

Community REPORTER

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



ART CRAWLS TAKE OVER TWIN CITIES
Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

- Healthline • Pg 2
- Arts & Culture • Pg 4
- Community Nourishment • Pg 5
- Federation Update • Pg 6
- In the Community • Pg 6
- Library Update • Pg 6
- Bulletin Board • Pg 7

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JUNE 2022

CIRCULATION 13,000

COUNTY PERSPECTIVES Let me introduce 735 Margaret



RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5
RAFAEL ORTEGA
columnist

As we reopen for business in many ways at Ramsey County, I was delighted to speak at an open house for a tax-forfeited house at 735 Margaret St. in Dayton's Bluff.

In a world filled with bad news, this was good news. We took a house that had been neglected and stripped of valuable parts and not only restored it to beauty and livability, but also made it a fantastic training ground for young men and women to learn valuable trades, including demolition, framing, insulation, drywall and painting, to name just a few. Ramsey County partnered with the nonprofit Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota and restored the house as part of a free, 12-week job training program in construction.

Throughout the tough and lengthy process, I met with community leaders at least twice to share our timeline and answer questions. The breakthrough was when we built this partnership with Goodwill-Easter Seals and with the neighborhood Ramsey County used this property as a pilot project, and it became the first example of our newly renamed Productive Properties division.

When I first saw this property, it was too dangerous to enter. The roof and the siding were ugly and weathered, and the wind was blowing through big holes in the wall. This home, built in 1890, was a danger and annoyance to the neighborhood.

735 MARGARET, PG 2

St. Paul's unhoused grapple with drying federal COVID dollars

BY CASEY EK

Sean, one of St. Paul's unhoused residents took cover under a bridget near Shepard Road as nickel-sized hail pelted the city on May 19.

An encampment along the roadway where some of his friends were posted up would soon be covered in the white spheres. A fire pit where those sleeping in the encampment burn trash would have to wait to be relit until the storm cleared up.

Sean, who did not give his last name, has been living on the street for around 20 years, he said. He is among the growing number homeless residents who have had to adjust to decreasing access to shelters as Federal COVID-19 relief funding is drying up across Ramsey County. Now, elected officials and shelter providers are pivoting to find solutions to the increasingly visible problem of homelessness in St. Paul.

Reflections from the street

Sean, who hopes to get a job in the near future, is meanwhile taking things one day at a time. He spoke to the Community Reporter about his life on the street and what his road ahead may hold as shelters like the Freedom House day shelter are closing. These selected questions and answers may have been edited for conciseness and clarity.

Do you ever get used to weather like this hail storm living out here?

It sucks at times. You get all wet get beat up by the storm.



Sean, who did not provide his last name, was among those living outside when nickel-sized hail fell over St. Paul and elsewhere yesterday. We spoke about the troubles he faces as one of the city's unhoused residents and his future goal of getting a job. Our conversation comes in the wake of the closure of the Freedom House day shelter and the Bethesda site, which was one of Ramsey County's temporary shelters that opened through federal COVID dollars.

Especially [because] I don't have a tv to plug into a tree to watch the news[for the forecast].

Weather is an obvious challenge of living on the street. What are other challenges?

People want to fuss and fight and argue over the

simplest things. All that stuff is material. Life is more important than the stuff you carry or have.

HOMELESS, PG 4

Meet the newest Fort Road Federation board members

BY CASEY EK

April 26 marked the Fort Road Federation's first in-person meeting of its type since the pandemic.

The meeting, held at Summit Brewing, celebrated a year's worth of efforts from the federation and saw the launch of the group's cookbook, which assembled recipes, both modern and legacy from the neighborhood.

Most substantially, the meeting served as the welcoming platform for three new board members: Maria Sarabia, the newly elected first vice president; Bill McMahon, the second vice president and Meg Duhr, an Area 1 coordinator. Sarabia will serve a one-year term while McMahon and Duhr will serve for the district council for two years.

Federation Executive Director Mary Cutrufello is excited to get work with the new members. She said she hopes the board can make the Federation more visible than ever as they enter a new year.

"A lot of the work we will be doing is just making the Federation more recognizable to people," Cutrufello said of the organization that serves as a collective voice for community members in the face of elected officials and other civic leaders. "We can do a lot of good in the community, but only if people know who we are and how we can help."

We asked the new board members a few questions so the community can get to know them. Responses may have been edited for conciseness.

Tell us about yourself and why you've decided to take on your role with the Federation. Are you involved in any other community organizations or initiatives?

MARIA SARABIA

Maria is a mom, a proud Latina, public servant and a big policy geek. She lives in the West 7th neighborhood near Palace Park with her family. She is an advocate for racial justice, economic prosperity and better systems that serve people and



The 2022 Fort Road Federation Board at the annual federation meeting April 26. From left: Maria Sarabia, Annie Reiersen, Kelsey Peterson, Julie McColley, Karen Voracek, Sara Fleetham, Tanya Fabyanske Beck, Meg Duhr; (back from left) Bill McMahon, Casey Carmody (Not pictured) Tony Molaro, Steven Tacheny.

communities. She hopes for a safe, healthy and prosperous community for everyone, regardless of their background.

Maria moved to the district because she and her partner Serge wanted to raise their family in a diverse, walkable neighborhood full of vibrant local businesses and beautiful parks. You can see Maria and her family walking through different neighborhoods. They can also be spotted playing at Palace Park or the West 7th Community Center, looking for good deals at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, or buying groceries at Cooper's.

