Communit

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



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VOL. 52 NO. 10

OCTOBER 2022

CIRCULATION 13,000

CITY PERSPECTIVE **Growing Career Pathways in Saint Paul**



COUNCIL MEMBER **CHRIS TOLBERT**

Hello St. Paul friends. This fall, the City of St. Paul continues to move forward the annual city budget process and improve our housing policies regarding rent stabilization. Looking at our local economy, I would like to recognize September

as Workforce Development Month, and share how St. Paul and Ramsey County are working on initiatives to further our workforce, youth employment and jobs.

During the Month of September, we honored workforce development leaders and staff, as well as drew attention to the resources available to those looking for work and to employers who need workers now. Workforce development professionals throughout the state are working hard to connect all Minnesotans who need work with employment and to help employers reach often-overlooked labor pools.

As a member of Ramsey County's Workforce Innovation Board, I get to experience this work firsthand. The Workforce Innovation Board was founded on the belief that everyone who wants to work deserves the dignity of having career choices. The board is the catalyst that helps meet the needs of employers and job seekers by building meaningful partnerships, identifying emerging workforce needs and maintaining economic health in our county.

Working in partnership with the City of St. Paul, the WIB harnesses the collaborative power of business, government, economic development, education and the community to develop strategic solutions for workforce challenges. Ramsey County Workforce Solutions is proud to announce a new partnership with area chambers of commerce and economic development organizations who serve Ramsey County residents.

The new Inclusive Employer Champions collaboration will provide intentional partnerships between Ramsey County and the St. Paul Area Chamber, Midway Chamber of Commerce, Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation, Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce, Saint Paul Port Authority, Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce, Rice Larpenteur Alliance and Latino Chamber of Commerce. This effort is designed to bring intentional collaboration and resource sharing across all workforce services and programming in the county to benefit Ramsey County employers.

St. Paul is also providing career pathways for our young people through Right Track, the city's youth employment initiative. Right Track builds a diverse future workforce while supporting young people and their families now. Right Track engages nearly 1,000 young people from cost-burdened homes in a variety of internships.

I helped launch Right Track in 2014 by collaborating with St. Paul Public Schools and the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce to establish a pipeline of career development opportunities for St Paul youth. Right Track operates out of the Department of Parks and Recreation, building on the department's long history of providing youth development and employment opportunities for St. Paul youth.

Right Track interns are placed in local businesses and departments within the City of St. Paul - including the Ward 3 office. This past summer, I was proud

CAREER, PG 3

Keystone eyes future with new food center

BY CASEY EK

ears in the making, Keystone Community Services is expanding into the empty warehouses at 1790-2000 University Ave. at Fairview Avenue in what will be a crucial hub for the organization that serves the city's less fortunate.

The expansion couldn't be coming at a better time for St. Paul as the effects of COVID-19 continue to ripple through the city's communities. According to Ramsey County data from 2021, the latest available, about 11% of county residents were experiencing food insecurity, well above the 8.6% average statewide. Seventeen percent of Ramsey County children are experiencing food insecurity, well above the 12.5% average statewide and significantly higher than most other counties.

While these figures are down from their 2020 peaks (12.3% overall and 20.2% for children), Keystone President Mary McKeown says these numbers don't tell the whole story. In fact, the provider of food and other services has been busier than ever. This August, Keystone supported 1,251 new people with food resources, which is nearly four times the number of new people supported in August 2021 (364)

"Low-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with young children and college students are just a few of the groups that are experiencing



Keystone Community Partners President and CEO Mary McKeown inside the future site of Keystone's newest food shelf and community center in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood.

financial distress this year due to higher than anticipated food, gas and utility expenses, and they are turning to Keystone for food and household items to help them during this challenging time," McKeown said, adding that visits to Keystone's food shelf program have doubled since last year, and every month the number of new people reaching out for support increases.

New facility, new opportunities

That's where the new food center will come in. Anticipated for a fall 2023 launch, pending adequate fundraising, the new food center will provide Keystone and those they serve with an additional 20,000 square feet of space out of which to operate.

KEYSTONE pg 2



Rep. Betty McCollum



Bill Hosko



Dan Walsh





Erin Murphy





Kevin Fjelsted



Maria Isa Pérez-Hedges



Mai Lor Xiong



Paul Holmgren



Rafael Ortega



Robert Bushard

Meet the Candidates Vying for Your Vote

COMPILED BY CASEY EK

General elections are Nov. 8. Meet some of the candidates hoping to earn our neighborhoods' votes. Responses to the Community Reporter's questions may have been edited for brevity.

Ramsey County District 5

Please describe the biggest issues Ramsey County is facing and how you would address those challenges.

