

Community REPORTER

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COUNCIL PERSPECTIVES Kicking off a new tradition in 2022



REBECCA NOECKER
CITY COUNCIL
MEMBER, WARD 2
columnist

To ring in the new year, we're kicking off a new tradition—an annual meeting for all our Ward 2 neighbors.

You're invited to join us on Jan. 13 from 5:30-7 p.m. on Zoom. While we'll be meeting virtually this year due to the ongoing pandemic, we know this work is best done face-to-face, and we hope to be in person in 2023.

At the meeting, we'll have a chance to do three things we don't often take time to do: celebrate success, problem-solve directly with city leaders and envision what we want for our community.

First, we'll celebrate what we've achieved together over the past year. We tend to stay focused on what still needs to be done – the trash that needs to be collected, the potholes that need filling, the affordable housing we need to build and so on. But it's also important to recognize what we've gotten right—the new bikeways, sidewalks and park shelters that have been built, the trees that have been planted, the volunteer hours we've put into our neighborhoods. City-building happens over generations, so we only get to see one small sliver of the work in our lifetimes. Without taking time to celebrate success, we can lose motivation for the important efforts still ahead of us.

Next, we'll have the chance to talk in small groups with the leaders of city departments that touch our lives most immediately. Government works best at the local level because we can talk directly with our representatives and the staff who are carrying out policies on a day-to-day basis. If we don't like the way something is done, we can share our perspective with those who are responsible and work with them to find a better way. Every day, I connect constituents with department leaders and staff to help solve their problems, and it's thrilling to see how powerful the feedback loop can be. For example, staff hear directly that a certain snowplow route isn't working, neighbors learn more about the constraints plow drivers operate under, staff and neighbors figure out different ways to solve the problem, and everyone leaves with a better understanding of one another and how the policy works in practice. At the meeting, we'll break into small groups, and you can speak with the department leaders of your choice: police, fire, parks, libraries, public works and other departments. This is your opportunity to ask questions, share your ideas and meet the people working for you.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, I'm eager to hear your thoughts on how we should define success in our ward. When we envision a thriving community, what do we see? What do we want for ourselves, our families and our neighbors? What can we do to get there and how can we measure whether we're moving in the right direction? I've been impressed by cities that set goals for themselves—on everything from miles of paved bike trails to number of housing units built to the amount of time it takes to remove graffiti—and regularly report back to the community on their progress. I think doing something similar for our ward would give us clarity on our priorities and help us hold ourselves accountable for results. We'll begin this conversation at this year's annual meeting, and I hope we can work together over the course of the year to develop concrete goals to guide us.

See you on Jan. 13. You can find the link to the meeting at stpaul.gov/ward2. I am looking forward to the conversation and the work ahead of us in this new year!

Local Charities Brace for Winter's Challenges

BY CASEY EK

Volunteers sorted through heaps of donated clothing in the back of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 461 West 7th St. on Dec. 19, 2021. The store is experiencing an influx of donations as winter takes hold. But with increased donations comes an increase in work for volunteers, who could already use a hand, they say.

For Society of St. Vincent De Paul Twin Cities Associate Executive Director, Wayne Bugg, this season comes with unique challenges. “Especially during Christmas time where people may feel forgotten about, we want to bring a cheer to them,” Bugg said from within the bustling West 7th thrift store.

St. Vincent's is one of many local organizations who are adjusting to meet the shifting needs of St. Paul's underserved populations this season. As supply shortages around the world drive the cost of living up in St. Paul, more and more folks are turning to charity services like Buggs', which is partnered with 30 organizations to distribute food and other goods like Christmas presents. Information about donating to or volunteering with the organization can be found at: svdpmppls.org.

Keystone Community Services, a local food distributing staple, has seen a 56% increase in use of their food shelf programs since August as the price of groceries has steadily increased. Compounding the issue is the increasing difficulty to stock the shelves due to those shortages. That's why Keystone is urging the public get involved with their organization in one of three ways: donate; volunteer; or organize a food drive. Information about how do all three can be found at bit.ly/3p9Lokk.

Meanwhile, St. Vincent Thrift Store Manager Julene Maruska says men's clothing remains sparse for the store that can't seem to keep it on the racks. She also said that incoming calls for goods among community members have remained at peak levels since the onset of the COVID pandemic. Bugg, whose organization distributes food to about 10,000 St. Paulites per week, said that while donations to local charities is crucial, many challenges less fortunate St. Paulites are



MARGARET
KINNEY SET
FOR AMORE
EXHIBIT
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From right, Isaiah Dreyling and Beverly Lepler, volunteers at St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store on West 7th, sort through an influx in donations this winter.

facing are less obvious. One such issue is the need for human contact, which is hampered for all Minnesotans during the winter. Those in need can walk into the thrift store and request a pair of socks at no charge, but many come in simply for the company of others.

“St. Vinny's is known to be like the *Cheers* of thrift stores,” Bugg said. “Everyone knows your name. There's personal contact and connection.”

Maruska said that how to best allocate resources is a matter of communication and cooperation with other organizations.

A few blocks away, the staff at the Freedom House, 296 West 7th, homeless day shelter are familiar with such cooperation. Sara Fleetham, development director of the Listening House, which oversees the shelter, said the facility, which serves as declared emergency area for the unhoused against severe weather, is in constant contact with a litany of organizations. Small Sums, for one, is a group that helps homeless and housing insecure people with work essentials like shoes and trade tools while they accrue paychecks.

On average, the shelter sees about 175 separate guests per day, a figure that may increase as subzero temperatures become the norm.

“In winter, people come in because the literally need to warm up,” Fleetham said.

