

Community REPORTER

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

COUNTY PERSPECTIVES Forging ahead in 2022



RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5 RAFAEL ORTEGA columnist

At the turn of the year, it makes sense to review the work we are doing at Ramsey County and think about whether we are doing the right work the right way.

Most of you know that I have been working to connect residents to jobs, education and opportunity with better transit. To this end, I aim to create new jobs and housing with Riversedge downtown and Rice Creek Commons in Arden Hills and make sure everyone in Ramsey County has access to the services that they need. I continue to work hard on these goals.

For the last two years, all of us at the county have had to focus our attention on our residents' basic human needs:

Hunger: I chaired the Food Security Committee, making sure that isolated adults and school children who were at home were fed and that we strengthened our food shelf network. We have created a permanent food security coordinator position and are assessing how we can best serve the county in the future.

Homelessness: In 2020, we opened both the Bethesda Homeless Shelter and the Provincial House in my district to house people for the short term. In 2021, we created the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Levy to provide money to seed new affordable housing. We just approved money to help build and preserve over 400 units of affordable housing. We also recently announced that we will partner with the federal government and the City of Saint Paul to provide \$74M for housing.

Public safety: The crisis of violent crime is real. On Dec. 21, we committed to hire 40 new county staff to address public safety. Some will staff our 911 call center. Some will be social workers and community health responders. As a licensed social worker, I know that we are sometimes the best people to address people in crisis, and with proper work, we can prevent a crisis altogether.

This is the best work we can be doing, and I'm proud of the way our staff has done it.

As always, I ask for you to share your views and to help however you can. I will strive to provide steady leadership through these difficult times and build for a better future.

Mancini's makes more history at Schmidt Rathskeller

BY CASEY EK

Generations in the making, the Mancinis have taken over the Schmidt's Rathskeller.

Tucked under historic West 7th, the cellar venue has been home to countless local celebrations and is ready to do so yet again.

"I've got such great memories here," Pat Mancini said from within the venue. "I just thought it was such a shame that this sits empty."

Built in the 1930s, the Rathskeller today sports just about every facet of its original condition. Over 30 types of stone mined from the area make up the floor. The head of an artic muskox adorns the wall. One can practically hear the bustling of regalia and music echoing off the walls. Above the bar is an original painting of Otto and Adolf Bremer, who helped finance the Schmidt Brewery, drinking a beer in the woods with Jacob Schmidt. Along one wall are the remains of now collapsed (or so they say) tunnels that were used to cross under West 7th in the days of prohibition. It is said that Ed Bremer, nephew of Otto Bremer, used one tunnel to cross over from Stahlmann/Bremer Mansion.

Crossbeams lettered with greetings in several languages embellish a red ceiling. There's about a dozen or so greetings, written in German, Gaelic and many others. One beam original to the building is blank, and one language is missing. If Pat has his way, that will soon change, and his language of lineage will be added.

"You'll see there's a blank one for Italian," Pat said. "It's just waiting for our touch."

After a bit of encouragement from Keg and Case Owner Craig Cohen, the Mancinis bit on the space, hoping to fill a need for an event hall in order to free up their original restaurant, Mancini's Char House at 531 West 7th St. For now, they're going to stick to special events, but they hope to open the Rathskeller up to the public for special occasions.

The historicity of the space is not lost on Pat, his son and chef for the family's establishment Nick and event coordinator Molly Wilson. That's why they plan on disturbing little if anything about the visible space in which many St. Paulites have spent time. But the space has a state-of-the-art kitchen and a brand-new tap system.

Mancini's Char House opened in 1948 and has decades of its own legacy, so the family feels as



LOCAL
ARTIST
SHOWCASES
WINTER
TALENTS
Page 4

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though they were uniquely suited to carry on the history of the Rathskeller. Some might succumb to the pressure of that task, but the Mancinis feel like the space will speak for itself.

"If there's any pressure it's to sustain the legacy, but I feel like that's not hard to do in a space like this," Nick said.

"We're going to let the space tell us what it wants to be," Pat later added.

Wilson has been firing on all cylinders answering the phone from potential guests to the Rathskeller, but as a resident to the neighborhood herself, she feels honored to bring the community back into the Rathskeller after it sat unused for around 20 years.

"We have the beautiful building bones, and behind that we have the Mancinis' food, so it's a win-win for people to come down here," she said.

Those wishing to book the Rathskeller for their events can do so by calling 651-247-5519 or emailing rathskeller.molly@gmail.com.



(top) From left, Nick Mancini Molly Wilson and Pat Mancini within the Rathskeller. (above) a cardboard cutout of Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant is visible in an underground shaft that was once used for refrigerating beer. (left) A crossbeam the Mancinis plans to inscribe with an Italian greeting sits above a wooden Schmidt Brewery medallion that once sat on the original brewery.

Another look back: 2011-2020

BY PAUL BARD

Editor's Note: Over the last several months, the Community Reporter has looked back at the many neighborhood stories we've covered during our first 50 years of publication. Today, as our retrospective continues, we look back on the second decade of the 2000s.

Beyond the Front Page

Front page stories in the *Community Reporter* have covered serious neighborhood issues such as the contentious, decade-plus debate over the River Corridor LRT and tracked the progress of major projects like Victoria Park and the Schmidt brewery redevelopment. We've featured columns by elected officials and kept neighbors informed about the workings of important local organizations like the Fort Road Federation, West 7th Business Association (W7BA), and Keystone Services. But in addition to the big stories, maybe an equally important service of the *Community Reporter* has been to simply note the milestones achieved by organizations, businesses and people who persevere year after year, keeping the neighborhood functioning and moving forward.

