Art Crawl.

CASEY EK

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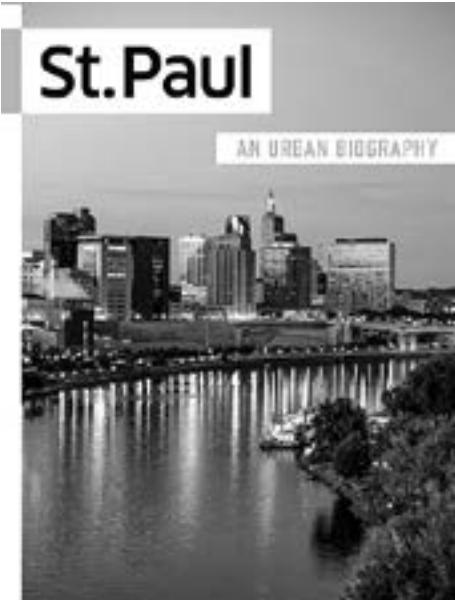
Bill Lindeke illuminates St. Paul’s past with latest book

BY CASEY EK

Why is Minneapolis a larger city than St. Paul despite the latter being our state’s capital? Why is Summit Avenue such a hotbed for illustrious homes? Precisely who were the movers and shakers after whom many of our streets and parks are named? Is the city’s past incongruent with modern residents’ progressive sentiments? These questions and many more are the subject of a local historian’s latest book.

Bill Lindeke’s *St. Paul: An Urban History*, published by Minnesota Historical Press, details the meandering and often painful history of a city many of us call home. Using his authoritative, yet casual tone, Lindeke brings readers on a ride through St. Paul’s founding on the backs of whiskey sellers, through the turmoil between settlers and Minnesota’s Indigenous peoples and through the political, military religious and industrial underpinnings of a city that has grown increasingly diverse over the decades.

Lindeke does not mince words when covering our state’s uglier histories like the mass hanging of the Dakota 38 or the displacement of the Rondo neighborhood’s Black residents, but he does not paint the city as wholly off kilter. Lindeke will bring readers to the brink before providing insight and optimism as he looks ahead to a



brighter future.

Detailing lives of Minnesota’s Somali, Hmong and other populations of color, Lindeke keeps his field of view wide and makes *St. Paul: An Urban History* a must-read for readers of all backgrounds hoping to expand their understanding of St. Paul’s contributions to the outside world as well as its shortcomings.

Some good news, please!

BY TIM RUMSEY, MD

Halloween evening 2004, Carl Bentson had 103 trick or treaters come to his lower St. Clair home. Each visitor received a can of Shasta soda pop and two candy bars, regular size until the treats ran out at about 8:30 p.m. Then, Carl opened the refrigerator to give away treats. The last kiddo of the night got a yellow, three-quarter-filled bottle of French’s mustard.

Carl, “Mr. Positive” to many, is a West 7th Angel in an orange safety vest. You have likely seen him pedaling his canopied, three wheeler all around West 7th. Every day, every season, year after year. Never does he utter a discouraging word.

What’s more, his house is decorated to the max for all holidays. Halloween and Christmas are his favorites, of course, but he doesn’t ignore Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July, but also Veterans Day, President’s Day, Flag Day and MLK Day.

Carl’s famous. He’s been on TV, radio, in print, and there’s also been a video documentary of his life.

Carl and I recently caught up during an afternoon at Shamrocks.

Carl is still working full time as a custodian for Bridgeview School where he was once a student. But at 59, Carl is



"Mr. Positive" Carl Bentson

not as out and about as the days when he cut the grass and snow blowned neighbor’s sidewalks, bus stops or local storefronts. Gratis. Unheralded.

Carl always snow blowned his foster grandmother’s walkways and the mile-long stretch of public sidewalk between his and her houses.

His grandma died in 2004 at 100. Carl was one of 162 foster children for whom she cared. Once, she told me, “Carl was always my favorite. He never really went away. And now he cares for me.”

Wherever Carl goes, he still pulls weeds

SHOOTING, PG 1

Police data show that many crimes are, in fact, on a rise. Through Sept. 30 police responded to 1,769 reports of shots fired compared to last year’s 1,719 to date. Homicides, at 32 to date, are up from last year’s 26. The number of people shot to date was 202, up from 168 last year and 124 in 2019.