On Dec. 19, one individual walked into the shelter asking to throw his clothes that had frozen outside into the facility's dryer.

A challenge unique to this year is the shelter's uncertainty over whether they will be able to stay open as the Listening House remains embroiled in a lawsuit filed against it and the City of St. Paul by West 7th businesses. The businesses, that include Tom Reid's and the Art Farm, allege that the shelter's lack of response to over 100 listed incidents of violence, unsanitary behavior and other public disruptions perpetrated by who they believe are guests of the Freedom House should be grounds for the shelter's removal from the site. Increased crime in the area highlighted by the recent shooting at West Seventh Truck Park that took the life of 27-year-old Marquisha Wiley and injured 15 others heightened backlash

WINTER, PG 2

Fairview eyes East Metro for new mental health hospital

BY CASEY EK

Fairview Health Services has targeted the former site of Bethesda Hospital at 559 Capitol Blvd, St. Paul, as a perspective home of a future inpatient mental health hospital. The site is currently being used as an emergency homeless shelter operated by Ramsey County, which will end operations at the end of its lease in May 2022.

Fairview representatives say the hospital will operate 120 inpatient beds for mental health and substance abuse patients and will be built to accommodate 24 more beds in the future, depending on need.

The hospital is slated to replace and expand upon services provided at the St. Joseph's Hospital in downtown St. Paul.

The proposed facility comes with a \$50 million projected price tag. To clear that financial hurdle, Fairview has partnered with Acadia Healthcare, a publicly traded company that is the largest single provider of behavior healthcare in the U.S.

“As the largest provider of mental health and addiction care in the region, we have a responsibility to innovate across the continuum of mental health and addiction care,” said James Hereford, president and CEO of Fairview Health Services per a release.



In partnership with Acadia Healthcare, Fairview Health Services is targeting the Bethesda Hospital site at 559 Capitol Blvd, in St. Paul, Minn., for the future site of an inpatient mental health hospital.

Sue Abderholden, executive director of National Alliance on Mental Illness-Minnesota, told multiple news outlets she is concerned that plans for the new facility would not include an emergency department or other medical services.

Fairview has reportedly notified the Minnesota Department of Health, which licenses hospital beds, of its plans last November. The plan must also gain legislative approval. If approved, the project is expected to take 12-18 months to complete.

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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

Give the New Year a "Boost"

BY JONATHAN DICKMAN, MD, PHD

West End community, it is time to make sure you are fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID. Anyone who tries to convince you otherwise has never walked the halls of a hospital recently. I have witnessed how people struggle to breathe and lay in bed day after day getting weaker and weaker due to severe COVID infection. Most patients were unvaccinated and expressed remorse, albeit too late, that they did not get their shots. Those who are lucky enough to survive severe disease have a recovery that often takes months at minimum just to feel well enough to resume their previous activities. The hospital is full of patients suffering unnecessarily from the complications of a preventable disease. Although providers work with complications from mostly preventable diseases such as type II diabetes, this ongoing pandemic feels different because preventing the torment caused by this virus is simple: everyone needs to get vaccinated and boosted. Preventing severe illness and death from COVID in the community requires vaccination and a booster shot. Although there are some tools that medical providers must try to decrease the risk of having severe COVID after infection occurs, these tools are

much less effective than vaccination. Some people state that not getting immunized is a personal choice, but this choice causes damage not only to that individual, but the entire community. Remaining unvaccinated or under-vaccinated keeps the virus circulating, infecting others, overwhelming our hospital systems and risking the creation of coronavirus variants. Medical providers look so weary these days because they find themselves dispelling vaccine myths spread by athletes, celebrities and politicians. The people spreading these myths do not understand the damage they are inflicting on our community, they have never walked the halls of a hospital and cared for a patient dying from severe COVID infection. Now is the time to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community. Even if you had COVID in the past, the vaccines can help prevent you from getting sick again. You can find a place to get vaccinated by searching the Minnesota Department of Health's website. The Mall of America (a community vaccination site), your local pharmacy and your clinic are places to consider getting your shots. Currently, everyone 5 or older can get vaccinated. Those 16 or older who have had at least 6 months since the second Moderna or Pfizer BioNTech vaccines or 2 months since the Johnson and Johnson

vaccine should get a COVID vaccine booster. We now know that receiving the initial vaccination is not enough, the vaccine booster is critical for preventing severe disease from new COVID variants. With the new Omicron variant, people are wondering whether vaccines will still be effective. While data is still being collected, this is not completely unfamiliar territory. Every year (including this one), we recommend a flu shot. Occasionally, the flu shot is not a good match as the virus changes in unpredictable ways. During these years we still notice that vaccination, while not preventing all symptoms, still prevents severe disease. Thus, we anticipate that COVID vaccines, while unlikely to prevent all symptoms from Omicron infection, will prevent severe disease. Thus, even with this new variant, vaccination remains the most effective way to stay healthy. In this new year, let's make the choice to come together and do what we can to shut this pandemic down. Make a New Year's resolution to protect your family and neighbors. Get vaccinated. Encourage others to get vaccinated. Speak up against misinformation that hurts our community. Together, we can stop this pandemic. Jonathan Dickman, MD, PhD is a family medicine doctor at Allina Health United Family Physicians, 233 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Phone: 651-241-5200