Noting milestones can provide a sense of continuity and stability, and even give us more confidence in the future—things that have

been in short supply over the last two years. So, let's take a quick look at a few of the many milestones achieved by our neighbors in the decade just passed.

Anniversaries for Businesses, Buildings

The West End is a place where small businesses can thrive and grow to become neighborhood institutions. Many of them celebrated major anniversaries in the last decade, including four businesses that celebrated silver anniversaries. Summit Brewing's 25th year in business was 2011. Golden Chow Mein and Rooster's Barbeque both hit the quarter-century mark in 2012, and Kent Peterson's Terrace Horticultural Books had its 25th in 2016. Skinner's Pub on Randolph had its 15th anniversary in July of 2015 and Claddagh Coffee marked its fifth year in 2016 and its 10th just last August. Cooper's Foods noted 97 years in business in 2014, while West 7th Pharmacy made an even 100 years in 2015.

Events celebrate anniversaries too

Irish Fair on Harriet Island made it to 40 years in August 2019, and a month later the 30th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival was held at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The Annual West End Garden

LOOK BACK, PG 3



CSPS Hall



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info@communityreporter.org

EDITORIAL

Casey Ek, Editor

507-382-1903

editor@communityreporter.org

Jerry Rothstein

Administrative Director

651-587-8859

LAYOUT/GRAPHIC DESIGN

In-Fin Tuan

Graphic Designer

BOOKKEEPING

Ailie Deloia

adeloia.cr@gmail.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elisha May Jacobsen

elishamayart@gmail.com

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Editorials & Opinions

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

Your involvement is requested

As a nonprofit organization we are governed by a Board of Directors, and we have openings for community members to join.

We encourage your involvement in the creative side of things. We have correspondents, reporters, reviewers and general writers involved. You can write a letter to the editor on a topic we have written about, or in response to one of our columnists, or a

longer "Neighbors Speak Out" piece.

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

-- Casey Ek, Editor, *Community Reporter*



CASEY EK
editor

Greetings. Most readers do not know me, so allow me to introduce myself. I am Casey Ek, the editor of the *Community Reporter*. I joined the paper last summer, and I live in downtown St. Paul. I got my start as a journalist in local newspapers, and I hope to end my career in the same segment of the industry. **When I learned of the *Community Reporter's* mission to be by neighbors for neighbors, I knew I wanted to contribute my efforts.** That's why I want to talk a bit about why it's important to keep that mission going.

We've all brought work home with us. Maybe a project has captured your attention so wholly that it's difficult to get your mind off it when eating dinner with your family. Now imagine what might happen to your close relationships if you were to become so hyper-focused on that project that it defined most of the choices you make in your daily life. If we expand the metaphor, I feel this is exactly what is happening to the American public as financial pressures and conglomeration shutter local, independent news outlets, leaving citizens with only major—and often intentionally toxic—news sources to consume. We the American public are bringing work home with us, leaving what's happening in our neighborhoods out of our thoughts.

The *Belle Plaine Herald*, which covered rural communities south of the metro for nearly 140 years, recently closed its doors for good. The Herald, where I got my start as a reporter, was the oldest family-owned newspaper in Minnesota. Like countless communities before it, the Belle Plaine area is now left without a

OPEN LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Here's to another 50 years of the *Community Reporter*

local paper of record to document its history and hold its leaders accountable. What results is a collective turn to national and international affairs, the likes of which cannot be holistically delivered through one-minute sound bites.

Where some might have become invested in a local charity or sports team would they have read about them in their local paper, they might now turn their support to a bad-faith politician who has captured the airwaves. Where one might have been inspired to eat at a new nearby restaurant because of a neighborhood feature story, they might nowadays instead be compelled to skirmish in the comments section of a story about the energy industry with a stranger from New Mexico.

Is the public's staying on the pulse of national and international news important? Yes. In fact, it's the lifeblood of any healthy democracy. But staying on the pulse of local affairs is the lifeblood of any healthy community. And few could argue against the fact that our world is lacking community at this moment. That's in large part because we are bringing work home with us.

The *Community Reporter* is celebrating 50 years of telling the stories of the West End and St. Paul. As Paul

Bard and Margaret Kinney have been writing in their retrospective pieces on the matter, in that time our paper has been with you through the highs and lows of successive generations, and we hope to continue to do so for another 50 years.

So, what will the story of the *Community Reporter* be? That's for you to decide, quite literally. On page 3 of this issue, you will find my email address and cell phone number. You can use either to tell me what's going on in your neighborhood. Further, you also have the chance to financially sustain this paper using the information below this article. I, for one, would be grateful if you did so. Such donations are tax-deductible and will allow our paper to continue contributing to the history of St. Paul and beyond. Our staff continues to develop ways for our readers to get the most out of their contributions, so stay tuned.

Local papers like ours do not have the power to save the world, but they can shrink it, and that might be all we need right now.

Lastly, I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to our readers, advertisers and, yes, our dissenters who make what we do possible.

Help *Community Reporter* grow for the next 50 years!

• DONATE AT [GIVEMN.ORG/ORGANIZATION/COMMUNITY-REPORTER](https://givemn.org/organization/community-reporter) or by send a check to: The Community Reporter, 265 Oneida St., St. Paul, MN 55102.