“Every single number you talk about is a human being,” Ellison said, voicing his frustration over what he described as the “revolving door” of criminal justice, the process by which violent offenders are arrested and later released only to commit additional violent crimes.

Ellison also noted the steadily increasing presence of guns at crime scenes his officers are encountering.

Anne LeDuc with Moms Demand Action, a nonprofit with a local chapter aimed at ending gun violence, said her group will continue applying pressure on elected officials, particularly at the state and county levels, to enact change that would curb gun violence.

“We are very sad that the Truck Park shooting is another chance to mobilize,” LeDuc said. “We would have liked to have seen more of a response to this point.”

Local restaurateur Brian Ingram, who operates Hope Breakfast Bar has been frustrated by the message that crime is down in the West 7th area after being robbed four times this year. He said he is holding off on making a deal for a space that would house a new restaurant in the neighborhood until crime declines.

“We don’t want to hear about what’s going to happen a year from now or two years,” Ingram said at the Federation meeting, directing his

message to City Councilwoman Rebecca Noecker, whose ward includes the West 7th and downtown. “This is affecting jobs right here, right now.”

This is a sentiment shared by Securian Financial Group CEO Christopher Hilger, who sent a letter to Mayor Melvin Carter imploring the mayor to take “immediate and bold action to address the crisis at hand.”

Noecker said she understands neighbors’ fears and frustrations with regards to the recent shootings and mounting tensions in the neighborhood, but she feels promise from the city’s overall trajectory.

In spite of the more pointed police analysis quoted above, Noecker told the *Community Reporter* she believes St. Paul is still a safe city, citing the Downtown Alliance’s statistics. Noecker also voiced her support for Mayor Carter’s Community-First Public Safety plan, which seeks to partner with local organizations, gather regular on-the-ground data and deploys community ambassadors in hopes of lowering crime, among other measures, but she also supports adding a second police academy to next year’s budget.

The mass shooting comes as tensions in the neighborhood surrounding the placement of the Freedom House homeless day shelter, located at 296 W. 7th St., are high. The shootings were entirely separate from the Freedom House and its clients, Noecker was sure to clarify at the Federation meeting, but many in the neighborhood see the events as intertwined.

During public questions and answers segment at the meeting, several community members brought up the shelter, which

Covering an era in the late 1800s when class disparities were stark and were exhibited through locations on which families were able to build their homes, Lindeke writes:

It’s easy to imagine people looking down at the Italian and Polish people living underfoot, gaping at those they viewed as inferior. On certain spring days, as the river rose, they may have seen families gathering their belongings into boats, paddling down the streets to the nearest dry land...Picture the city’s Black porters and barbers, who, like many service workers of the era, maintained an uneasy relationship with the booming middle class. The gap between rich and poor was visible nearly everywhere in old St. Paul, hard to ignore.

Through detailing the lives St. Paul’s history makers much like a novelist might, Lindeke paints the past with a colorful brush and forces readers to take a second look at their surroundings, be those public parks or other land marks, like the Peanuts statues scattered throughout the city.

At 192 pages, *St. Paul: An Urban History* is an approachable read for those looking to brush up on our capital’s history—like I was. But, it also provides just enough of the minutiae of key events, such as the dealings of St. Paul Police Chief John J. O’Connor, who had his heyday in the late 1800s and early 1900s, for history buffs as well.

and picks up renegade trash. The world is a cleaner place because of Mr. Positive.

I was surprised to hear he hadn’t ridden his bike for a year.

“Can’t get parts; need a new gear hub,” he told me.

So, he mostly walks, sometimes buses and often gets rides from his close friend, Karen Koeppe.

Right now, October 2021, the outside holiday decorations blend: orange lights; Christmas lights and five little American flags in window boxes; red, white and blue lights and twelve orange soccer ball sized pumpkins.

Carl reads both the St. Paul and Minneapolis papers every day. He’s up to date even if his answers are short:

George Floyd?—“Sad.”

Covid?—“Delta is bad. Get the shot. Wear a mask.”

Terrible W 7th Street shooting?—“A girl died. It was not good. They caught the guys.”

West 7th Safety?—“It’s going to be safe.”