Riverview Corridor How we got here, where we are

by James Schoettler

While introducing his third wife, a friend of mine commented that he was going to keep doing it until he got it right. It didn't stop with number three. This came to mind while reviewing the history of the Riverview Corridor. We keep trying to do it, but we never seem to get it right. Starting back in 1989, Ramsey County designated the route as an important transit corridor. It was first named the Riverview Corridor in 1997 and assigned a higher priority than the Central Corridor (Green Line). In 1998, Ramsey County determined Light Rail Transit (LRT) would not be cost effective, preferring a busway. In 2000 the Busway, including a four-foot widening of the street, got a shot in the arm from then Gov. Jesse Ventura, but was then cut. Metro Transit made some bus improvements in 2003 and Route 54 came to life. Around 2010, the Metropolitan Council's affection for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) grew and West 7th became one of nine arterial streets designated for BRT, and in 2012 it was identified as one of two candidates, along with Snelling Ave. Snelling went ahead, but West 7th was delayed in 2013, at the request of St Paul, for Ramsey County to make a study of transit options. In late 2017, Ramsey County came out with its proposal for a streetcar. Four years later, in late 2021, Ramsey County is: tangled up with shoehorning the streetcar through the existing Fort Snelling tunnel; still not reconciling its streetcar proposal with the reality that it must be LRT in order to run on the Blue and Green Line tracks at either end; still not facing the reality that there is no room for LRT stations on West 7th St; and has reduced ridership forecasts by a third. Ramsey County has suggested that if it can't run its tracks through the tunnel, the only alternative is a bus. Like my friend, Ramsey County needs to think deeper about what it is really trying to accomplish, and it must give equal weight to the other party, in this case the transit riders of the future. Jerome Johnson, James Schoettler, Jay Severance, Mat Hollinshead, Greg Struve, PE, and Brennan Malanaphy represent 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.

BUILDING AN ANTIRACIST COMMUNITY It looks bad, but...

It is rarely good news if a person is involved in a new relationship and is told something like, "I really enjoy spending time with you, but..." Nor is an employee likely to experience the conjunction but as a place of welcome transition in a performance review. "You have made some good contributions to the company, but..." Because bad news is often front loaded by good news, we develop a certain wariness of "but." However, when one is mostly surrounded by bad news, as it seems for many people today, the conjunction can be a needed and essential transition if one is to avoid falling into despair, cynicism or hopelessness. "Yes, things look bad, but..." And in short order, one is redirected to a way of seeing that opens possibilities that despair, cynicism and hopelessness are unable to imagine. One need not be a person steeped in biblical faith to appreciate the way the author of the Psalms uses the conjunction but. The Psalmist often names a long list of woes, going on for some while, until at last coming to that critical juncture where the "but" appears and the readers know they are being invited to lift their eyes, anticipating a new day. What makes the Psalms a good model for the myriad challenges we face today is that there is plenty of room for complaining. In biblical language this complaining is called "lament", which is another



TIM JOHNSON
columnist

way of saying, "get it off your chest." Don't keep it all bottled up. Go ahead and express your frustration and anger at the way things are. However, after you have taken the needed time to vent, grab hold of the "but." For the Psalmist, the "but" was the place where hope emerges out of trust in God. Again, one does not need to be a religious person or one who believes in God to appreciate how the "but" makes possible a new and more hopeful way of seeing the future. The "but" suggests humility about the limitations of what we can see. There is no need to tie one's hope to a specific outcome. The "but" recognizes that we are on one side of the hill and while we are presently unable to see the possibilities on the other side of the hill, they exist and by moving toward them, we help bring them into being. The Psalmist is also a good model for facing the challenges of 2022 because for the Psalmist, the transitional "but" is grounded in community. It may be a religious community, but it can also be the neighbors that work together in addressing shared concerns. The "but" which moves us from despair to hope requires a communal shared reliance, rather than the loneliness of self-reliance. There are a lot of challenges to be faced in 2022. At times it can look bleak, but... Tim Johnson is a retired pastor of the United Church of Christ.

WINTER, PG 1

against the shelter. The businesses are now pursuing a temporary restraining order that would shut the doors of the shelter while litigation is underway. The hearing was scheduled for Dec. 28, 2021, after this issue of the Community Reporter went to press. While winter seems to mobilize the public to get out and give, Bugg said, "anytime is appropriate to get involved. "It's go time all year," he said. "The reality is people need help all year round."



Beverly Lepler is one of several volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store inundated with donations.

Community News & Events

RAW STAGES

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

2022

STAGED READINGS

Works in Progress

THU Jan 13, 7:30PM
Diesel Heart*
By Brian Grandison
In collaboration with
Melvin Carter Jr.
A true son of St. Paul

SUN Jan 16, 2PM
The Betty Crocker Musical*
Book and lyrics by
Cristina Luzarraga
Music by Denise Prosek
America's first lady of food

*Working titles. Subject to change.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Raw Stages: New Works Festival 2022

Get an inside look at what is coming down the pipeline to the mainstage at History Theatre. Playwrights and composers present works-in-progress with a cast of professional actors in front of a live audience and gather valuable feedback at this early stage in its development. Visit historytheatre.com for tickets. **Thu, Jan 13, 7:30pm: Diesel Heart** by Brian Grandison in collaboration with Melvin Carter Jr. and **Sun, Jan 16, 7:30pm: The Betty Crocker Musical** book and lyrics by Cristina Luzarraga, music by Denise Prosek. America's first lady of food.

Jewish Family Services awarded 2 grants
St. Paul's Jewish Family Services was awarded two grants from the F.R. Bigelow Foundation and the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, both for \$30,000. "COVID created extraordinary need for human services in 2020. And it continues as we move towards 2022. In fact, we project our increased baseline for services has become our new normal. These grants will help us fund additional human and social services."

136th Saint Paul Winter Carnival
"The Coolest Celebration on Earth" will take place Jan. 28-Feb. 6 and is managed by the

Saint Paul Heritage and Festival Foundation. For information, visit wintercarnival.com for a full list of events, which will take place at Rice Park and throughout St. Paul.