WEST END HEALTHLINE

Don't get left out in the cold

BY BRANDI PORTERO, MD

After the excitement of winter holidays and settling into a new year, we may find ourselves longing for springtime. With thoughts of tulips and sunshine, it is important to remember to be safe as cold days and subzero wind chill temperatures are not behind us yet. While many people keep up to date on the upcoming forecast, cold weather injuries remain common. Let us take a moment to learn about a few problems that happen in the cold and how to prevent them:

Frostbite, caused by freezing of tissue, is one of those injuries. Commonly affected areas include the ears, nose, cheeks, chin, fingers and toes. Patients often describe the affected areas as cold, numb, or clumsy. The skin might look white or gray, have no sensation, or feel hard or waxy. You should seek medical care if you suspect frostbite. If you think you have frostbite, move to a warm environment as soon as possible, remove wet clothing, and use your own body heat for warmth like placing your fingers in your armpits. Do not use hot water, rub the frostbitten areas, or use stoves or fires as that could cause burns due to the loss of sensation.

Hypothermia is when your body temperature is below 95 degrees (the average body temperature is 98.6 degrees). Early signs of hypothermia are shivering, stumbling, slurred speech and confusion. Anyone can get hypothermia with prolonged exposure to cold temperatures, but certain people are more at risk including the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, cold weather enthusiasts (example, hikers and hunters) and people who use alcohol or drugs. The keys to avoiding hypothermia are to layer clothes and stay dry. Hypothermia is a medical emergency. Be aware that hypothermia can occur in the springtime as well as we deal with wet weather,



fluctuating temperatures or sudden snowstorms that leave people unprepared.

Now that you know how to recognize some cold related injuries, check out these "hot tips" to be safe in the cold weather:

It is all about protective gear. Wear loose layers with the outer layer being wind/water resistant. Use gloves when handling tools or touching metal. Wool is superior to cotton in absorbing moisture.

Use the buddy system. Go out or work in pairs. Tell a family member, friend or neighbor where you are going if you plan to travel, and don't forget your cell phone.

Stay hydrated but avoid alcohol. Alcohol can lead to or worsen cold weather injuries because it causes the blood vessels to relax and widen which will make you lose heat faster. Alcohol, along with other drugs, can also impair judgment and behavior.

Create a winter survival kit for your car. Here are some things you may want to include: a warm hat and gloves, sleeping bag, shovel, flashlight, candle and lighter, first aid kit, jumper cables, boots, multi-tool and flares.

Watch out for icy areas. Falling due to ice or snow results in many emergency room visits and can cause cuts and bruises, broken bones, muscle injuries especially in the neck or back, concussions, and in some cases, bleeding in the brain. Try to keep your walkways clear and wear proper footwear with a strong tread. Test the ground before getting out of a vehicle or leaving a building.

Continue to take time to learn about being safe in the cold to avoid cold weather injuries and recognize signs to seek immediate medical care. Many realize that winter is a beautiful season when we learn to embrace (and respect) the cold weather.

Brandi Portero, MD is a family medicine doctor at Allina Health United Family Physicians, 233 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Phone: 651-241-5200

BUILDING AN ANTIRACIST COMMUNITY

Taking the hard route



TIM JOHNSON
columnist

The outfitter who rented us our canoes was clear about which Boundary Water Canoe Area route we should take. He pointed to one route and said "It is not too hilly. The trail is dry and overall, much easier." Then he pointed to an alternate route which he did not recommend, noting "This one takes you through some marshy area and then across a rock and boulder-strewn field that you would have to negotiate." We would, of course, be carrying our canoe and camping gear. Both routes took you to the same destination. The decision seemed simple: Take the easy route. My 15-year-old son and his two friends looked at each other and immediately said, "We'll take the hard route."

For most of us, the easy route has appeal for good reason. I sit staring out my window at the fresh fallen snow. I can spend three or four hours shoveling, or I can get out the snow blower and be done in an hour or so.

When I wish to help organize a get together with my extended family, I send out a group email rather than speak with each family member individually about when they might be available. It is simply easier.

But there are times when the easy route, while seemingly simpler, is anything but the best option. The choice we regularly face of living out of anger and hatred or the more complicated and challenging route of love and compassion toward those with whom we disagree is such a time.

New York Times columnist and author David Brooks recently wrote a column entitled, "America is Falling Apart at the Seams." After noting the puzzling statistic that while total driving time is down, highway accidents are up, Brooks quotes another study whose authors observe "all kinds of bad behavior is on the rise," weaving together statistics reflected in episodes we all too commonly hear about in the news. The study documents a rise in abusive behavior on airlines, in hospitals, in schools, at youth sporting events by parents, violent carjacking, and the list goes on. Brooks

HARD ROUTE, PG 3

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Understanding purpose and need

BY JAMES SCHOETTLER, MEMBER OF CITIZEN ADVOCATES FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT (CART)

The City of Sauk Centre, pop. 4,500, has a four-lane superhighway. Sauk Centre does not need a superhighway; yet no one questions the presence of Interstate 94. That's because most everyone realizes it is an essential backbone highway for the northern states, part of the federal Interstate Highway System; the purpose is to get people from places east of Sauk Centre to places west and vice versa, and they need to do it fast, efficiently and safely.

Similarly, the Riverview Corridor does not need a "transit superhighway", Light Rail Transit (LRT). But LRT needs to be in this Corridor to link a million people in the east metro to the airport and many other locations on the growing Metropolitan LRT network, and vice versa.

Interstate 94 could have been routed straight through Sauk Centre, giving the city a fancy new street and utilities. Fortunately, highway planners knew the Interstate would have become a wall through the city, slowed down everyone with stoplights and inhibited normal use of the street. Instead, they located I94 on the west side of town, making it a dedicated right-of-way (ROW), exclusively for highway traffic.