Rafael Ortega, Incumbent commissionerrafaelortega.wordpress.com

· I will continue to build our transit system to get

people to where they need to go safely and reliably. · To address public safety: In the last two years, we have hired 40 new county staff, including specialists in the 911 call center and social workers. I am also working with Betty McCollum to get almost \$1 million in Group Violence Intervention funding.

· I continue to strengthen our East Metro economy by supporting developments on the riverfront, Arden Hills and elsewhere in Ramsey County.

· We remain focused on shoring up our food, housing

and mental health infrastructure so we are ready to serve our most vulnerable through good times and bad.

Bill Hosko, billhosko.org

 Declining public safety and growing crime rates that the public is expected to live with it. Local leaders are now often picking and choosing which laws will be enforced. This needs to end.

 Unending county/city property tax levy increases continue to financially harm homeowners, business owners and renters.

- After 28 years in office our current county board representative has awarded himself numerous pay and pension increases. Today, while county board members tell us about how they're helping the poor and creating 'a just community', as of June, their salary is now \$100,000 for a part-time job.

During its planning process in 2007-2011, I warned leaders that building 'honor-system' light rail in St. Paul would create problems. Since opening in 2014, thousands have been impacted by crime aboard the Green Line and on its platforms. Politicians refuse to install fences and gates to restore safety to platforms.

Today, as chair of the Ramsey County's Rail Authority,

County Board Member Ortega is now leading the planning process to bring 'honor-system' light rail to the length of West 7th Street from downtown to the Mall of America. Selling it to us under the name 'Modern Streetcar.' It is honor-system light rail, and it will eliminate every on-



street parking space, thereby harming many businesses in addition to being crime-plagued.

In our first 90 days together, we will address light rail on West 7th Street, and we'll address property tax levies and crime, Union Depot, the West Publishing site and the county board's pay-scale. Further, I will work to also ensure there can be a menu of important referendum auestions for the public to vote on during the next county elections in 2024. If passed, we'll get back onto a higher track for years to come.

CANDIDATES, PG 6



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Community

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Editorials & Opinions

Your involvement is requested

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

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

longer "Neighbors Speak Out" piece.

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

-- Casey Ek, Editor, Community Reporter

BUILDING AN ANTIRACIST COMMUNITY

The power of truth telling



TIM JOHNSON columnist

It was a lie, based on a theft. Neither the theft nor the lie to cover up the theft was well hidden. But, then again, the capacity of most second graders to mask theft and deception is limited. My notebook was missing. Sitting on the desk next to mine was an identical notebook. Nancy Carlson was away from her desk, but her name was clearly written over a dark smudge

mark, the type of mark left when one attempts to erase what was there before. With closer inspection, I could see the remnants of Timmy Johnson pushing out from the shadows of dark gray. This was my notebook. It had been stolen, and the thief was attempting to cover up the theft with a lie. Young children often speak with a moral clarity that is too often abandoned by adults. At this young age and with the conviction of having been wronged, I spoke an authoritative truth. "Nancy Carlson stole my notebook and wrote her name on it". The notebook was returned, and Nancy learned an early lesson about stealing and lying.

A lie based on a theft is an apt description for how Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author of Not A Nation of Immigrants, would characterize the dominant strand of U.S. history still being taught in schools. The lie is the notion that the early wealth of this nation was based primarily on the hard work of settlers and that this 'boot strap' individualism remains the source of wealth, both for individuals and for the nation. With the moral clarity of a second grader, whose tablet has been stolen, Ortiz writes, "White nationalism was inscribed in the founding of the United States as a European settlercolonial expansionist entity, the economy of which was

grounded in the violent theft of land and in racial slavery." In other words, look below the history that has been smudged out and written over, and what one discovers is the substantial wealth stolen from the labor of enslaved Africans and the land of Indigenous people.

In Minnesota, the State flag is one place among many where it is possible to see the continuing efforts to conceal the truth about the theft of Indigenous land which has taken place. The smudging of history depicts a warrior gracefully riding off into the West, while a colonial settler plows what was believed to be unutilized land. The State flag image reinforces the idea of white settlers having a Manifest Destiny to claim and conquer the land and people, while hiding the reality of that theft accomplished through coerced treaties, broken treaties and genocide. Manifest Destiny is an assertion that is no more valid for white colonial settlers than it would be valid in the clear-eyed moral vision of a second grader.