Joy and power from the godmother of rock-and-roll with Marie and Rosetta
Back by popular demand, Park Square Theatre is bringing fierce guitar playing and swing to gospel music, Sister Rosetta Tharpe influenced rock musicians from Elvis to Jimi Hendrix and Ray Charles back on stage. Jan. 19 to Feb. 13. Visit parksquaretheatre.org/box-office/shows/2021-2022/marie-and-rosetta/



European Christmas Market a success despite heavy snowfall

Heavy snowfall did little to deter vendors and shoppers at the Union Depot's European Christmas Market on December 10. The event that aims to be an authentic European shopping and cultural experience ran through December 19.





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Sundays at the Landmark
Visit the Landmark Center on Sundays through the winter for their weekly event series. This January, enjoy shows by members of the Minnesota Boychoir and the St. Paul Civic Symphony and take a trip around the world with Urban Expedition China. Visit landmarkcenter.org/events/ for more information.

Housing funds allocated
Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, alongside Ramsey County Commissioners and the Saint Paul City Council announced a collaboration between the City and Ramsey County to invest \$74 million dollars in federal ARPA funding into the City's 30% AMI Housing Fund initiative. The announcement, which came, Dec. 13, comes after months of community outreach and deliberation, per a release.

MN State Arts Board seeking candidates
The Arts Board is seeking qualified candidates for their Percent for Art in Public Places program officer. This is a full-time, permanent position that provides artistic and administrative oversight for the State of Minnesota's public art collection. Applications must be submitted by January 4. For more information, visit www.arts.state.mn.us/about/employment.htm

Suspicious package left at courthouse
A suspicious package meant to look like an improvised explosive device was left at the Ramsey County Courthouse on Dec. 20. Authorities say the package was left with the intent of terrorizing individuals at the courthouse, a release from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office states. Authorities evacuated and closed courthouse for about two hours. As of this issue's printing, the case was under investigation by the sheriff's office and the St. Paul Police Department. No information was available at the time of publishing.

Breakfast with the Mayors:
Join the St. Paul Chamber for the highly anticipated annual Breakfast with the Mayors, presented by the St. Paul Area Chamber and Minneapolis Regional Chamber on Jan. 27. St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey will discuss their 2022 priorities, what challenges lie ahead and how businesses can support and promote the region. Register at <https://bit.ly/3F6GyKr>.

Conversation about Minnesota Transform
Join the Friends of the Libraries and the Campus Club for an online conversation about Minnesota Transform, a project that seeks deep engagement with community to enrich and challenge humanistic knowledge and the practices of the University. Panelists Mike Hoyt of Pillsbury House Theatre; Tracey Deutsch, Professor of History at the University of Minnesota; Jigna Desai, Professor of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota; and Kat Nelsen, a Social Sciences Librarian at the University Libraries. Register for the Jan. 27 online event at bit.ly/3yAoE0d.

An officer and a Gentleman at the Ordway
Get your tickets for the classic romantic tale that is sure to sweep viewers off their feet. The production runs from Jan. 20-23. Visit ordway.org/events/an-officer-and-a-gentleman.

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Community Nourishment

Claddagh family brings us — EMERALD

BY JERRY ROTHSTEIN

Amanda Caruso and Molly Bard have known each other for a long time, worked together at Claddagh off and on during its first 10 years and are now business partners in a new enterprise that will occupy the space next door, formerly the upper studio at River Garden Yoga Center — EMERALD, a cocktail lounge, a wine bar and gathering place.

Amanda’s parents grew up in the neighborhood and went to Monroe. She now lives two houses from where her mother grew up, and her grandmother still lives there.

Molly and Amanda both went to Cretin-Derham Hall. At the University of St. Thomas, Amanda explored communication and graphic design, and Molly studied fashion design, merchandising and business management.

In 2011, when Molly’s mother Mary Hogan-Bard opened Claddagh, she was helped by Amanda’s older sister. Molly herself has worked at Claddagh at different times and took over as manager for Mary when she had to take time off after a back injury. When, more recently, Molly left another job, she decided to return to Claddagh more permanently.

“Being at Claddagh makes me happy,” Molly said.

Amanda, too, landed at Claddagh more solidly four-plus years ago, working on their social media and graphic design elements among other things.

Last winter, in the heat of the pandemic crisis and the constant scramble to adjust and literally save the business, Molly and Amanda started to envision a new enterprise. Ironically, they had the time to work on a business plan, aiming for a warm, cozy space that would respond to the character and culture of the community. They spoke with Jeffrey Austin, the building owner and head of River Garden Yoga Center, who was thinking of closing the yoga studio. He was supportive, and over the next weeks he confirmed that the space would be available. Molly and Amanda agreed on their partnership, and EMERALD was to be



From left, Molly Bard and Amanda Caruso within the Emerald establishment at 455 West 7th St.

born.

Molly originally imagined a warm, inviting, comfortable space where people would feel free to “come as you are” or dress up for a night out. There would be wine and cocktails, small plates, a few entrées, some special desserts — and comfortable lounge seating.

The build out has been complex. Early ideas for furnishings and layout revealed their flaws and had to be reimagined, including changing the location of the bar. Getting the necessary permits and licenses was a drawn-out affair. They were encouraged and supported by the city, while delays due to COVID slowed everything down. The liquor license alone took seven months to complete.

But these factors also gave the pair more time to think about what would work to meet their goals. They considered carefully how people would feel in the space and emphasized

comfort in their furnishings and architectural elements to create an interesting milieu.

The pair are also channeling the concerns of so many West Enders and will work with and support local companies — like their wine merchants, food providers, building suppliers and, via Claddagh, their coffee roasters.