Here, we have Ramsey County trying to put its "modern streetcar" (it's really LRT) straight down the middle of West 7th Street. That would be a disaster for the community and the region. Hopefully our city and county leaders will be smart enough to put the LRT on its own dedicated ROW and off West 7th Street. Amazingly, the old Canadian Pacific spur can provide that ROW.

West 7th Street needs its own bus route, convenient to the needs of the people to get to friends, stores and services up and down West 7th. With strategic bus connections to LRT, Riverview Corridor residents will greatly benefit from the bigger LRT network, like their counterparts in Sauk Centre benefit from I94.

The purpose of LRT in the Riverview Corridor is to serve the east metro; the need is to do it in a way that benefits the Corridor without harming the Corridor. We can do this, but Ramsey County must start living in the real world.

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.



Community News & Events



February is Black History Month
2022 marks the 152nd anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870), which gave the right of black men to vote following the Civil War. It also marks the 102nd year since the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. Take advantage of these many excellent resources this month: • **African American Civil Rights Movement by the Minnesota History Center:** libguides.mnhs.org/civilrights/ • **Black History from the National Archives:** archives.gov/research/african-americans • **National Museum of African American History and Culture:** nmaahc.si.edu/ • **Library of Congress, African American Odyssey:** memory.loc.gov • **Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, Black History Month:** civilrightsmnneapolis.wordpress.com/ black-history-month/ • **Celebrating Black History Month at the U of M:** mcse.umn.edu/programs/black-history-month-2022

Winter Carnival Continues through Feb. 6
It's back with a bang and will continue through Feb. 6 at Rice Park and throughout St. Paul. For list of events visit: wintercarnival.com/calendar.

Events rescheduled at the Landmark
• **Urban Expedition China** – Feb. 20, 1-3 pm. Landmark Center will celebrate the cultures and traditions of China in partnership with the CAAM Chinese Dance Theater at a safer time.
• **Black Sea Odyssey** - the Feb.29 event now presented as a virtual event with the help of Ethnic Dance Theatre. Virtual programming information for the Black Sea Odyssey event premiere will be made available at landmarkcenter.org.

LOOK BACK, PG 1

Tour noted its fifth anniversary in 2012 and its 10th in June 2017. The Annual holiday market at the Schmidt Brewery added to the vibrancy of the neighborhood and reached its sixth year in November of 2019.
Buildings also reach major milestones.
The C.S.P.S. Hall—the letters stand for Czech-Slovak Protective Society—took the honors as one of the oldest if not the oldest continuously functioning institution in the neighborhood at 125 years in February 2012. (The C.S.P.S. Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.) Long-vacant buildings were repurposed and became valuable additions to the neighborhood. The 1857 limestone building at 445 Smith, which began life as a lager beer saloon six months

The Heartland: An American History with Kristin Hoganson
Join history professor at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians for a discussion Feb. 26, 2-3pm. Minnesota History Center 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. Call 651-259-3015 or email boxoffice@mnhs.org. \$16, members save 20%. This so-called heartland has been a historically unheralded crossroads of people, commerce, and ideas with dense and intricate connections to the rest of the planet. How does the seeming immovable myth of the “heartland” obscure the richer historical realities of our part of the country?

before Minnesota became a state, returned to its origins and was reborn as the Waldmann Brewery and Wurstery in 2017. And perhaps the most dramatic ugly duckling to swan transformation took place when the 150-year-old Hope Engine Company No. 3, after being used as storage for decades by Kraus-Anderson Construction, became the Hope Breakfast Bar in October 2019.

Looking to the Century Ahead
Milestones also come in the form of new institutions arriving on the scene, ready to start new traditions of their own. One of these is Nova Classical Academy, which broke ground for its new campus in November 2011 and welcomed students in September 2012. Nova wasted no time in creating a tradition of academic excellence, as its mock trial team

Winter Carnival Parade Watch Party
Enjoy beer and visits from Krampus before the Winter Carnival Grand Day Parade on Jan. 29. Then stick around and watch the entire parade with a first-row seat in front of Waldmann Brewery, 445 Smith Ave. N, St. Paul. The party starts at 12pm, Krampus will make the rounds pre-parade, and the parade will start at 2pm.

Margaret Kinney's Work on Display at Amore
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. The exhibit runs through March. 879 Smith Ave., West St. Paul.



Mayor Carter Announces Proof of Vaccination or Negative Test Requirement for Licensed Businesses
Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter announced last month that a proof of vaccination or proof of negative COVID test obtained within 72 hours will be required to enter in any licensed businesses that is a space of public accommodation in the City of Saint Paul during any time that food and/or drink is sold or served indoors for consumption.

Bouncing Team Tryouts
Join the annual tryouts Friday, Feb. 4, 6-9pm at The Landmark Center. You must be 21+ and registration will be from 6-6:45pm. Come and get the chance of a lifetime to try out this one-of-a-kind sport and see if you have what it takes! We are also looking for some Pullers to make our Girls fly high.

SteppingStone Theatre Summer Camps
Summer camps create space for young artists to express themselves, make cool art and be who they are. Professional Teaching Artists and on-staff specialists design each class to bring young people together in an artistic exploration of theatre. Sign your young artist up to join our dynamic and multifaceted community of youth artists who collaborate and create theatre (in a COVID-safe way). More info at Steppingstonetheatre.org.

entered the Minnesota State Bar Association's high school state tournament, taking second in the state in May 2012. Nova's mock trial team then went on to win first place in April 2013 and again in April 2015.