Maria knows how to leverage policy and structures to better serve communities and undo mistakes that have caused harm. She is driven to remove roadblocks so residents and families with children, adults and elders can prosper. She believes public service requires: bold and authentic leadership; centering community; and systems knowledge and truth telling.

Maria has worked for over a decade to learn the inner

workings of government systems and policy making processes. She currently serves at Ramsey County in the Social Services Department, and she recently ran for House District 65 B to serve as a state representative before being redistricted.

BILL MCMAHON

I have experience in a variety of settings including public service, nonprofit management, higher education, and the private sector. I worked as a city planner for the City of Minneapolis, working on a range of land use, public safety, economic development, transportation, park improvements and other issues. I have served on the board of the Center for Neighborhoods at the University of Minnesota and on the board of the Campaign for Human Development, affiliated with the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul. I managed workforce development programs for HIRED, a North Minneapolis based non-profit.

I have worked on workforce development programs in low-income communities across the U.S. while working with

the Enterprise Community Partners, a national community development foundation. I currently work for the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. I have extensive experience in grant writing and assisting organizations with grant development.

While I have a range of experience working with larger institutions, I have found I have been most successful over the years working directly with members of the community. I look forward to working with the Federation and the greater community.

MEG DUHR

I have lived in this neighborhood (off-and-on) as a renter and a property owner since 2004. My wife and I now own a home near West 7th and St. Clair and have lived there full-time since January 2020. On just about a daily basis, you can find me walking on West 7th, getting groceries at Cooper's or coming home from the library at the West 7th Community Center.

West 7th is my favorite neighborhood in my favorite city in the world, and I see being a board member as an opportunity to deepen my connection to this community and give back. I've always followed local politics and in recent years have been tuning in much more closely to city and county-level decisions that impact our neighborhood. St. Paul's district councils provide a wonderful entry point for residents to get involved with city governance, and I am ready to step up and lend my voice in a more meaningful way to interface with local officials and share neighborhood concerns and priorities.

My professional background of the last 12 years has been focused on ecological restoration and science communications in public sector agencies and in my current job at the U of M, I work with local government managers and community leaders to ensure that our research advances in aquatic invasive species are accessible and implementable in their work areas.

What is the most pressing issue facing the neighborhoods within your district? How can the Federation best address it?

MARIA S: I am most interested in serving at a neighborhood level within the Fort Road Federation, because many of our challenges and opportunities intersect with community organizing on topics like affordable housing, green space, built environment,

BOARD MEMBERS, PG 3



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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

BUILDING AN ANTIRACIST COMMUNITY

Gray Area Words and the Shaping of Community



TIM JOHNSON
columnist

My uncle had little chance of winning the argument. There are no dinosaurs in the Bible, therefore, according to my grandfather, there were no dinosaurs. No matter how many dinosaur bones and fossils were collected and exhibited in museums, the Bible's failure to mention dinosaurs meant no such thing existed. For my grandfather it was an open and shut case, grounded in a literal reading of the Bible. Reportedly Supreme Court Justice Alito has taken a similar approach when it comes to a women's right to make decisions about their own bodies and in particular the right to make a decision about abortions. When it comes to reading the constitution, an approach called originalism, utilized by Justice Alito and other justices is the equivalency of biblical literalism. If there is no mention of women's rights in the constitution then there are no such rights. The risk now is that this same principle may soon be applied to other rights which find no explicit mention in the constitution such as the recently identified right to marry for LGBTQ citizens.

Fortunately, for those of us who lived with my grandfather, his biblical literalism around things like the existence of dinosaurs was tempered by his belief that when the Bible said love was the highest priority one also needed to take that literally. Love is one of those words that make a lot of room for the Gray area, which is commonly the place of listening, learning and conversation. In a passage often quoted at both funerals and weddings, the Apostle Paul says, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious

or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way..." My grandfather might stubbornly argue about dinosaurs, but a belief in the primacy of love tempered his literalism with kindness and compassion.

One would think and hope words like "freedom" might also temper constitutional originalism, making space for the rights of women, Indigenous people, African Americans, those who are LGBTQ and everyone initially excluded in the imagination of the land-owing white men for whom the U.S. constitution was originally written. When these gray area words are ignored then one is left with the exclusion of conflicting reality, regardless of how compelling the evidence might be.

Both biblical literalism and constitutional originalism, when untempered by gray area words like love and freedom, reinforce what author Diane Eisler in her book "The Chalice and the Blade" refers to as a domination model for how society should be organized. This domination model, rooted in hierarchy, means one portion of society dominates another, men over women, whites over Black,

Indigenous and People of Color, until everyone has a ranking in this social order. Eisler contrasts a domination model for organizing the social order with what social theorists refer to as a partnership model. Unlike a domination model, a partnership model is grounded in mutuality where there is space for the voice and experience of everyone. A partnership model makes room for the gray area words that open up conversation and ultimately hearts.

Those gray area words are essential for families, communities and frankly for national policies, including Supreme Court decisions. Anytime an argument is won through exclusion or denial we are diminished as a result. Dinosaurs existed whether one believes it or not. Women's rights and the rights of others excluded exist whether the original framers of the constitution imagined them or not. Gray area words push for many perspectives, offer opinions that are unafraid of the world as it is and never lose sight of the compassion upon which our communities and very existence depends.