Their level of detail is based on that underlying principle of serving the community, so their space will also specialize in a variety of craft-nonalcoholic cocktails.

The essence of the Claddagh idea is friendship, loyalty and love. EMERALD is being created and offered to the community with these values in mind.

EMERALD, 455 WEST 7TH STREET, opening in January 2022. Visit emeraldstpaul.com or follow them on instaram [@emerald_stpaul](https://www.instagram.com/emerald_stpaul) for further information.

Kinney’s exhibit to adorn Amore Coffee

BY CASEY EK

Margaret Kinney, who serves on the board of the Community Reporter, didn’t fancy herself an artist per se until she retired from her job as women’s addiction counselor 10 years ago. In that role, she had worked to draw out others’ creativity through writing exercises, but her own work would have to wait until she could find the time to free her inner creativity.

Kinney majored in fine art in college, sure, but the life of a full-time artist always seemed out of reach, so Kinney instead turned to a role as an arts administrator before turning to her counselor role. But all the while, Kinney’s artistic gears churned as they had done for as long as she could remember.

“I had been interested in art since I could pick up a crayon,” Kinney said.

When retirement finally came, Kinney underwent the identity crisis many feel upon leaving their careers behind, and for a couple years she asked the question “What else am I?” The answer for her was a landscape painter.

While Kinney considered her work as a counselor as an artform in and of itself, painting has afforded her a unique path to channel her inspiration, which she gets from nature. Nature, she says, is her spiritual home. She sticks mostly to painting in her efforts to capture the essence of nature’s beauty. It’s a process that comes naturally to her.

“Trying to recreate and express and translate and depict natural beauty didn’t seem to be a decision at all,” Kinney said. “It was just channeling.”

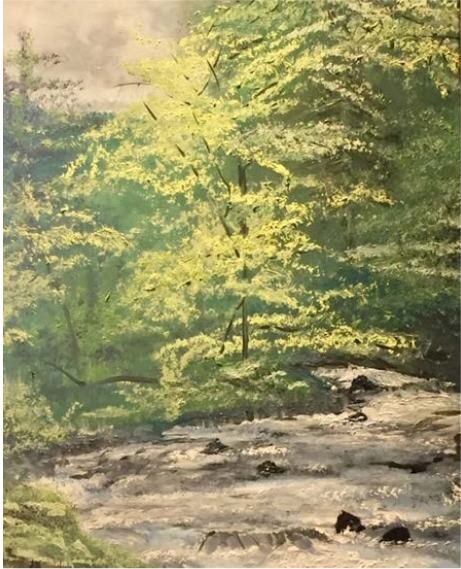
Now, Kinney will get a chance to continue that endeavor at her latest exhibit at Amore Coffee, located at 879 Smith Ave., West St. Paul. The exhibit will run from Jan. 15 through March with an opening ceremony slated for 4-6 p.m. on Jan. 15.

Kinney’s works depict vignettes of natural landscapes in a realistic, yet ethereal manner with just enough color to guide the eye through their compositions.

Kinney has been displaying her work around St. Paul for the last decade. Her first exhibit was at Claddagh Coffee, and since then she has taken part in countless other art-oriented events. Over that decade, Kinney has accumulated a studio-basement filled with paintings and a floor coated with watercolor, acrylic and oil paints.



Margaret Kinney working in her home studio. Below: One of Kinney’s paintings.



While many artists struggle with a lack of inspiration from time to time, Kinney often

has the opposite problem.

“Inspiration can be fleeting, but usually the problem is having so much inspiration that the list of things to paint is too long,” Kinney said. “I’ve never had a lack of inspiration.”

Kinney isn’t one to bask in the spotlight and is in regular dialogue with herself to combat her ego when she assembles an exhibition. But displaying her works does carry with it some perks.

“I’m a feeling person, so if someone feels something when looking at my art then it’s a success,” Kinney said.

As for others striving to make art, Kinney said it’s important to strike while the inspirational iron is hot and to not let the moment slip.

“You have to be inconvenienced once in a while,” she said.

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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In the Community

The M names new executive director

The Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M) Board of Directors has named Dr. Kate Beane as its 10th executive director. Beane most recently served as the director of the Native American Initiatives at the Minnesota Historical Society. Beane will begin her duties on Dec. 13.

“Dr. Kate Beane is an experienced museum professional, and a strong, visionary leader who is the perfect person to lead the M at this important juncture in the organization’s development. The path forward requires a timely push to complete the capital campaign; to complete construction on the M’s facility; to re-open the facility; and to create an elevated platform for advancing the M’s programming model based on co-curation and community collaboration,” said M Board Chair Ann Ruhr Pifer per a release.

The release states that Dr. Beane is especially excited by the M as “a bridge for bringing communities together.” That includes helping Minnesotans today connect with our past through the M’s permanent art collection, and it also means inspiring exchange and dialogue between the many communities that collectively form our present.

“I envision the M as a place where everyone feels welcome, where everyone recognizes themselves as part of a shared story that is explored through art,” Beane said.

Dr. Beane, who is of Flandreau Santee Sioux Dakota and Muskogee Creek descent holds a B.A. in American Indian Studies and a Ph.D. in American studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. As the director of Native American Initiatives at Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) Dr. Beane spearheaded public engagement with regional Indigenous communities. She advised the historical society on incorporating Native perspectives and voices in its projects and sites.

Dr. Beane served as a program and outreach manager at the historical society working with Dakota communities across the region. She now serves as and adjunct faculty member in American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota, serves as a board member for Vision Maker Media, the Native Governance Center, the Lower Phalen Creek Project in east St. Paul and is an urban American Indian advisory board member for the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. Dr. Beane was also appointed by Gov. Walz to serve on the Capitol



Dr. Kate Beane

Area Architectural & Planning Board.