Thanks for the Memories—Let's Make More!
At 50 years, the *Community Reporter* is not as old as some of the buildings and businesses that line the streets of our neighborhood. But 50 years isn't bad for a little local newspaper that has enjoyed the editorial support of countless volunteer columnists and contributors over the years. We look forward to your support for the next 50!

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

defenses. We withhold our investments. The challenging route, the one that really asks something from us, is to engage with love and compassion.
I was already in my late 50s when my son and his buddies opted for the hard route in the BWCA. I would have readily gone for the easy route. But, when we did arrive at our destination, there were no regrets. On the harder route we encountered an amazing boulder field that I had never seen in the Boundary Waters. The boys rose to the challenge and, while tired, felt good about what they had done together and all they had achieved. There are ample reasons for taking the easy route, but there are clearly times when the hard route is the best route. Our communities and nation need those willing to take the hard route.

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

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Community Nourishment

Friedli channeling Indigenous roots through snow sculpting

BY CASEY EK

Local artist Heather Friedli is continuing to take the snow sculpting world by storm this winter with a series of competition and exhibition appearances that she says channel her Indigenous roots.

Friedli took her talents to the 2022 World Snow Sculpting Championship in Stillwater, which wrapped up Jan. 23. She was recruited by the German teams SUBZERO and, despite a valiant effort, did not place. Competing against her team was House of Thune, a local team headed by West 7th's Dusty Thune. House of Thune, meanwhile did not place either.

She then took her team to the Minnesota State Snow Sculpting Competition, which is part of the St. Paul Winter Carnival. The competition held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds was set to run from Jan. 28-30, and the results were not available in time for publication. It serves as the gateway to compete at the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The first-place team at the Minnesota competition earns the right to compete.

Rounding off her tour of Minnesota is a stop in Mankato. From Feb. 3-5, she will be showcasing her talents once again for the city's Indigenous Art Festival. The event is designed to showcase Indigenous culture of all types, bringing together artists, vendors and performances.

Anishinaabe by blood, Friedli welcomes the opportunity to share her Indigenous roots with the world. She along with teammates Maggie Thompson and Juliana Welter call themselves Team KWE, with Kwe translating to "woman" in the Anishinaabe language.

"Through team Kwe, we're able to express through our art our love of our culture with the world," Friedli said from within her gallery at 943 West 7th St.

Friedli got her start in snow sculpting in 2007 when she was an outdoor education teacher. In 2012, she made her first professional snow sculpture depicting Hercules fighting the Nemean Lion for the Ely Winter Festival.

Much of Friedli's art depicts subjects in motion. In fact, she describes herself as a kinesthetic artist, meaning she involves her whole body. She might describe all snow sculptures as such given the physical demands of the medium, and in many ways, she views the physical process of sculpting as a piece of performance art in its own right.

Friedli says through this process, she is not only channeling her current environment, but also generations of history. One is likely to catch her listening to one of several history podcasts while painting in her studio. History, she says can be a gateway into healing from traumas of



Heather Friedli within her West 7th gallery



Team SUBZERO, of which Heather Friedli was a part, crafted this geometric piece entitled "Prisma" at the 2022 World Snow Sculpting Championship in Stillwater. The competition ran from Jan. 18-23.

the past. In the case of the American Indian experience, Friedli hopes her art can lend some portion of growth to those who view it. Friedli recalls making a snow sculpture of a jingle dress dancer in a past exhibition, which is a symbol of healing for multiple American Indian cultures.

"By creating things from our culture, we're able to bring that healing and continue to say we are still here," she said.

"The only way you're going to heal is to bring people together and bringing the truth to light. You have to bring it to the sunshine," she later added.



House of Thune works on their piece entitled "House of Thune" at the World Snow Sculpting Championship.



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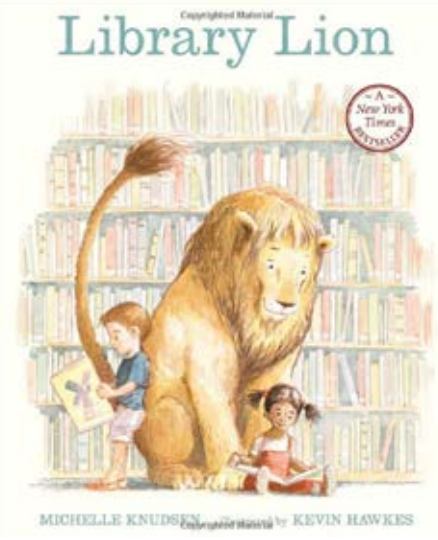


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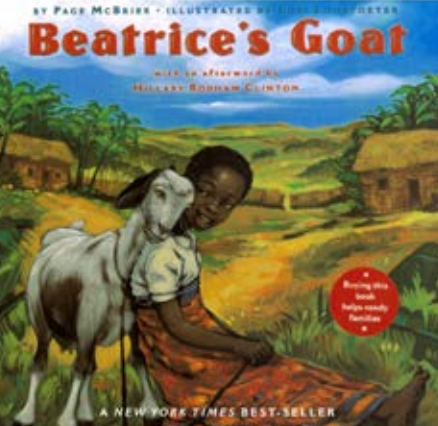
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BEA'S BOOKS Bea's picture book recommendations



BEATRICE COSGROVE
reviewer

Hello, readers! I have decided to recommend some picture books to you because I know some younger readers might like to see some books for their ages, here are a few I've picked out that are good for the 4 to 8 age range.