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

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WEST END HEALTHLINE

A prescription for all things in moderation: Finding balance in life

BY BROOKE GENSLE, MD

Thirteen thousand. This is the number of new words that any medical school graduate will have learned, or at least encountered, by the end of medical school. As most physicians (and patients) would agree, it's best that 12,000 of these 13,000 words stay outside the exam room, for risk of glazed eyes and swirling minds.

I would like to bring forward one word that holds great value in the discussion of physical, mental and spiritual wellness. The word I am speaking of is balance. In its noun form, balance means "a physical equilibrium, "equipoise between contrasting, opposing or interacting elements", and "mental and emotional steadiness". As a verb, balance means "to bring into harmony or proportion".

A few weeks ago, a conversation with one of my patients brought this word to life. My 84 year-old patient, whom I'll call Eddy, is an African American gentleman who is in exceptionally good health.

"What's your secret to being as healthy as you are at your age?" I asked.

"Well", he said, "it's a matter of not misusing the good things in this world. I've known people who overuse drugs or alcohol, but that's never been me. You can enjoy a drink or a nice meal, but not over-do it."

"Everything in moderation," I affirmed.

"That's right. Everything in moderation."

"And how do you spend your days?" I asked.

"From 9 o'clock until noon, I listen to jazz. Then I have lunch, rest a while and later on I watch Wheel of Fortune and it's about time to go to bed and do it all over again", my patient shared with a twinkle in his eye.

Eddy's matter-of-factness not only brought a smile to my face, but it led me to wonder how more of us could be as matter of fact about incorporating such pleasures as jazz or Wheel of Fortune into our daily routine. The answer is not in medications or lab tests, but in the habits that make up our days. In a society that is increasingly prone to anxiety and social isolation, I

By finding even one thing to be grateful for each day, we shift our outlook and will build resilience despite the goings-on in our world.

invite us to reflect on how we, as individuals and as a community, can maintain a sense of balance in our days.

In this spirit, drawing heavily from the wisdom of my patients and mentors, I propose the following "prescription", or humble collection of habits, that may guide our days to greater balance.

"Everything in moderation." When it comes to food, drink, sleep or any habit or hobby you can name, we seem to function best when consuming in moderation. We are not meant to indulge or deprive ourselves. Enjoy that donut or special drink, but not three. Listen to what your body needs - Water? Movement? Rest?

Connect with others. Do something kind or thoughtful for another person. Invite a family member or friend over for a meal or call someone to talk, especially if they are home-bound or otherwise in need of company.

Make time for leisure. Whether it is watching or playing a sport, gardening, going to a museum, cooking, playing card games, dancing, spending time with family or friends, quality rest will bear fruit (even if not immediately tangible).

Move thy body. Go for a walk or bike ride. Stretch, swim, skate or sweep. If you can do so in fresh air - even better. Find an activity you enjoy, and you'll be more likely to stick with it.

Cultivate gratitude. By finding even one thing to be grateful for each day, we shift our outlook and will build resilience despite the goings-on in our world.

Be gentle with yourself. Whether you find yourself with too much downtime or too little, pick one or two of these suggestions and write your own prescription. You are deserving.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our politicians need to take responsibility

By Bill Hosko

The cadence of City Councilmember Rebecca Noecker's May Community Reporter column, 'Let's lead the way, families deserve better' closely followed State Senator Sandy Pappas' April Community Reporter column, 'Addressing Minnesota's Public Education Crisis'. In essence we're lectured that we need to do more, and we are going to pay even higher taxes to 'fix' the problem.

Councilmember Noecker's call for taxpayer-funded childcare for lower-income parents is late; she's held office for over six years. The root of her implied argument; daycare is unfairly expensive. The reason she doesn't contend these businesses are greedy is because her policies and actions are permanently making it ever more expensive for businesses to survive in this city, including independent daycares. Her answer is to give more power to herself and create even more government programs and government oversight. Perpetual dependency is becoming normalized, not upon ourselves, but upon the very politicians who are making things worse.

In her column she also wrote, "nationwide one million more women than men left the workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic, in part due to lack of childcare. These forced labor exits were disproportionately borne by women of color." This is an incredible statement given that she supported the very policies which forced countless local businesses, many run by women and men 'of color', who employed many women and men 'of color', to shut down. Simultaneously, 'essential' national chains were allowed to remain wide open, to thereby collect record profits. Many businesses forced to close

With all due respect, her policies and agenda are not about equity, but rather the perpetual seeding of division and dependency.

were in fact selling 'essential' goods and services.

Further, she remained silent rather than demanding a curfew be put in place, as hundreds of businesses, many owned by women and men 'of color', were attacked in this city for two nights two years ago.

Her column's ending, 'If we're serious about equity, economic growth and creating a caring community, we have a responsibility to make childcare affordable and accessible for every family in St. Paul.' With all due respect, her policies and agenda are not about equity, but rather the perpetual seeding of division and dependency.

Countless parents willing to take responsibility for their families and who are willing to put in the time and work to become self-determining, can and are in fact doing so in this lovely city. That said, many are agreeable to helping lower-wage earners with children with childcare if in fact it means that they can remain in the workplace and remain as self-supporting as possible.

Bill Hosko, 59, is a Saint Paul native and a self-employed architectural illustrator/artist for 32 years and a downtown business owner of 29 years. He's a political independent who has campaigned for St. Paul City Council and Mayor of St. Paul.