“Dr. Kate Beane is not afraid to take risks and do the hard work necessary for the greater good of the Twin Cities and beyond. This is precisely the sort of leader that the M needs at this critical time of growth and development. I’m excited to see how Dr. Beane’s leadership bridges the diverse communities that the M serves,” search committee member Ginger Shulick Porcella said.

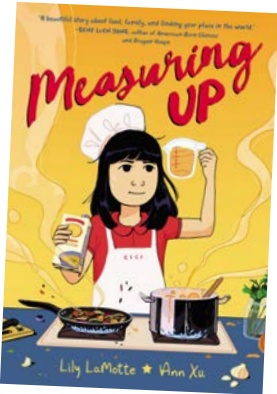
BEA'S BOOKS Measuring Up



BEATRICE COSGROVE
reviewer

Measuring Up by Lily LaMotte and Illustrated by Ann Xu

Above all, Cici loves to cook. It’s one of her favorite hobbies. she and her grandmother, A-má, spend countless hours in the kitchen. Then everything changes. Cici and her parents move from Taiwan to Seattle. This is a huge change for Cici, who misses her grandmother dearly and has to quickly get used to American culture and the way things are in the United States. Back in Taiwan, everything was normal and Cici didn’t feel so different from everyone else, but in Seattle no one understands Cici’s culture. Cici video calls A-má frequently, but it isn’t the same. Now, Cici wants to bring A-má to Seattle for her 17th birthday. But how can she get the money? Then, the greatest opportunity comes, a cooking competition to win \$1,000, which is more than enough. Will Cici be able to win?



I really liked this heartfelt graphic novel, which stressed the importance of teamwork, family bonds and friendship. I enjoyed all the positive messages in this book. The illustrations were well drawn and all the food made me quite hungry! This book is very inspirational for aspiring chefs like Cici, it’s a light read perfect for 8-12-year-olds.

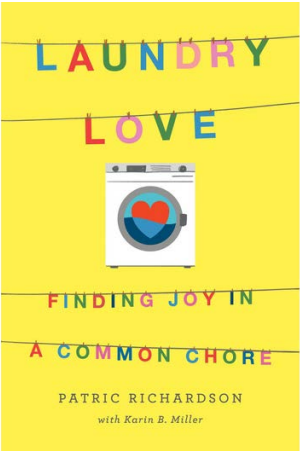
Laundry Love: Finding Joy in a Common Chore

BOOK REVIEW BY PAUL BARD

West End resident and self-styled “Laundry Evangelist” Patric Richardson has earned a surprising amount of press for his unorthodox approach to the everyday task of laundry. He has been the subject of stories not only in local publications like the *Star Tribune* and *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*, but also in the *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal*. He was even featured in a 2018 segment on the *NBC Nightly News*, which included a visit to Cooper’s Foods on West 7th. That shopping trip was for basic, if unconventional, laundry supplies like lemons and plain white vinegar.

Now, Richardson has compiled his laundry techniques and advice in an entertaining how-to book that outlines a better, cheaper and more environmentally friendly way to care for virtually anything made of fabric. *Laundry Love* is both a detailed tutorial on laundry and a fun memoir. It includes numerous anecdotes about his boyhood in Kentucky, with fond recollections of his mother, his “Granny Dude” and the interesting cast of characters who encouraged his interest in clothing and fashion. We learn that he earned a degree in fashion merchandising, apparel and textiles from the University of Kentucky and later moved to Minnesota where he opened the Mona Williams vintage clothing store at the Mall of America. The store is where Richardson presents his Laundry Camp events to enthusiastic audiences eager for lessons in stain removal and other washday challenges. (Mona Williams herself was a Kentucky-born celebrity who was voted “Best-dressed Woman in the World” in 1933.)

Laundry Love covers everything from sorting textiles into warm and cool colors, to washing, drying, and ironing, to understanding the settings on your washing machine—He recom-



mends the warm setting for everything. There’s an entire chapter on stains. Barbecue sauce? First spray with vinegar and water, then scrub with a laundry brush. Red wine? Use a bleach alternative called sodium percarbonate. Lipstick? Vinegar and water again, followed up by a gentle scrubbing with Fels-Naptha. *Laundry Love* offers tips for cleaning rugs, pillows, backpacks, car mats, stuffed animals—you name it. Richardson even describes a safe method for washing men’s wool suits at home in the family washing machine.

Whether or not you choose to completely overhaul your own laundry routine, you’re sure to find *Laundry Love* engaging and informative. So, if you’ve all but given up on getting that cranberry stain out of grandma’s linen tablecloth, this is the book for you.

Find *Laundry Love* at local bookstores including Next Chapter Books on Snelling and Grand, Subtext Books downtown, and at the Laundry Evangelist website: laundryevangelist.com/

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In the Community

‘Dakota Spirit Walk,’ an augmented reality experience, brings nature sanctuary to life

Walkers within St. Paul’s Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary with access to smartphones can take their reality to the next level thanks to a new app-based augmented reality called. “Dakota Spirit Walk.”

The Dakota Spirit Walk, spearheaded by Dakota digital artist Marlena Myles and the app’s artistic director Todd Boss along with Pixel Farm creative director Jeff Stevens, uses geo-location, 3D animation and audio to usher users along a nature path overlaid with augmented reality Dakota spirits Grandmother Earth, thunder beings, water serpents, and Grandfather Stone— who share history, mischief, warnings, and wisdom. The app, Revelo AR, is free on Google Play and Apple’s App Store and can be used in any weather, at any time of day.