BEATRICE'S GOAT Written by Page McBrier Illustrated by: Lori Lohstoeter

Okay, I know what you're thinking: I probably only chose this book because the protagonist shares my name. But I genuinely love this book. It's about a girl named Beatrice who lives in the village of Kisinga in western Uganda. Beatrice works hard for her family doing tedious jobs. But one day, Beatrice's mother tells her that the family would be receiving a goat, she tells Beatrice that the goat will bring them wonderful things, so Beatrice names the goat Mugisa, meaning luck. Mugisa provides many blessings, but Mugisa brings something else too: an opportunity for Beatrice. The illustrations in this book are beautiful, and the storyline transported me all the way to Africa. I recommend this book to ages 6 to 8.

CHRYSANTHEMUM By Kevin Henkes

Chrysanthemum loved her name, the way it sounded and how it looked on her birthday cake. In fact, she loved her name so much Chrysanthemum would whisper

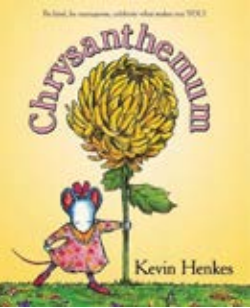
it to herself in the bathroom mirror. But when school starts, the other mice at school make fun of her name, and Chrysanthemum begins to wish she had a different one.

This is an adorable book that younger kids will love. I was able to personally relate to it, because like Chrysanthemum, I have an uncommon name. The illustrations are fun, and the storyline is easy to follow. It's great for ages 4 to 7.

LIBRARY LION Written by Michelle Knudson Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

"One day, a lion came into the library. He walked right past the circulation desk and up into the stacks." Mr. McBee was minding his own business one day at the library, when a lion came into the library. A real one. At first, people were nervous, but no one told him to leave. The head librarian, Miss Meriwether, didn't seem to mind and let the lion stay if he followed the rules. But when an emergency occurs, the lion might have to break them.

This is a great children's book with lots of great characters including my personal favorites, rule-following Miss Meriwether, Mr. McBee (who's very doubtful about the helpfulness of the lion) and, of course, the library lion. As I re-read this one, I'll admit, I kind of wished I had a friendly lion with me as well. Great for ages 5 to 7.



In the Community

Federal trial of former Mpls police officers kicks off in St. Paul

The federal civil rights trial of J Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao for their role in the killing of George Floyd in May 2020, kicked off today with the selection of 12 jurors. Local activists chanted "One down, three to go," among other calls before demonstrating in front of St. Paul's federal courthouse. The trio of former officers are accused of aiding Derek Chauvin kill George Floyd by not intervening in May 2020.

The jurors were selected from a pool of 67, who were questioned by U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson. Opening statements were scheduled for Monday, Jan. 24.

A verdict had not been reached in time for publication. It is believed that the trial will be speedy.



(top) A "Guilty" sign is taped to a vehicle in front of St. Paul's federal courthouse in downtown St. Paul. (left) Trahern Crews addresses two dozen or so protesters, who braved the cold and gathered near the Minnesota State Capitol, Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022.

Jacobson takes helm as Winter Carnival makes a comeback

BY CASEY EK

In the weeks leading up to the 2022 St. Paul Winter Carnival Lisa Jacobson, the new president and CEO of the St. Paul Festival & Heritage Foundation, is feeling the last-minute heat of bringing the celebration together. Jacobson took up her role last August.

Winter events have been taking place throughout January, but the Carnival kicked off on Jan. 28 and will run through Feb. 6. After the last two celebrations were partially or completely sidelined by the word that starts with 'C', Jacobson is eager to give St. Paul the community bonding experience many have been craving since the outset of the COVID pandemic, adding that her new role has given her the opportunity to flex her community organizing muscle, which she has been building for years through her past roles.

Last year, the carnival was held as a drive-through event at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, but the return to in-person programming this year is a welcomed change, Jacobson, who has been talking with members of the public, said.

"The people I've talked to are happy to hear that the things they got used to are again taking place for them," Jacobson said.

Understanding that Omicron is on the public's mind, Jacobson is aware that some may feel nervous about returning to the celebration. That's why organizers have put in place a COVID safety plan. Additionally, Jacobson feels assured that most events will take place outside.

Events will be free or low cost, but organizers are always accepting donations. That's why there's a series of fundraising events on this year's schedule. One such event is the carnival's first ever beard-growing competition, which had participants competing in three categories - Clean-Shaven, Lumberjack, or Freestyle - and then securing donations. It began Jan. 4 and was scheduled to



wrap up Feb. 4.

A new addition to this year's celebration is the Day of Good on Jan. 31. The event, which will be held at the Landmark Plaza, will allow the public to donate, food, blankets and blood as well as "spread cheer to seniors and children in the community," per the Carnival website.

The King Boreas Grande Parade, slated for Jan. 29, and the **Vulcan Victory Torchlight Parade**, scheduled for Feb. 5, will be making their return. The former is scheduled to run from 2-4 p.m. and will proceed down West 7th from Rice Park. The latter is set to run from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Torchlight Parade will follow the 5th Street route, going Westbound on 5th Street, to Washington St. to 4th Street and ending at Market. Dispersal will be at St. Peter and Wabasha to Kellogg Blvd. Fireworks will follow at Rice Park.

New events at this year's celebration include: **Gangsters and Ghosts Walking Tours** January 27 - February 6 (pictured)

Stroll through skyways, inside buildings and

along streets as CynCity Tours serves up history and hauntings in the heart of downtown Saint Paul. A portion of the ticket fee serves as a fundraiser for the Winter Carnival.