735 MARGARET, PG 1

This month, those same neighbors who were impatient and frustrated in the beginning were offering to lead their own open house to show off what these newly trained workers had done. The four-bedroom, three-bath home now features modern appliances and fixtures. Fresh trim and paint made the house feel sunny, and some of the historic features have been preserved in wonderful ways, including the tile, mantel and fireplace.

Workers were paid while they were working and learning, which can be the difference between being able to learn a

new trade or staying in lower paying jobs. In fact, newly trained workers saw their income jump by nearly \$25,000.

Workers, neighbors, county staff and Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota President Michael Wirth-Davis were among the folks I celebrated with that day. Michael was justifiably proud and reminded me that when trainees go to work, everybody does better in that family — the children, relatives, and spouses or significant others.

Last but not least, this house will be a home for a large working-class family. And there is a terrible shortage of this kind of housing.

CORRECTION NOTE:
In last month's column written by Councilwoman Rebecca Noecker a figure of over one million more women

than men leaving the workforce was given. Pew Research, in fact, found the figure is about 600,000.



Community News & Events



Mayor Carter Announces Interim Police Chief

On May 4, St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter announced that St. Paul Police Deputy Chief Jeremy Ellison will step in as Interim Chief of the Saint Paul Police Department as Chief Todd Axtell steps down June 1. “I’m honored for the opportunity to serve our community as Interim Chief of the Saint Paul Police Department,” said Deputy Chief Jeremy Ellison per a release. “Under Chief Axtell’s leadership, our officers have continued to rise to meet the needs of our community every day. I look forward to serving in this role, and working with the women and men of our department to support the vital work we do in service to our city.” Ellison joined the Saint Paul Police Department in 1999 as a Park Ranger, before being hired as a police officer in 2000.

Juneteenth Commemoration at George Latimer Central Library, June 11

The entire community is invited to this year’s outdoor celebration featuring activities for the whole family to enjoy and performances by Thomasina Petrus, Junauda Petrus-Nasah, and Lance Brunious. George Latimer Central Library, 90 West 4th St, June 11, 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. to celebrate African American music, art and literature. Visit sppl.org for more information.

Northern Spark artists explore “What the World Needs Now” in St. Paul on June 11

Northern Spark returns to the Rondo, Frogtown and Little Mekong neighborhoods near University Avenue and downtown in St. Paul, as well as the Mississippi River to shine a spotlight on the beauty and richness of these communities. Art projects will take many forms, including performance, hands-on and participatory art-making, puppetry, and sound and sculpture installation, all responding to the theme, “What the World Needs Now.” This year’s program invites festival goers to slow down, sink in and engage one-on-one in a more intimate way than previous Northern Spark festivals. Visit 2022.northernspark.org/art-and-events for events.

Twin Cities Jazz Festival Returning to St. Paul June 24-25

All performances will be free and family-friendly. Bring a lawn chair, grab a bite and beverage on-site or from a nearby dining establishment, then sit back and enjoy the syncopated rhythms of this year’s featured entertainers. Of course, dancing is most welcome, too! A variety of talented musicians from around the country and around the corner will take to the Jazz88 Main Stage in Mears Park to delight jazz fans, new and old. 2022 Twin Cities Jazz Festival

headliners include Matthew Whitaker, Emmet Cohen Trio with Bruce Harris, Tremé Brass Band, Brandon Goldberg, Bruce Henry and the Evolution of African American Music, and Zacc Harris Group. Visit twincitiesjazzfestival.com/about for more information.

St. Paul, Mpls launch electric carshare fleet

On May 13, Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, Senator Tina

Smith, and community partners announced the launch of the EV Spot Network, the 100% renewably-powered municipally-owned electric fleet of Evie Carshare vehicles and the Electric Vehicle (EV) Spot Network of charging stations across Saint Paul and Minneapolis. The carshare network will be the first 100% renewably-powered municipally-owned carshare in the country and provide residents with cleaner and more affordable transportation options.

Art in the Hollow

On June 4, come find the hidden gem of St. Paul’s park system that is Swede Hollow Park, and open the summer by enjoying the the park filled with local art! You can park your car at Saint Paul Brewing and wander through the reimagined ruins of city history en route to the park, winding the path under the shadow of the old Hamm Brewery buildings. You’ll find Art, Nature, Food, History, and Community! Saint Paul Brewing is located at 688 Minnehaha Ave. E in St. Paul.

Deutsche Tage (German Days) June 11-12

Everyone’s favorite German cultural event returns to the Germanic-American Institute grounds, 301 Summit Ave., on June 11 and 12. Along with authentic German beer, brats, music and dancing, look for special programming related to this year’s theme, Fairy Tales: Medieval to Modern. Tracht (German folk wear) or fairy tale attire is encouraged! For more information, including a full list of entertainment, visit gaimn.org/calendar/deutschetage



Climate activists continue protesting Line 3 in St. Paul

Climate activists returned on May 18 to the Army Corps of Engineers’ 5th Street location to protest Enbridge’s Line 3. Activists with the Climate Justice Committee turned up by the dozen to demand that the Corps perform a federal environmental impact survey and revoke Line 3’s Clean Water Act 404 permit.



Bill McMahon

working on addressing the housing, mental health and other needs of our most vulnerable residents. Effective communication is key to solving these issues.