“Dakota Spirit Walk” is the third interactive artwork installed in Revelo AR, which Boss describes as “an app that thinks like an art lab.”



Still image of "Dakota Spirit Walk" by Marlena Myles

“Revelo’s mission is to function as a series of virtual ‘galleries’ in which multidisciplinary artists can experiment with an expanded toolkit of immersive technologies they wouldn’t otherwise have

access to,” Boss said per a release. Marlena Myles is one of few Dakota women creating digital art, including fabric patterns, animations, and illustrations that bring modernity to indigenous history, languages, and oral traditions. Her work has been exhibited by the Minneapolis Institute of Art, The Museum of Russian Art, Red Cloud Heritage Center and the Minnesota Museum of American Art, among many others. Myles was nominated to Revelo AR by guest curator Tricia Heuring, co-founder of Public Functionary, a multidisciplinary arts platform. Revelo, and “Dakota Spirit Walk” were made possible with support from The National Endowment for the Arts, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The City of St Paul’s Cultural Star Program, The Lowertown Future Fund of the Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation, and the Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation, and The McKnight Foundation.

West 7th Notebook Recollections, December 1997

BY TIM RUMSEY, MD

Local staple Tim Rumsey walked to work most days from 1987 to 2000. He began as a form of exercise but kept at it for his love of local lore harvested through his interactions with people on the street. He began documenting his musings and eventually filled 53 pocketbooks with his observations. Here are some winter tales.

December 17

Walked to UFM today at 7:15 a.m. Zero degrees. My long johns and fur-lined Sorel boots laugh at the cold, but my pen ink freezes, and I just make scratches and impressions in my notebook. I walk home at 6:45 p.m. It’s snowing. The CSPS Hall is decked out in white lights. The old streetlamps nearby have big green wreaths looped around their crossbars. Live piano music is coming through a cracked open window on the 3rd floor of the CSPS.

I remember a good West 7th winter story from Tom Funk, a long-retired St. Paul policeman and clinic patient for many years. Tom drove the police ambulance for Ancker. The hospital car. This was 1952, long before paramedics. In the middle of a blizzard one December evening, he got called out to the far end of West 7th for a bad, late night automobile accident.

The police radio said there was blood and guts all over the place.

Tom turned on his red light and cranked the siren.

The car driver and passengers were fine, but not the big broken jar of spaghetti and sauce.

December 22, lunchtime

Nurse Aleda drove us over to United Hospital for Johnny Paul’s concert. We were buzzed into the closed psych unit. Twenty beige folding chairs were arranged in a semi-circle around an old upright piano. We sat down with three trembling patients and two aides. Johnny was in the smoking room elevating his serum nicotine level. At 12:15, he came out to applause from the audience, all seven of us.

“Thank you for coming,” Johnny said, “This is for my wife Catherine. She was a wonderful woman.” Tom played xmas standards and holiday classics and ended with Catherine’s favorite, “Way Down Upon the Swanee River.”

December 23

Several hundred West 7th folks attended the community center holiday party this afternoon. There was Czech and Hmong dancing and a visit from Santa. Mr. Positive, Carl Bentson, was dressed as half a Santa with hat and coat only. This confused some of the

little kids. Our clinic staff prepared and dished out sloppy joes, potato chips and pickles. Frank Heller stopped by, so did Tom Funk and the Lauers. Daisy Brown led a family-style homes contingent. Johnny Paul played piano for the crowd. He had a new girlfriend, a wonderful woman.

Carl, doctors Ravi and Macken and I and the Community Center engineer were the only people left at 9:30 p.m. Ravi put away the last of the pots and pans. The engineer hauled trash barrels outside. Carl was taking care of the card table chairs out in the darkened gym. He was still wearing his Santa hat. But no helmet, no headlight. By the red light of the exit signs, I could barely make him out. I walked from the kitchen into the blackness towards the echoes of metal chairs being folded and stacked onto storage racks.

Carl kept working as I approached. Dr. Macken had been worried about a patient, Tex DuBois, a friend of Carl’s.

“Mr. Tex is OK,” Carl said without looking up. “Did you see him?” I asked. “No.” “You talked to him?” “No.” “You heard from him?” I asked. “No.” “How do you know he’s ok?” “I know.”

(Re)Discover George Latimer Central Library

By Terry Giinther, Library Manager

Have you been to the historic George Latimer Central Library recently? It’s worth the short trip down West 7th Street. The 1917 Italian Renaissance building is the flagship of St. Paul Public Library and has three floors of beautiful spaces filled with books, DVDs, magazines and music for all ages to check out, including special collections—like the St. Paul Collection of historical city documents — found only at George Latimer Central Library.

George Latimer Central Library is offering new and expanded programs and events like Saturday Vibe! programming for all ages starting in January. Families with young children will find interactive story times, hands-on maker activities and crafts and live performances on Saturday mornings at 11:30 a.m. Visitors can also learn about the architecture, history and collections within the building at monthly historic building tours.

Library After Dark for all ages on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. boasts free live concerts, game nights or guided maker activities like glass painting or laser engraving at the library’s Innovation Lab. Young children can come to pajama story times every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Children’s Room.

Starting Jan. 9, George Latimer Central Library, at 90 4th St. West, on Rice Park in downtown Saint Paul, will be open Sundays from 1-5 p.m. With these added hours

the library will be open Tuesdays through Sundays with evening hours on Wednesdays. Call 651-266-7000 or visit www.sppl.org/events.

Library Hours

The West 7th Public Library, 265 Oneida Street is open Mondays, Thursdays 12:30-8pm, Tuesdays 11:30am-5:30pm and Wednesdays, Fridays 10am-5:30pm. The library is closed Saturdays and Sundays.