The New York Times recently reported the U.S. highway system is in many places, particularly urban cores, built on the destroyed communities of Black and Brown people. who were at best given a fraction of their properties values while being denied access to housing in largely white communities. It was theft, covered by the lie of progress, a progress that applied to one group of people but denied to others. The dream of a land bridge over Interstate 94 reconnecting the Rondo community is an effort to begin

It should come as no surprise there is substantial resistance to all this truth telling. If lying and stealing is part of one's history, there can be strong motivation to maintain the lie and protect the theft. But, as I learned in second grade, there is a power in truth telling. The more folks who are willing to speak up and speak out, the harder it is to ignore those voices.

"The Power of Truth Telling" is the theme of the 2022 annual Overcoming Racism Conference held at Metropolitan State University on Nov.11-12. The Friday keynote presenter is Hmong American, writer, film maker and teacher Kao Kalia Yang. The Saturday keynote presenter is JUSTmove, David Scherer and Joe Davis, who are performers, educators, storytellers and trainers who facilitate racial justice and healing through the arts. There are over 40 workshops from which to choose in the afternoons. To register simply go to overcoming racism. swoogo.com/frec2022.

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

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WEST END HEALTHLINE

Be Prepared with an Advance Directive

BY ANNA DOVRE, MD As the season shifts ever on

toward autumn, I've been noticing the ways that we're all making preparations. The squirrels are busy in the boulevards stowing away their future meals. Children are getting ready to return to school, and teachers to work. I've unearthed my dusty bins of sweaters and jackets for the colder months ahead. Even though we don't always feel ready for what comes next especially when we're talking about Minnesota winters - it does feel good to be prepared.

Preparing for changes in health and illness is kind of like preparing for a change in the weather - we don't always know when the first snowfall or cold snap will hit, just as we don't always know when we might find ourselves getting sick or end up in a situation where we're unable to make our own medical decisions. Luckily, there is one thing that we can all do today to prepare for these kinds of changes in our lives: make an advance directive.

An advance directive is a document that allows you to tell your medical providers and family members about how you want to be cared for if for some reason you become unable to share your wishes yourself. Essentially, it's a way of leaving instructions for the things that are the most important to us. In an advance directive, you can include: the person (or people) whom you would choose to make your healthcare decisions if you were unable; your goals and values around health care; which kinds of medical treatment you would or would not want and any other details that are important to you. Some people may choose to specify what forms of life support are acceptable to them, or what kinds of pain relief, nutrition or hydration they would like to receive in the case of severe illness or injury. Some people also choose to include instructions about funeral arrangements or organ donation in the event that their illness becomes life-threatening.

You can ask your healthcare provider for information and discuss your choices with them. There are also toolkits and resources available online through the



Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Board on Aging (see links below). In order to make the document legally valid, it needs to be either signed by a notary or by two witnesses. Once your advance directive has been written and signed, it is beneficial to make copies to keep at home and to distribute to your loved ones, relatives and healthcare providers. Having a discussion about what is in your advanced directive with these individuals is also important to ensure that they understand your wishes.

It can be tough to prepare for all the different twists and turns that life can throw at us. We don't want to spend our whole lives on the edge of our seats, bracing for the next crisis - there are only so many nuts that a squirrel can gather. But we also don't want to find ourselves, or our family members and loved ones, caught entirely unprepared when something major happens to us. Being prepared with an advance directive offers the peace of mind that, whatever life may bring, your wishes and values will be known, respected and followed.

Learn more at bit.ly/3Sb3K0m and bit.ly/3BGx9ZB

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

Essentially, it's a way of leaving instructions for the things that are important to us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our voices should not go unheard

Let's talk numbers for a minute. In the 12-month period ending June 30, 2022, Xcel Energy reported a gross profit of \$7.8 billion, which is a 4% increase from last year. Currently, Xcel Energy shareholders make a guaranteed 9% return yearly on their investment, with Xcel proposing to increase that to over 10%. In other words, Xcel Energy and those invested in their company are doing pretty well.

These numbers tell a different story. According to the City of St. Paul's Climate Action & Resilience plan, as of 2019, over 42,000 households in St. Paul are struggling with what would be considered a high energy burden. In other words far too much of their monthly income goes to paying for their heat and electricity. One unfortunate outcome from this, as reported from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light data, is that one in eight Xcel customers are behind on their bills. That last piece of data is for all Xcel customers, so if broken down by St. Paul customers

only it would undoubtedly be higher. In other words, unlike Xcel Energy, things are not going well for the average St. Paul resident in terms of affording the basic energy they need.

After taking these two sets of data into account, it is mind boggling to learn that Xcel Energy currently is planning on increasing their customers rates by 21% over the next three years. The only word for this is unacceptable.

The only answer to this unacceptable situation is for all to stand up and shine a light on what this is. Greed. We as rate payers need to let Xcel hear us and demand better, particularly for our neighbors already struggling. Our elected officials, particularly the mayor and city council, need to stand up for us all and tell Xcel no to greed. With our combined voices Xcel needs to hear that the people who depend on their energy are more important than runaway profits.