Winter Carnival Ice Palace Minecraft Event Sunday, Jan. 30

Winter Carnival Historian Bob Olsen, one of the world's leading experts on ice palaces, has partnered with Victoria Theater Arts Center (VTAC) by creating and recording a lecture on the history and engineering of the regal abodes. Minecraft players will use the lecture to learn how to create their own ice dwellings in a special arctic biome on the VTAC server. On Jan. 30, Olsen will tour and choose his favorite virtual ice palace. The public is welcome to register and participate in the contest for \$5 (proceeds for SPFH).

Saint Paul Winter Carnival World Cup Watch Parties: Wednesday, Feb. 2

The USMNT World Cup Qualifier is taking

WINTER CARNIVAL, PG 6

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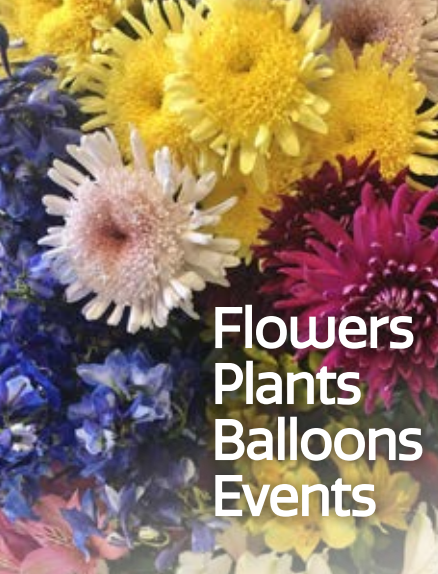
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In the Community

Neighbors

BY TIM RUMSEY, MD
Today, Jan. 21, 8:05 a.m., the cold is painful. Tips of fingers freeze. The musculoskeletal system balks. The mind ices up.
That's why I'm thinking of our neighbor Abraham.
We met in the spring of 2020. That was a warmer time for sure. He and his wife moved in at the end of our Crocus Hill block. In those days, I talked to him once or twice a week. Usually as I drove by, and we'd get in a quick "How ya doing?" Once he borrowed some macaroni and cheese and bread. Another time he asked for a large, trash bag "to clean up the place."
Abe and his wife lived in a sagging, dirty blue tent in the scrub woods along 35E.
I got him to go to our family practice clinic at Randolph and West 7th. United Family Medicine.
A baby boy came in the fall. Mom and baby got an apartment. Abe spent some nights there, but other nights he spent in the woods. Bottled water and Huggies passed through the driver's side window.
In the winter of 2021, Abe was propane stoving it for cooking and heating in the dirty blue tent. We didn't see each other again

for months. Abe had been in and out of the hospital. He did not see mom and baby for a time. He couldn't until "he took care of things." He told me his son and wife were going to my clinic and said it was a good place.
In the last two years, there are more people living outside than ever before. Somebody holding a sign on every busy corner of the Twin Cities. Big encampments of folks at the edge of parks, along freeway entrances and in urban wooded areas. Several camps with over 50 people. What happened?
A dent has been put in the numbers of veterans experiencing homelessness.
COVID-19 hit and did a job on everybody creating less room in shelters forcing more people outside. Low-income housing shortages continued. People lost jobs. Rents exploded. Both cities passed moratoriums against breaking up encampments and camping out.
I saw Abe again two-weeks ago, sitting in the sub-zero on the curb at St. Clair and 35E. Bedraggled, no hat or gloves, head bent, holding up a sign.
I honked. He hopped over to my car, his sign dangling at his side. The drivers behind me were impatient. I waved Abe over to the passenger side and into the car.
"I'm a good man," Abe said, "not just a drunk or druggie." He was crying. "I need help."
We were driving down St. Clair and I asked, "Want to go to the clinic?"
"Yes, please. I'm in so much pain."
I got a little medical history as we headed to UFM. Injured hand. Frozen feet. Lost ID and Social Security card. No health insurance.
"The clinic can help," I told him.
We pulled up at the front entrance. Abe got out and turned around to the open car door. "Ask for the social worker, too," I said.
"Thank you. A lot," he said.
Then he handed me his corrugated cardboard sign. "This might help you some time." Then he waved and walked into the clinic doors.
I read the sign:
Can you Please
Help with
Food & Propane
I live in a tent
Please and Thanks
God Bless You.

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.

January Board meeting
At the January Board meeting, the board reviewed the Area 7 parking study and survey results. They voted to submit five recommendations for parking in Area 7 to the city.

Board Nominations Needed
The board will elect a new president, treasurer, and one area coordinator for each of the Federation's three geographical areas at its annual meeting in April. Area coordinators are board members. If interested in these volunteer positions please fill out the self-nomination form at fortroadfederation.org. Candidates must be 18 or older and live, own property or own a business in the area served by the Fort Road Federation. For more information, email fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org.

Upcoming Meetings, via Zoom
Info: fortroadfederation.org/calendar
• **Transportation & Land Use Committee**, Wed, 2/2, 6:30 pm
• **Board Meeting** Mon, 2/14, 7 pm
• **Community Engagement and Outreach Committee** - Thu, 2/17, 6:30 pm

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

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



Trista MatasCastillo

MatasCastillo to chair Ramsey County board

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on Jan. 4 elected Trista MatasCastillo as chair of the board for the 2022 year.
MatasCastillo represents District 3 made up of Falcon Heights and Payne/Phalen, North End/South Como Park, Frogtown and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods of St. Paul. She has represented the district since 2019. She has also served as Chair of Ramsey County's Housing and Redevelopment Authority since 2020.
"I am honored by the trust our board has put in me to serve as Chair and look forward to working to deliver on our vision, values and priorities on behalf of our community," said MatasCastillo per a release. "I extend my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to Commissioner Toni Carter for her service as Chair throughout the past two years, leading our organization through a series of truly unprecedented challenges."