The Federation has active committees, and I am learning about their current activities and priorities. The Zoning, Land Use and Planning Committee, for example, appears to have a steady stream of issues, such as ongoing variance requests. I think the Federation’s approach of actively discussing these, meeting with businesses and residents and writing thoughtful and substantive letters of support for specific policies that we believe will positively impact our community has been very important and effective.



Maria Sarabia

I have a background in city planning and hope to get more involved in this committee. There are a number of other issues, such as youth, family and workforce development programs, public safety and other areas where I intend to learn more about how the Federation can identify specific community needs and work collaboratively with public, private and nonprofit organizations to advance new initiatives.

BOARD MEMBERS, PG 6

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Art Crawls light up St. Paul

The month of May in St. Paul was filled with enough art to make the biggest art lovers blush. From the Schmidt Art Crawl to the Lowertown Art Crawl, St. Paulites have been fortunate enough to be exposed to a diverse array of art and artists. But the summer of art is just beginning, and the month of June will play host to numerous other arts events.

On June 11, the Shadow Falls Art Fair will come to life for the first time. The event will run from 9

a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of Otis and Exeter and Mississippi Boulevard South of Marshall Avenue. The idea was germinated through a walk between two neighbors in Shadow Falls. The event will feature 13 artists participating as well as musicians and children hosting treats and lemonade.

On June 24-25, the Art Crawl at the Rossmor, 500 Robert St. N., will return. The event will feature over 25 artists. It will run Friday, June 24, 6-10 p.m., and Saturday, June 25 12-8 p.m.

(top) Patrons of the Schmidt Art crawl browse merchandise at the Schmidt Artists Lofts in May (right) A photographer displaying his work at the the Schmidt Art Crawl engages with a passerby. (left) Gaylord Schanilec, a printmaker and McKnight fellow displaying his work at the Lowertown Art Crawl points to a piece of his while sitting among a print depicting crows that sat alongside a stuffed crow on May 13.

Do you have an arts event you'd like us to attend? Email Casey Ek at editor@communityreporter.org

HOMELESS, PG 1

What does tomorrow look like for you? Do you find yourself thinking about the future?

Hopefully I wake up the next day. Everyday is not promised. I appreciate my life that I do have. It may be out here but still life is more important to me than anything else.

It's really striking that you're able to be so appreciative when people who have everything in life aren't. Where does that gratitude come from?

I don't have no clue on that one. I just like to be positive about things. For those people that are not positive about things, it's stupid to be that way. Be happy with what you've got. Be happy with your lives. Life is a gift. It's not a given. You can't predict the future. I can't. I'm just hoping I can live the next day.

There are a lot of words that describe people who live outdoors the way you do. There's 'unhoused' 'homeless.' What word do you use to describe yourself and the way you live?

Free spirit. I'm a roamer. I like to roam the earth. There's not that much more I can say about that.

I give everybody a chance. I'm a good, kind-hearted person.

Does it help to be kind living out here?

At times yeah, until a person takes a kindness for a weakness. Sometimes some people have taken my kindness for a weakness, so I just get away from them.



An unhoused man who goes by the name 'Bama attempts to keep dry in an encampment off Shepard Road.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Already the Bethesda Shelter, formerly operated by Ramsey County that could accommodate up to 100 people, has closed its doors as a shelter. On May 8, The Freedom House Day shelter closed its doors in the wake of controversy in the West 7th neighborhood, leaving many to tented enclaves. At the county level, \$53 million in emergency shelter funding is expected run out.

Director of Housing and Stabilization and Opportunity of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis said the federal dollars that poured in served as a revelatory boon that showed progress on the challenge of homelessness was possible.

Catholic Charities, which offers permanent and emergency shelter for the



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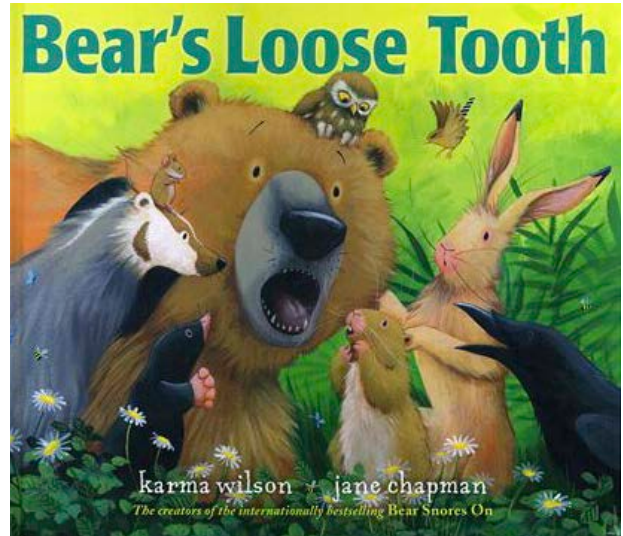
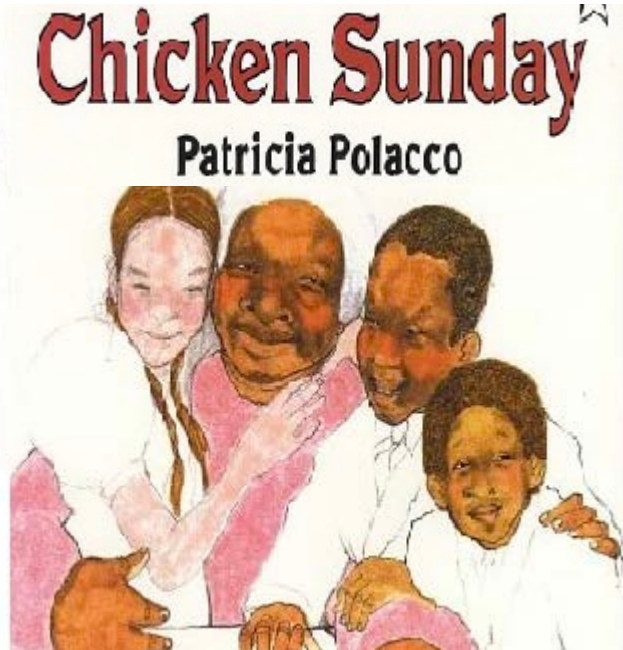
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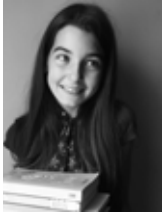
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Community Nourishment