Tom Lucy, St. Paul

KEYSTONE, PG 1

Adding the ability to store excess food signals a paradigm shift for Keystone who to date has not had the ability to keep stores the most crucial function of the food center will be that of a hub for Keystone's other facilities. Thanks to large refrigerator and freezer units at the food center, Keystone will be able to stockpile the often unpredictable food deliveries that come in. These machines will not only help the organization weather the ups and downs of food supply chains, but they will allow Keystone to regularly distribute staple groceries out to their satellite locations that lack storage options. This will help stabilize stock of indispensable goods and will do away with the current practice of volunteers driving back and forth between shelters to grab goods.

(Keystone's other food shelves) are literally so small that the food comes in the back and then it goes out the front literally within the first 24 to 48 hours," McKeown said. "If you think of a typical grocery store that doesn't work so well."

McKeown said the food center signals a crucial capacity-building strategy for Keystone to respond effectively and efficiently to the growing needs of St. Paul as the extra space will also allow larger

groups of volunteers to visit and be useful. At Keystone's other facilities, there can often be inefficient log jams of volunteers. But through thoughtful design brought about through communicating with around 700 community member, Keystone hopes to put together a space where volunteers can thrive alongside guests. One sign of this is a full-scale break area for volunteers, a luxury not found at Keystone's other facilities.

Now the challenge will be to keep a continuous string of volunteers coming through the facility to keep it functional. At present, Keystone requires about 150 volunteers per week, a number that will surely swell once the community food center is operational. Volunteerism has waned slightly since the peek needs of the pandemic, but McKeown feels optimistic that the community will rise to the occasion and that the new space will inspire more groups to throw their names in the hat.

Adapting to shifting needs

The peak of the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it a swath of food-related challenges to the people of St. Paul that forced Keystone to go to the people. In 2020, Keystone distributed food to 32,000 people at their satellite food mobile distributions alone.

KEYSTONE pg 4

Community News & Events



Mystery Meets History at Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition

Footprints, splatter patterns and magnifying glasses: Journey into the mind of the world's most iconic detective and be transported to Sherlock Holmes' London from the more convenient locale of St. Paul. The highly anticipated and visually stunning exhibition opens Oct. 20 at the Minnesota History Center. Visitors will unlock the storied sleuth's revolutionary investigative secrets through the interactive exhibit that combines history, science and culture to reveal the

historic underpinnings of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's rich and vibrant stories. Just as historians study history, visitors will follow clues, examine evidence and use powers of observation, but this time to solve a mystery in Sherlock's world filled with innovation and experimentation. "I can't think of a more fun or engaging way to learn about the historical process," said Kent Whitworth, director and CEO of the Minnesota Historical Society." For more information, visit minnesotahistorycenter.org, call 651-259-3000 or 1-800-657-3773.

Absentee voting now open for general election

Anyone eligible to vote in Ramsey County may cast their absentee ballot - either in person or by mail - before the general election on Nov. 8. Absentee voters can cast their ballot through Nov. 7. In-person absentee voting is available at two locations. Eligible voters may visit either location, regardless of their home address. Locations include: Ramsey County Elections Office, 90 Plato Blvd. West Saint Paul, 651-266-2000; and Ramsey County Library - Roseville 2180 North Hamline Ave., (651) 724-6001. Beginning Nov. 1, four additional locations will offer in-person absentee voting: Arlington Hill Community Center, 1200 Payne Ave., 651-632-3862; First Tee of Twin Cities - Highland National Golf Course, 1403 Montreal Ave.,612-834-0408; Frogtown Community Center, 230 Como Ave., 651-266-5407; Ramsey County Library - White Bear Lake, 2150 2nd St., 651-724-6007. Voters can visit ramseycounty.us/VoteByMail to request a ballot. Ballots must be received by Nov. 8 to be accepted. Voters may also return their ballot in person at the Ramsey County Elections Office or the Ramsey County Library in Roseville. All ballots must be returned inside the building to designated staff who will verify the voter information is complete. Ballots placed in any outdoor document drop boxes or payment boxes will not be accepted. Eligible residents may register to vote or update their address online at mnvotes.org through Tuesday, Oct. 18. Residents may also register at the in-person absentee voting locations or at their polling place on Election Day. Proof of residence is required. A list of approved documentation and sample ballots are available at mnvotes.org.