In the world we live in today it’s great to have a Mr. Positive among us. He is goodness. He does good. “Angel Unaware,” Karen calls him, referencing a classic Dale Evans song, and he’s right here in West 7th.

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

opened due to an emergency need brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the comments, Molly Jalma, who serves as the executive director of the Freedom House’s parent organization, Listening House, noted that people who are unhoused are disproportionately the victims of violent crimes. The difficulty of providing care to those most in need, Jalma said, is compounded by pressure from neighbors.

“We have not been welcome. It is not a comfortable place to welcome people,” Jalma said.

Federation meeting attendees pointed to Ramsey County as the governing body most able intervene on West 7th. When asked about the actions the county will take to improve safety, County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, who represents West 7th, said it will take a collaborative effort from all levels of government. He added that he has been working with his colleagues in the county since July to find a space that could provide additional resources to St. Paul’s unhoused in the hopes of alleviating tensions in the West End.

“The hope is that eventually there won’t be a need for the Freedom House,” Ortega said.

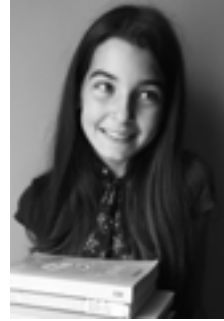
A recent zoning proposal that would allow homeless day shelters like the Freedom House to operate in more parts of the city made its way to the St. Paul City Council and was laid over for final adoption on Nov. 3 after this issue went to press.

Passing of the more flexible zoning ordinance, Jalma said, will give her organization the freedom to reach more easily those in need.

“Help us get this zoning ordinance through,” Jalma said. “People have to have a place to go.”

BEA'S BOOKS

A Good Kind of Trouble★★★★ (4 out of 5 stars)



BEATRICE COSGROVE reviewer

A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee
Shayla Willows is starting seventh grade, and there are lots of new changes. For example, her best friends Isabella and Julia--their trio is better known as the United Nations--begin the year just as close as they were in elementary school. But things

now aren't going to plan, and Julia is now sitting with the popular girls at lunch, not with Isabella and Shayla. Shayla is hurt by Julia's actions, and things begin to get bumpy with the United Nations. Soon, when a Black man is shot by a white police officer, Shayla starts to deeply think about racism. she wants to do something about the injustice she sees and feels.

Shayla then has an idea, an idea that is a *Good Kind of Trouble*. This is an 'itchy hands' idea (Shayla's hands itch around trouble). Navigating through a disastrous dance, difficult lab partners, a strained friendship and the difficulties of the world (and middle school!), Shayla learns quite a few lessons, proving that mistakes sometimes are the greatest teachers. This book is recommended for ages 11-12.



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Our food shelves are busier than ever, and Keystone Community Services needs wonderful volunteers to meet the needs of the community. Seeking afternoon volunteers (1-4pm Mon-Fri) to greet participants, pack groceries and sort donations. Fill out a volunteer application at www.keystoneservices.org/volunteer

Career Exploration Opportunities for Teens

Teens ages 14-18 are invited to apply for Keystone's Career Pathways Cohort Program. Be part of a cohort to 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 at www.keystoneservices.org/youth

Walk to End Hunger

Walk to End Hunger will be happening the entire month of November. Starting Nov. 1, head to the Mall of America at Macy's Court to walk for a cause and show your support. Note: No event on Thanksgiving Day. Sign up to be part of Team Keystone (or start your own team) at www.walktoendhunger.org

Food Distributions

Nov. 12 10am-12pm Fare for All with signature low-cost grocery packages. Masks required.
Nov. 20, Free produce+ community food distribution at Roseville Public Works. Visit www.keystoneservices.org for more details.

BULLETIN BOARD



Children's Theater Company Showing *Annie*

Children's Theatre Company will be showing *Annie* from Nov. 7 through Jan. 9, 2022, opening the first live CTC theatrical season post-pandemic. Directed by Peter Rothstein, the production is sure to bring a smile to the faces of those feeling the pandemic blues. "Annie is, without question, one of the truly great American musicals," states Rothstein. "It is set in the Great Depression and the young hero of the story offers a profound voice of hope, determination, and optimism. The musical is also a celebration of non-traditional and chosen families. I hope audiences young and old are captivated by her spunk, her charm, and her wisdom."