BEA'S BOOKS *Bea's Picture Book Recommendations (Part II)*



BEATRICE COSGROVE
reviewer

Hello readers! I decided that there are so many great picture books out there, why not do a Part II to my picture book recommendations? Enjoy!

CHICKEN SUNDAY By Patricia Polacco
I enjoy all of Patricia Polacco's books, and to this day (at twelve years old), I still enjoy picking up one of her picture books and reading them. Sometimes, when you need a break from the realities of life, a picture book is the way to go.

Chicken Sunday is a book about a girl who wants to do the right thing. When her grandmother admires a hat in a sales window, the girl and her brothers become set on getting it for her for Easter. The catch: The owner of the shop, Mr. Kodinski accuses them of pelting eggs at his door and becomes angry with the three children. Will the girl and her brothers be able to earn back the owner's trust and get the hat, or will they have to abandon their hopes?

Chicken Sunday is a heartfelt book with realistic drawings, illustrated by none other than Patricia Polacco herself. The storyline is slightly more complicated than other children's books, but all the same, it's a good book for ages 6-9.

COME BACK SOON By Daniel Shallau
Come Back Soon is a story about Elephant, who goes to visit his penguin

friends in Icetown after being invited (with a very nice note, of course) by Mayor Guin. After a wonderful welcome, Elephant has much fun in Icetown. He eats at a restaurant and then heads to the tailor's, after realizing he needs a suit. After, he gets some much needed rest. This book has such sweet and charming illustrations and keeps the reader engaged. A great book to read to little ones! I recommend it for ages 3-6.

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS:

BEAR'S LOOSE TOOTH By Karma Wilson; Illustrated By Jane Chapman

Have you ever read *Bear Snores On*? If so, the characters in *Bear's Loose Tooth* will be very familiar. When Bear finds that he has a loose tooth, all of his friends take a try to get the tooth out, but the tooth won't budge! The illustrations are adorable, this book is perfect for any animal lover! Recommended for ages 3-5.

FLOWER GARDEN By Eve Bunting; Illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt

This book is about a little girl and her father who go out and buy flowers for Mom on her birthday. The book follows them from the grocery store, to the bus and up those tiring stairs to get home! There is not much to this book, but all the same it's great, the illustrations and storyline are easy to understand, giving younger kids and toddlers ages 3-5 a book they can connect to and find interesting.



Sean, who did not provide his last name, takes shelter from a hail storm May 19 under a bridge off of Shepard Road near downtown St. Paul.

HOMELESS, PG 4

homeless in downtown St. Paul and beyond is seeing a surge of guests, Michels said. At the downtown campus, staff were used to seeing about 200 guests at one of the three meals they served throughout the day. Recently, that number has swelled to about 300. The largest upticks in guests at the downtown Campus, Michels said, is at the day shelter. On average the downtown campus serves 1000 people per day with various needs.

Michels said the swell in shelters that came as a direct result of temporary federal funding allowed many to get on the right path to bettering their lives because many did not have so much as a quiet place to sort their affairs before the funding. But while good came of the the funding, the pandemic also left many of St. Paul's homeless in its maelstrom, particularly those in need of ongoing mental health services. In virtually every way life has only gotten harder for those living on the streets, Michels said.

"What we're seeing is individuals who under the best circumstances have been disconnected [from services] for two years."

At the downtown Catholic Charities campus and throughout St. Paul, tent encampments are becoming an increasingly common sight, leaving many to question

how the rest of the summer may go as elected leaders juggle funding options for



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In the Community

Notebook Recollections: Soap bubbles for the Angels

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 is just one tale.

BY TIM RUMSEY, MD

May 1997, 7:30 a.m.: When I got to my clinic desk, nurse Aleda had something for me right away. Daisy C's niece, Maria, was about to die. I had better get over to her house. Maria's place leans against the parking lot we shared with Mancini's Char House. You could see it out the back window of our office, but I had to walk around the block to get there because of a big chain link fence protecting the lot. Man, it was hot out for May. And no breeze. Eighty-three degrees. I was soaked just getting there. Maria lived on the second floor of a 120-year-old duplex at the top of a narrow, steep stairway. One more person could not have fit into the two and a half room place. It was hotter inside than out. Daisy led me to her niece. The crowd parted. Up ahead I saw Maria in bed hooked up to an oxygen tank. Her husband knelt on one knee holding on to her, his head lying on her stomach. "She's gone," Daisy whispered to me. "We need you to tell us."