MatasCastillo enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and served for 16 years. She served in three branches of the service as an enlisted person and as an officer the Navy-Marine Corps and the Army National Guard.
Most recently, MatasCastillo worked as a strategic partnership consultant for Minnesota Assistance Council for and previously worked for the Minnesota Humanities Center as a Veterans' Voices program director.
Jim McDonough (District 6) was elected vice chair.
McDonough was also elected to serve as chair of the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Commissioner Rafael Ortega (District 5) was elected to continue serving as chair of the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority.
The seven-member board voted unanimously for each of the appointments.

Read Brave with Saint Paul Public Library February 1 through March 31

By Terry Giinther, Library Manager
Read Brave is Saint Paul Public Library's annual citywide, intergenerational reading initiative that centers the power of books to ignite empathy and help us think of big ideas to build a better Saint Paul.
Read Brave invites you to read, talk and act. Read Brave connects readers of all ages to one another through five books, their authors, programs, activities and calls to action.
Our main book this year is Minneapolis-based author Trung Lê Nguyễn's debut, award-winning graphic novel, *The Magic Fish*. Other titles include the adult nonfiction *What*

We Hunger For edited by Sun Yung Shin; children's chapter book *Maya and the Robot* by Eve L. Ewing; early reader *Planet Omar and the Accidental Trouble Magnet* by Zani Mian; and picture book *Thank You, Omu* by Oge Mora
This year's Read Brave theme is community care – how we care for each other and our collective, connected well-being. Throughout February and March, we will invite Saint Paul to read, talk and act brave.
Read the books
Stop in at any Saint Paul Public Library to check out a Read Brave book or visit



readbrave.org to request a copy or download an e-book or audiobook.

Join a conversation and take an action
Visit readbrave.org to find discussion questions, activities, and events for all ages.

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.

WINTER CARNIVAL, PG 5

place at Allianz Field during the Winter Carnival - USA vs. Honduras in the cold and snow! The Winter Carnival is supporting local establishments as they host their own Saint Paul Winter Carnival World Cup Watch Parties. The Carnival was expected to announce locations on their website.
Pick-A-Prize Bingo for Kids & Adults Saturday, Feb. 5
Open to all ages, this bingo event, held at Landmark Plaza from 1-3 p.m., will allow those who get bingos to pick a prize.
For a list of events, visit Communityreporter.org.





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Check the website for the latest information or call the Center.

Get Fit and Fabulous

Keystone's popular Fit & Fabulous senior exercise class is back in person with a brand-new instructor. Join us every Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:30am for stretching, endurance and weightlifting. This class is for people 55 and older of all fitness levels. No registration is necessary.

Tax Preparation for Seniors

Keystone will once again be hosting free tax preparation for seniors by AARP at both the West 7th and Merriam Park Community Centers this tax season. Appointments will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays at West 7th and Fridays at Merriam Park. To make an appointment, please call 651 645-0349.

Fare for All at West 7th

Warm up with low-cost hot buys at Fare for All. The February Fare for All distribution will be Feb. 4 10am-12pm at the West 7th Community Center. In addition to delicious hot packages, Fare for All offers affordable produce and frozen meat packages.

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BEGINNER SQUARE DANCE CLASSES STARTING FEB 7

Triple T Square Dance Club, a St. Paul area square dance club, will be offering weekly beginner classes from 6:30-8pm. starting Monday, Feb. 7, at the St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 7th Street, St Paul, MN. The cost is \$5. The first night of dancing is free. Square dance is for everyone: solos, couples, families and youth. No partner needed. Pre-registration not required. For more information call 651-503-7040.

THE LAKE MINNETONKA KLONDIKE DOG DERBY

The Lake Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby is a world-class sled dog race that brings the sport of mushing to our local community. The eight-dog, 40-mile race will start and finish on Water Street in the heart of historic Excelsior, Minnesota and then run along the beautiful shores of Lower Lake Minnetonka. The two day event will feature several fun opportunities. Friday, Feb. 4: Vet Checks, Meet-the-Mushers & Hug-a-Husky, Downtown Excelsior, Minnesota. Saturday, Feb: Race Day & Klondike Village on Water Street.

WOMEN'S DRUM CENTER

The Women's Drum Center is offering a beginning hand drum class on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 3:30pm 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. \$10.00 per participant. Register at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

NORTH ST. PAUL VFW BINGO

On Monday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m. join North Saint Paul VFW Post 1350 for Bingo at the North St Paul VFW and the first Monday of the following months. All proceeds go to Coco's Heart charity.

IRISH MYTHS AND LEGENDS

An Online Group Class for Adults Online event. Beginning Feb. 3 through March 10, The Center

for Irish Music will be delving into old stories preserved in manuscripts dealing with otherworld creatures and legendary kings, queens and heroes. In this class Dáithí Sproule and students will be reading translations of the old myths and legends — these always give rise to fascinating and entertaining conversations, often with lessons for the present. This class will be dealing with stories not covered in previous sessions. Sessions are from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost of the program is \$99. Visit centerforirishmusic.asapconnected.com for more information.



MUSIC AT MANCINI'S

Live music will be in full swing this February at Mancini's Char House and Lounge. Stop in Friday and Saturday nights from 8:30-11:30 p.m. to catch the musical action. Feb. 4-5 - Rockin' Hollywoods; Feb. 11 - Dan Perry's Backyard Band; Feb. 12 - New Feral Cats; Feb. 18, 19, 25, 26 - Midas Touch.

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Ruth Hampton Olkon, CEO, Jewish Family Services of St. Paul
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