FARE FOR ALL

An affordable popup food market at the West 7th Community Center Nov. 5 and Dec. 3, 10am-12pm. No pre-registration is required, and guests are asked to wear masks, even if vaccinated. Credit, debit, EBT and cash accepted. Info: fareforall.org

BEGINNING HAND DRUM CLASSES

Women's Drum Center class Nov. 10, 3:30-4:30pm: Djembe Joy. Covers ergonomics, technique, traditional West African songs. Easy, energizing exercises used to build skills. Instructor Jo Klein. Drums provided. Masks required. \$10. Info: womensdrumcenter.org.

ARTuesday

Beautiful Laundrette's kid-friendly art event where guests can learn the art of etching from local artist Stuart Loughridge. Nov. 9, 5-9pm, 625 Stryker Ave., St. Paul. Features live music and a food truck.

NONPROFIT SEEKS BLOOD DONATIONS

Amid the ongoing challenges of recruiting blood donors during the COVID-19 pandemic, local nonprofit Memorial Blood Centers is facing a shortage of blood and platelet donations. Make appointments online at MBC.ORG or by calling 1-888-GIVE-BLD (888-448-3253).

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FOR COMPLETE CALENDAR LISTING GO TO: communityreporter.org

WHOLE WIDE WORLD WEST 7TH PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Terry Giinther, Library Manager

In-person Homework Help

Saint Paul Public Library's in-person homework centers are open for drop-in assistance at five library locations across Saint Paul. Free to use, they offer students of all ages support, technology and resources to study independently or with the help of tutors.

Online Homework Help

Saint Paul Public Library also offers one-to-one homework help online every day from 1-11 p.m. in English and Spanish for students

of all ages. Online homework help, available on the library's website through HelpNow, can be accessed from anywhere using a library card.

Locations and hours can be found at www.sppl.org/homework

Library Go

All Saint Paul Public School students, along with students at some charter, private schools, automatically receive a virtual library card through the Library Go program. Use school ID number to check out e-materials using the Libby app or up to 10 physical items at the library and access databases and homework help. Visit LibraryGo.org to learn more.

senior officials at MNDOT, Met Council and Gov. Tim Walz's office, copying your state representative and county commissioner, and tell them our community and its sustainable future are watching.

Jerome Johnson, James Schoettler, Jay Severance, Mat Hollinshead, Greg Struve, PE, and Brennan Malanaphy for Citizen Advocates for Regional Transit (C-A-R-T), an informal association of Twin Cities executives focusing on the need for a balanced regional approach to transportation planning and development.

to seriously addressing gun violence are, according to Metzel, the ones who suffer the most from gun violence. He notes, "A white person in the United States is five times as likely to die by suicide using a gun as to be shot with a gun." The American narrative, including the Westerns with which many of us grew up, teaches us that white men are the defenders of the social order and that guns are central to that order. Yet the tragedy is that the inherent racism of guns in the defense of whiteness ends up causing the deaths of white men at an alarming and disproportionate rate. As Metzel notes, "white men themselves become the biggest threat to themselves."

The anxiety now felt on West 7th Street among store owners, patrons and residents did not occur in a vacuum. It is a part of a long national history involving race and gun violence. Sadly, that violence manifested itself at the Seventh Street Truck Stop. To be sure, addressing gun violence can be a complex undertaking, but on another level, it can be as basic as "dump it out".

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

RACISM, PG 2

According to Dr. Jonathan Metzel, author of *Dying of Whiteness*, a great deal of the resistance to practice and policies preventing gun violence comes directly from a desire to protect and defend whiteness. By this Metzel does not mean white skin, but rather a deeply entrenched ideology that holds white skinned people superior to all others, especially to Blacks. Metzel, along with many other scholars, notes that the origins of the 2nd Amendment had much less to do with citizens protecting themselves from a tyrannical government. It had everything to do with upper-class whites encouraging, even requiring, lower-class whites to quell both slave rebellions and Indigenous resistance. Guns and racism were joined at the hip at our nation's birth.

White racial fears about changing demographics and growing diversity are ripe for manipulation by those who aggressively seek to maintain a hierarchy that greatly rewards those with the highest incomes, while offering small change and superior status to low-income whites. It is both tragic and ironic that the white men most resistant

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