Maria's poor husband was peeled away. "Hello, Maria," I said out loud as I put my hand on her shoulder. No pulse in the neck. No stethoscoped heartbeat. Pupils frozen. No live breath, just a whisper of the oxygen. I saw Maria last week in the clinic. Her cancer had taken over. Maria was a simple, uncomplicated woman with an early marriage that went bad. She had two adult kids. She married again four years ago. She worked in a bakery. Hard work. Aleda and I never once heard a complaint from her about anything. Her diagnosis, her pain, her dying. She wanted to die at home, Aleda arranged hospice. Maria was 45 years old. I stood up, turned around and told the packed-in friends and family what they already feared. The crying started en masse. People filed by the bed one by one to touch her. Daisy took me out on the back porch. I ducked under two arched doorways to get there. People were smaller in the 1880s. Now the outside air was cool compared to the stiffling inside. Daisy told me Maria was peaceful at the end, but family and friends were taking it hard. Two cats and a dog joined us for a breather of their own. It was now 8:15 a.m.

I looked out over Mancini's parking lot fence towards the clinic. A full day of healthcare was about to begin. Patients would be getting good and bad news for the next 10 hours or so and then our doctors on call would hold things together until tomorrow morning when it would start all over again. Daisy said an air conditioner ordered for Maria never arrived, so people took turns fanning her all night long. On the way out of the duplex, I backed against the wall as two funeral home assistants hefted the empty stretcher up the stairs. A gray hearse with both back doors open waited out front. I nodded and gave a hug to Daisy's son, Danny, who was outside smoking. Neighbors on front steps of the little old houses in this little old neighborhood looked toward Maria's house. Halfway down the block I turned around and saw Maria's stretcher come down the front steps. Goodbye, Maria. Back at the office Aleda said we should blow bubbles for the angel, Maria. Dr. Ravi always had a bottle of soap bubbles on his desk that he blew outside whenever the winter temperature got below -10 degrees (they freeze into cellophane balls). At least 50 bubbles, backlit and rainbowed, drifted around our work area for a good nine seconds before silently popping.

Kick off summer with Saint Paul Public Library, Expanding Hours at West 7th

By Terry Giinther, Library Manager

Summer Spark offers reading, learning fun for kids and teens all summer long All Saint Paul Public Library locations invite kids and teens to make the library their destination for summer fun and learning. Summer Spark, the library's summer learning and reading program, encourages kids and teens to stay active and read for fun all summer long with programs, hands-on learning, reading challenges and book giveaways. To get started, kids and teens can stop in to sign up for Summer Spark, pick up activity and reading logs and pick out a free book to keep. Readers set their own reading and learning goals, and library staff are here to help. Families can pick up take-and-make kits that include art, journaling and crafting supplies. Take-and-make kits will be available

to pick up while supplies last. Suggested book titles and a calendar of events and performances happening at all Saint Paul Public Library locations can be found at sppl.org/summer. **A note from our Community Reporter book reviewer Beatrice Cosgrove:** *I've been doing Summer Spark for quite a few years now and have had a lot of fun doing it, especially with a friend (in this case, my sister!). The goal of is to get kids reading and encourage them to do fun activities in and outside. There are also activities for teens and older kids! Once you complete a certain amount of activities and/or do a certain amount of reading, you can earn prizes.* **Juneteenth Commemoration at George Latimer Central Library, June 11** Join for Juneteenth Commemoration 2022 at



the George Latimer Central Library, 90 West 4th St., on June 11 from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. to celebrate African American music, art and literature. The entire community is invited to this year's outdoor celebration featuring activities for the whole family to enjoy and performances by Thomasina Petrus, Junauda Petrus-Nasah and Lance Brunious. Visit sppl.org for more information. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held inside George Latimer Central Library.

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

BOARD MEMBERS, PG 3

MEG D: I see three major challenges: Diversity in housing stock and by extension, our community diversity, is part of what makes West 7th vibrant, but renting or owning a home in our neighborhood is becoming increasingly out of reach for economically and racially diverse people. The city's management approach to invasive emerald ash borers and neglect of the non-ash trees in recent years has taken a heavy toll on the livability, enjoyment and climate resilience of our neighborhood. I think there are major conflicts between our goals for a safe and vibrant neighborhood centered around the West 7th corridor and MnDOT's management of our street as a state highway (with two lanes each way and a turn lane through much of it). I think one of our greatest opportunities is that more people are recognizing what a great corner of St. Paul our area is to live, work or start a business in, and we are attracting new people to the neighborhood and new developments, venues and restaurants that add to the vibrancy of West 7th. Part of what makes our neighborhood so desirable is that we have had more success resisting gentrification and maintaining diverse housing stock, with more affordable options, than other parts of St. Paul. Maintaining this will require continued advocacy from the Federation, particularly as the Riverview Corridor project takes shape, because while the prospect of restoring street cars to West 7th is very exciting, we will need to ensure that our local businesses have the support they need during construction and that our neighborhood character is maintained. **How will you work to make the Federation more visible and accessible to the community?** **MARIA S:** More visibility requires pushing back on the status quo. As we learn new ways to engage and live amidst this pandemic, we know we must be more people-centered and reconnect as community members. Our rich diversity is an asset, and together we can explore new and multiple solutions to challenges with public safety to curb violence as a community in these harsh economic times. We also have an opportunity to beautify our neighborhood to support our collective mental health and work