City council amends rent control

CAREER, PG 1

The St. Paul City Council on Sept. 21 voted 5-2 to amend the city's rent control ordinance to exempt new construction from rent control for 20 years. The amendment also allows landlords to raise rents by 8% plus inflation on vacant units. Landlords must also notify tenants when they apply for exemptions to the voter-supported 3% annual cap to rent increases. The amendments come as new residential building permits issued fell by around 30% compared to the city's fouryear average, according to St. Paul Planning and Economic Development Director Nicolle Goodman. The amendments are unpopular among housing advocates, who before they were passed urged the city council to maintain the stringency of the 3% cap as some in St. Paul struggle to find affordable housing.

City Council OKs maximum property tax levy of up to 15.3%

The St. Paul City Council on Wednesday, Sept. 21, unanimously voted to approve a property tax levy increase of up to 15.34%, or about \$202.3 million, next year. Mayor Carter proposed a 15.34% levy increase to the city council in August when he announced his proposed 2023 budget. City officials claim that over half of the proposed levy increase, 7.74% is driven by the transfer of the street maintenance program to the city's general fund. This means \$13.6 million that was previously collected through street assessments will now be collected through property taxes under the proposed plan. The other 7.6% levy increase will fund core operating functions. Over the next three months the Council will gather more details on the budget, seek community input and make negotiated modifications before adopting the final 2023 budget in December.

Lowertown businesses suing city, day shelter Lowertown business owners are suing the City of St. Paul and the Listening House, the Dayton's Bluff-based shelter that operated the now defunct Freedom House shelter at 296 West 7th, over plans to expand into the former Red's Savoy Pizza on East 7th. The lawsuit,

Paul's announcement reflects a combined investment of \$24.8 million in ARP funding

Below are some additional resources you may find helpful for career pathways and employment opportunities in Saint

CareerForceMN: careerforcemn.com/ Right Track: righttrack-app.stpaul.gov/ Ramsey County Workforce Solutions: bit.ly/3xMa722

time by emailing ward3@ci.stpaui.mn.us or

filed Sept. 7 in Ramsey County District Court, seeks \$50,000 in damages. Plaintiffs include the owners of Heppner's Auto Body, Bulldog Lowertown, Dark Horse Bar, Gopher Bar, Barrel Theory, Schurmeier Lofts, Dacotah Properties, Saramar Enterprises, Kat-Key's Lock & Safe, Inc., Earl & Wilson Event Center, MB Properties, condominium owner Matthew D. Gross and Lowertown residents and building owners Tom and Sandra Erickson. The suit alleges that the city inappropriately allocated \$1.4million in tax increment financing to the shelter without proper public notice. On June 22, city Housing and Redevelopment Authority staff proposed a \$28 million TIF plan. Later, on July 27, Councilmember Rebecca Noecker urged using \$1.4 million of that total for the Listening House, which the city council acting as the HRA approved. The lawsuit claims the city failed to provide adequate public notice and did not hold a proper public hearing before authorizing the allocation. The suit seeks to prevent the transfer of funds to Listening House, stating the shelter "will attract unsafe criminal behavior and lawlessness." The suit also claims that the city did not place adequate stipulations on the loan that would protect nearby businesses.

Live music at Mancini's

There's still time to stop by Mancini's Char House, 531 West 7th, for live music. Showtimes are always 7:30-10:30 with the exception of New Year's Eve with The Midas touch, which will be 8:30-12:30. No cover charge.

Every Thursday evening: Lucky Lemire Oct. 7: New Feral Cats; Oct. 8: The Zippy Caplan Experience; Oct. 14: The Zippy Caplan Experience; Oct. 15: Lisa Wenger and her Mean, Mean, Men; Oct. 21, 22, 28 & 29: The Midas

Nov. 4, 5, 11,12, 18 & 19: The Midas Touch; Nov. 25 & 26: Dan Perry and the Backyard Band; Dec. 2 & 3: Riverside All-Stars; Dec. 9 & 10: Dan Perry and the Backyard Band; Dec. 16 & 17: The Riverside Hitmen; Dec.23, 30 & 31: The Midas

Act Two at Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Service of St. Paul invites men to a new facilitated discussion group, Act Two, October 30, 10-11:30am at 1633 W. 7th Street in St Paul. The group is designed to help men plan their post-work life. Facilitator Stan Lapidos retired two years ago and relocated to St. Paul after a 45-year career in the field of aging and health care. He worked in a variety of settings including administrative and faculty positions in long term care, governmental programs, managed care, academic teaching and chronic disease research. RSVP to JFS Community Program Coordinator Anne Myers at amyers@ jfssp.org or call 651-359-7775. Act Two is free and open to all; however, donations are appreciated at jfssp.org/donate.







612.558.2027 pleasantdog@gmail.com

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to host Gaonou Yang, a rising senior at St. Paul Public Schools. A simple internship allowed Gaonou to learn about the city, grow her written and verbal communications skills and build her resume for future career opportunities.