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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.

December Board meeting

The Board approved writing a letter of support for a rezoning at 83 Douglas St. They also approved a letter against a Temporary Restraining Order, which would shutter Freedom House while the lawsuit filed against them by local businesses is at trial.

Board Nominations Needed

First Vice President - People interested in this volunteer position should fill out the self-nomination form at www.fortroadfederation.org before Jan. 6. Applicants must be 18 or older and live, own property or own a business in the area served by the Federation.

Upcoming Meetings, via Zoom

Info: fortroadfederation.org/calendar
• Transportation & Land Use Committee, Wed, 1/5, 6:30 pm
• Board Meeting Mon, 1/10, 7 pm
• Community Engagement and Outreach Committee - Thu, 1/20, 6:30 pm

Stay in touch

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

Contact

Mary Ctrufello, executive director, 651-298-5599; mary@fortroadfederation.org; 882 West 7th, Suite 6, Rathskeller Building.

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Express Bike Shop New Hours

Express Bike Shop is celebrating 2022 by opening its doors five days a week! You can visit the shop Tue, Wed Thu, Fri and Sat. Winter is the perfect time for a tune up. Stop by and get your bike in tip top shape.

Make a Food Donation

Food is getting more expensive and more people than ever need food support to ensure that their family is healthy and taken care of. If you can lend a helping hand by donating food to Keystone’s food shelves, we would be so appreciative. Donations can be dropped off at both our Midway and Rice St. food shelf locations anytime during open hours. Thank you for everything you do for our neighbors.

Volunteers needed

Keystone Community programs are busier than ever, and we need volunteers. You can find more information and fill out application on our website: keystoneservices.org/

Fare for All at West 7th

Fare for All distribution will be on Jan. 7 from 10am-12pm. This is your opportunity to purchase low-cost food packages that support your neighbors and Minnesota’s local farmers.



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Window Galleries at the M continue

Walk by or drive by the M's window galleries on 4th and Robert streets in downtown St. Paul and take in the current exhibitions: Sutures and Transformation: Art From the Inside on view through February 20, 2022. First introduced to present engaging exhibitions while remaining closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the M continues to exhibit work in its window galleries in anticipation of commencing construction work on the final phase of the M's facility in the coming year.

HAND DRUM CLASSES

The Women's Drum Center is offering a beginning hand drum class on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 3:30 to 4:30pm: Djembe Joy. Class members play djembes to explore pulse and rhythms. Easy, energizing exercises will be utilized to build skills. Join us for the opportunity to explore an enriching musical experience. The focus will be on having fun! Instructor: Jo Klein. Drums are provided. Masks are required. \$10 per participant. Register at womensdrumcenter.org.

SCREAM IT OFF SCREEN

Join fellow film buffs for the short film competition where audience members decide who gets GONGED, and who wins that big nasty cash prize at Parkway Theater on Jan. 7, from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for advance and \$12 at the door. Ages 18+. The Parkway Theater requires Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination or Negative Test Result for entry to all events.

CARING FOR INDOOR PLANTS WITH RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Join Ramsey County Master Gardeners for an online crash course on Caring for indoor plants on Jan. 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. With a little special care and consideration, you can keep your indoor plants healthy and avoid common problems. Registration required: <https://bit.ly/3dERnHf>. The event carries a \$5 fee.

KNITTING NIGHTS AT FRIEDLIARTS GALLERY

Join the community at the Friedliarts Gallery and Studio at 943 West 7th St. for Knitting Night Wednesdays. Beginning Jan. 5, the studio will host community knitting events every other Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m. Join the fun and learn some new skills in the process. All skill levels welcome. Donations appreciated. Join via zoom at bit.ly/3GSNWtj.

RIFFS, RAILS AND COCKTAILS AT STATION 81

Join local musicians the first Thursday of each month for live music at Station 81 at Union Depot. Enjoy restaurant specials, cocktails, happy hour pricing and more. Union Depot is partnering with

the Twin Cities Jazz Fest to bring produce this event. The series will kick off Jan. 6, 5-7:30 p.m.

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

The Minnesota Department of Health is seeking applications for their Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) employee scholarship grant program. The purpose of the grant is to assist qualified HCBS providers fund employee scholarships for education and training in nursing and other health care fields. Grant funds must be used to cover costs related to a course of study that is expected to lead to career advancement with the provider or in the HCBS field. Applications are due Jan. 31. For more information visit bit.ly/3mLS9xY.

MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION ARTIST GRANTS

The McKnight Foundation is offering grants up to \$5,000 through their Next Step Fund to artists in any discipline for the purpose of research, career development and/or artistic achievement. Applicants may be at any stage in their career but must demonstrate a history of activity in their artistic field. Individuals must have a primary residential address in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington counties. The deadline for Next Step Fund applications is January 10, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. For more information, visit mrac.org/grants/next-step-fund/.

LAKE HARRIET KITE FESTIVAL

The Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival is making its return on Jan. 22 from 12-4 p.m. The events will feature winter activities, Art Shanty projects and a sky filled with beautiful kites. Food trucks and free s'mores will be available.



Learn to snowshoe at Willow River State Park

Drop by Saturday, Jan. 22 from 1-3pm to learn to snowshoe. Guests will get basic instructions from park staff and will get a chance to explore the park's snowshoe trails. The program will be run on a first come, first served basis. We have a limited number of snowshoes that will be available for use. Please dress for the weather and bring along water, and good waterproof boots and pants. \$5. Info: wrsnowshoe@gmail.com, call/text 715-869-3695.

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