Meg Duhr with local government and businesses to help meet people's basic needs. Many of us are working and trying to make ends meet for children and families. I look forward to exploring ways to be a community and partner with policy makers and elected officials to support our families and neighborhoods. **BILL M:** I think getting out and meeting our residents and businesses where they are is very important. I hope we can work together as a board to get out to community events and local gathering places such as the Clutch Brewing beer garden which is having live music four days a week is a prime opportunity to meet residents and families. Simply showing up with a table in this setting making ourselves available for conversations about our community—it's challenges and opportunities—and providing information about the role the Federation is playing (and can play) in our community is a simple yet effective way to raise our profile and broaden our reach. Strengthening our online and social media presence and interaction with community members and businesses is key. Perhaps adding a part time communications and outreach contractor with social media experience would be very effective in raising our visibility and increasing participation with Federation

and community activities. **MEG D:** I spend a lot of time listening to the challenges, questions, and concerns community leaders have about invasive species and then work with our scientists to ensure their work is responsive to these stakeholder's needs. Active, empathetic listening and open, transparent communications are some of the skills I use daily, and I will apply this to my work as a board member to connect with people at the grassroots level and then communicate their concerns and priorities to decision makers.

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Community REPORTER

FEDERATION UPDATE
fortroadfederation.org

Fort Road cookbook now available
West Seventh Cooks! cookbook is finally available for purchase. For \$25, you can get a hold of about 85 recipes from your neighbors. The book features appetizers, main courses and desserts alongside salads and other treats. The cookbook also includes recipes from a 1937 West 7th community cookbook assembled by the West End Commercial Club Ladies Auxiliary. Pick up your copy at Brake Bread or the Federation office.

Blood Drive
Keg and Case and Clutch Brewing Co. Wed, June 1, 1-7 p.m. To make an appointment, go to RedCrossBlood.org

Upcoming Meetings, via Zoom
Info: fortroadfederation.org/calendar
• Transportation & Land Use Committee, Wed, 6/1, 6:30 pm
• Board Meeting Mon, 6/13, 7pm

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

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Keystone Oneida Scholarship

Do you live in the West 7th neighborhood and are pursuing an undergraduate degree? Please apply for the Oneida Scholarship. Individual grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,500 be chosen based on merit and financial need. Info: info@keystoneservices.org. Applications are due June 30.

Free Farmer's Market Drive-Through

Summer is back, and Keystone's food distributions are coming! Next event: Friday, June 10, 10am-12pm at Rice & Arlington Field, 1500 Rice St., St. Paul. Open to anyone in need, and no registration is required. Everyone who attends will receive five to seven varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables. We have free farmer's market events set up all throughout the summer across Ramsey County. For dates/locations: visit keystoneservices.org/events.

Fare for All at West 7th

Stretch your grocery budget with low-cost food packages Friday, June 3, 10am to 12pm. West 7th Community Center.

Senior Watercolor Class

June 6, 1– 3 p.m. Taught by artist Anne McFaul Reid, participants will draw upon their own experiences in nature and will create a landscape, bird painting or any nature-inspired work. Learn basic painting techniques, including brushwork and color mixing. This landscape can come from memories, places you have been or places you have always wanted to visit. All supplies provided. This class is offered in collaboration with COMPAS Arts. Register! info@keystoneservices.org or calling 651-645-0349.

BULLETIN BOARD



Suyao Tian at Friedli Gallery in June

A new gallery exhibit at the Friedli Studio features explorative watercolors by Suyao Tian. Suyao's paintings represent places she has been and seen in the world of her imagination. Time and space are completely different in Suyao's incredible works from the real world. Suyao uses painting to understand the relationship between humanity, nature, and the universe, exploring the internal questions of who we are and where we are. Suyao Tian's work creates a peaceful and safe space that invites people's minds to wander and get lost within these immersive works. Suyao remarks, "People say they find peace in my works, that they find encouragement and healing".

WAR CRIMES AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

World Without Genocide webinar, June 21, 7-9 pm. Register at worldwithoutgenocide.org/redcross. The news is filled with information about war crimes in Ukraine, but what is a war crime? A body of law called international humanitarian law restricts what can be done during war, limits the weapons that can be used to minimize harm, and specifies how civilians and prisoners must be treated. Violations constitute war crimes, and perpetrators can be prosecuted at national or international courts. Open to the public: \$10 general public, \$5 students and seniors, \$25 for Minnesota lawyers for 2 'elimination of bias' CLE credits, and free to Mitchell Hamline law students.

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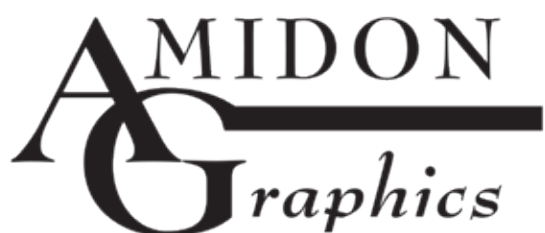
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LANDMARK'S WALKING TOURS ARE BACK

Led by Landmark Center Volunteer Association, tour participants can explore the Rice Park neighborhood, Kellogg Park neighborhood, and the beautiful Mississippi riverfront Wednesdays at 10 am, June through August. Free with required pre-registration. Guests will be able to make reservations one month prior to the tour. Tour groups are limited to 20 participants, and reservations are required. Reservations can be made online at landmarkcenter.org/saint-paul-walking-tours or by calling Sydney at 651-292-3063

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