This past July, the City of St. Paul announced \$15.3 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) workforce investments to support economic opportunities for members of our community, including expanded pathways for youth employment by increasing funding for programs like Right Track. In combination with Ramsey County's commitment of \$9.5 million, St.

for high-quality job training programs and workforce initiatives throughout Saint Paul and Ramsey County.

Paul and Ramsey County.

Feel free to contact my office at any calling 651-266-8630.

Chris Tolbert, Councilmember Ward 3

Family Fun at Landmark Center!



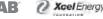


October 11, 12-1 pm: Ballet Tuesday

October 30, 1-3 pm: SUNDAYS At LANDMARK - Great Pumpkin Halloween Festival

These events are **free**. Full event details at www.landmarkcenter.org Sundays At Jandmark

Ballet Tuesday COLABORATORY





NDMARK NTER

www.landmarkcenter.org | 75 Fifth Street West | Saint Paul, MN 55102

OPENING DOORS TO FOOD SECURITY

A campaign to support the **Keystone Community Food Center**

Your generosity and support will open doors to food security for your neighbors for years to come.

Learn more about this vital project and how you can help open a new Community Food Center in St. Paul.



keystoneservices.org 651-645-0349



In the Community

Mississippi River Learning Center deserves our attention

BY COLLEEN O'CONNOR TOBERMAN

For many years, St. Paul has envisioned creating a River Learning Center (RLC) to help more people experience the wonders of the Mississippi River. Located within beautiful Crosby Farm Regional Park, the RLC will provide a new headquarters for our national park and offer educational and recreational amenities to expand access to our community's treasured river. Friends of the Mississippi River has been a longtime supporter of this exciting project.

This year, the city has been leading a schematic design process for the RLC by hosting several community meetings and releasing a series of concepts. Right now, Watergate Marina is the primary use in the area that is to become the RLC campus. Careful design is needed for this constrained and ecologically sensitive space to accommodate many more visitors coming to enjoy a wider array of activities.

While updated design schemes are showing good progress, the RLC's success depends on the feasibility of important details that still need further vetting. Any one of them could have a major impact on whether the proposed design scheme can actually meet its highest priority goals.

Canoe and kayak area

There are many ways for people to enjoy our great river, including by being out on the water in any variety of watercraft. The RLC should accommodate both motorized and non-motorized boaters and offer rental programs for both.

One of the reasons this site was chosen for the RLC is because it has two protected bays. In the current RLC design, eastern bay will continue to serve motorized marina operations as it does now. Canoe and kayak programs will be in the western bay, which is currently unused. It's important to have a bay like this where people can learn to canoe or kayak sheltered from the challenge of the river current. There are few places on the Mississippi where that's possible.

However, in its current state, the western bay is too small for group paddling programs because so much of it has filled in with silt. It only takes a minute or two to paddle from one end of the water area to the other, and the water is less than two feet deep. If a new paddler can't maneuver their canoe in this constrained space and steps out of their boat to push it back to deeper water, they would likely sink down several inches into mucky silt.

The next phase of RLC design must address this issue in more detail: can the western bay be dredged and how much will that cost to maintain? If the western bay can't be dredged, then the eastern bay would need to be reconfigured to provide adequate space for both the motorized boat marina and the paddle programs.



Motorized marina

The updated design scheme does a better job of reducing potential conflicts between the wide range of activities the RLC will offer. Still, we think there's opportunity to further improve the visitor experience through site design and management. This may be especially important around the busy marina area.

The project should incorporate design elements such as: indoor boat maintenance space to contain noise and other impacts; visual screening of boat storage areas; and features such as flat roofs, green and brown building materials and landscaping for all RLC structures to minimize their disruption to the scenic views of the river and the bluff.

We'd also like to see future marina operators held to a high standard of site maintenance and operations. Requirements should include reasonable limits on on-shore boat storage, parameters on when and where noisy boat maintenance tasks can be conducted and high standards for facility upkeep.

Entrance area

The most recent RLC design includes a building at the top of the bluff along Shepard Road to house National Park Service offices and other similar uses. This makes sense: RLC functions that don't need to be next to the river can be less obtrusive at the top of the bluff.

However, the buildable space at the top of the bluff is extremely constrained and it's not entirely clear yet whether the proposed building can fit there while complying with all development standards such as setbacks and height limits. We request further study to ensure that the proposed blufftop building can fit here without needing any variances from the DNR's Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) development requirements.

Canopy walk

Because of the RLC's setting in the heart of the city, it's important to accommodate visitors of all abilities arriving by all modes of transportation. The RLC must be welcoming to those arriving on foot; by transit or school bus; and with bikes, wheelchairs and strollers. A good design will make these modes appealing enough to reduce car traffic and parking.

The steep descent from the bluff to the river presents a challenge to people walking, biking and rolling. The proposed canopy walk is the best proposed solution we've seen so far, but it needs further refining to ensure year-round access, compliance with MRCCA requirements and a logical flow around other site elements.

The RLC design is moving in the right direction, but the project team must do more work before the community can trust that the design is feasible and will serve all visitors at a level befitting our national park headquarters. We look forward to seeing future phases of the project address our questions as well as others raised by community members. We also look forward to the day when we can all gather at the Mississippi together at a new River Learning Center.

Colleen O'Connor Toberman is the Land Use & Planning Program Director at Friends of the Mississippi River. The Great River Passage Conservancy is hosting a Mississippi River Learning Center Community Celebration Oct. 6, 4-6:30 p.m. Watergate Marina, 2500 Crosby Farm Rd, St. Paul, MN 55116

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and global thinking!



KEYSTONE pg 2

But without a garage capable of storing their current fleet and future vehicles, that program is approaching a ceiling. But blueprints for the new facility show that it will be able to facilitate up to four foodmobile vehicles, which are roughly the size of a bus. Storing the vehicles inside will also prevent vandalism and catalytic converter thefts, which have happened multiple times to food mobiles.

The pandemic also led Keystone to lean into their delivery program, through which they began serving folks they had not traditionally served in years past, namely older adults who have been known to turn down food in order for families to be served, according to McKeown. But the financial pressures of the pandemic ushered in an attitude change. McKeown said.

"(The pandemic) kind of made it OK, particularly for older adults, to ask for help," McKeown said.

The road ahead

While food distribution levels are presently at what Keystone anticipated they would be years down the line, solving food insecurity is just one piece of the puzzle the organization hopes to piece together.

Drawing from community feedback after the purchase of the new facility's buildings, Keystone is including within the food center's design several rooms specifically for community gatherings, quiet space and interviews with other service providers. This holistic approach, McKeown said, will take the pressure off families who might otherwise struggle to travel to multiple locations to receive services such as the food shelf and financial planning. In other words, the shelter would allow a family to get food, visit with friends and receive varied services all in one stop.

The next step in order for Keystone to begin providing services at the food center is to get adequate funding. So far, the organization has raised just under \$4 million of the anticipated \$8.5 million to get the food center up and running. The organization kicked off their public facing fundraising drive at their Sept. 29 gala, where their goal was to raise \$125,000.

McKeown hopes to begin work on the facility in earnest by January 2023.

Until then, McKeown is urging anyone in need to reach out to Keystone.

"If you're not sure what you need, just call us. We might not provide that services, but we can make sure to connect you with that service," she said.

To learn more about the facility and make donations or volunteer visit keystoneservices. org/donate/new-community-food-site/.

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Community Nourishment

ABBY'S ANGLE

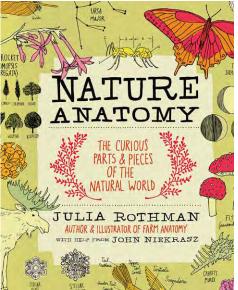
Nature Anatomy is colorful, whimsical

BY ABBY HORTON

See the world in a whole new way! Julia Rothman celebrates the joys and wonders of the world with her book Nature Anatomy the second book of The Julia Rothman Collection. It is an illustrated guide to the natural world of North America. The art is colorful and whimsical. It covers the selected flora, fauna, insects, animals and geological formations such as mountains and the oceans. If you are looking for an in-depth scientific discourse, look elsewhere. However, if you are looking for an engrossing book with a description that will reawaken an inner part of you, this is the book for you. All the bits of information are presented alongside Rothman's simple, but beautifully colored illustrations using

mediums such as ink and watercolor. The guide also gives fun craft ideas like painting landscapes and printing patterns of leaves. One of my personal favorites were step-by-step instructions on how to make homemade face masks out of dried kelp, aloe vera and banana.

The overall motif of this book is the goal of persuading the reader to open their eyes to the wonderful world that we live in. With the help of a friend, John Neikrasz, Julia writes and draws about the most basic aspects of nature that our society seems to be taking for granted. Lastly, I don't think this book has a specific audience. In fact, it would be enjoyed by cooks, artists, scientists and writers of all different ages! This is why I recommend this book for everyone and deem it no need of a label.





Dan Herbeck, middle, and son Joe Herbeck, back right, and Michael Edge prepare to take off from the Minnesota State Capitol on Sept. 8 as part of a cross country bike trip to the U.S.-Mexico border to raise money for Friends of San Lucas, a nonprofit with decades of service in Guatemala.

Cross-country bike ride honors renowned Minnesota priest

New Ulm, Minnesota, native Dan Herbeck has set off on a bicycle journey of a lifetime in honor of one of Minnesota's most beloved priests, Fr. Greg Schaffer. Herbeck's ride, which kicked off Sept. 8 from the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol, traces the U.S. portion of a 3,087-mile walk Schaffer took 50 years ago, from St. Paul, Minnesota, to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala, where the priest dedicated his life to service. Herbeck is expected to make his way through the country en route to the U.S.-Mexico border. He tentatively plans to arrive by mid-October.

Schaffer was a New Ulm priest reassigned to serve a parish in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala. He had a memorable impact on the people of both Minnesota and Guatemala. Together with community members in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala, Schaffer and the School Sisters of Notre

Dame founded programs to increase access to education, housing, and healthcare in Guatemala. In 1972, Schaffer and two Guatemalan men-Elias Jacinto and Ronal Motta- walked from Minnesota to Guatemala to raise money for these programs, known collectively as the San Lucas Mission in an effort to demonstrate that Guatemala's poverty was within a walking distance away from Minnesotans. Schaffer passed away in 2012, and today, the Mission's work is run by Guatemalans and funded by Friends of San Lucas.

Herbeck remembers Schaffer visiting Holy Trinity, his childhood parish in New Ulm, to solicit funds for the Mission.

"Fr. Greg was an inspiring leader, passionate about his work and the people of Guatemala. He invited us to learn more about systemic poverty, and he presented

the opportunity to support solutions," Herbeck said.

Dan is motivated by a sense of responsibility, not only to his immediate neighbors, but also to those beyond our borders. Herbeck's example is already inspiring others. Jim Seifert, president of Friends of San Lucas, for one, lauded

Herbeck's efforts. "Dan's goal is to raise awareness of economic disparities in Guatemala through this ride. The funds he raises will change lives for people experiencing poverty in Guatemala," Seifert said.

To support Dan's work and learn more, visit sanlucasmission.org/bike.









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In the Community

Community Viewpoint

Ramsey County's "Modern Streetcar" really is LRT

A recent flyer from Ramsey County now says the West 7th Modern Streetcar is "Planned to be compatible with Green and Blue Lines, so the streetcar can share tracks, power and stations." This is an admission that it will be a light rail (LRT) vehicle, which back in 2016 Ramsey County explicitly said should not be on West 7th, because LRT requires its own dedicated guideway.

Floor height and vehicle width are the two key differences between a streetcar and LRT. For streetcars, floor height must be as low as possible for passengers to step on from the curb. And vehicle width must be as narrow as possible to limit impact on motor vehicles in adjoining lanes. Every inch makes a huge difference.

The 14-inch height of the Blue and Green Line stations precludes step-on from the curb, greatly reducing one of the most attractive aspects of a streetcar: the ability to locate stops just about anywhere. Instead, it requires full stations with 14-inch-high platforms and ramps in order to board.

Mind the Gap: In order to meet the LRT station platforms of the Blue and Green Lines with a minimal gap, Riverview's "Modern Streetcar" must have the same width as the LRT vehicles, which is 8 feet, 8-3/8 inches. To appreciate the impact of a vehicle this wide, the maximum width of vehicles permitted on Minnesota highways is 8 feet, 6 inches. The "Modern Streetcar" in a narrow West 7th lane will be wider than the biggest truck allowed on the freeway. This is not



good. Moreover, the height of the "Modern Streetcar" in operation is higher than the 13'6" allowed on Minnesota roads.

We agree that LRT must not be on West 7th Street. But the Corridor is an essential regional LRT link, one of the three most important in the metro area, and should be on its own dedicated right-of-way. The Canadian Pacific spur is the ideal location for this LRT right-of-way.

The next time you drive along West 7th Street, imagine driving adjacent to, behind or in front of this behemoth; and remember that it's on rails, so it cannot swerve to avoid

and Wednesday

library staff are

find information

happy to help

Additionally,

hitting you (or a pedestrian or bicyclist). It doesn't have to be this way. Tell Ramsey County you want LRT on the Canadian Pacific Spur.

James Schoettler, along with Jerome Johnson, Jay Severance, Mat Hollinshead, Greg Struve, PE, Brennan Malanaphy and Joe Landsberger 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.

Saint Paul Public Library is here to help students succeed

By Terry Giinther Library Manager

Fall is here, kids are back in classrooms, and the St. Paul Public Library is here to support their success in school.

West 7th Library, 265

Oneida St., and all library locations, have free WiFi; computers with internet access and Word, Excel, and Powerpoint; and low-cost printing and copying. Nearby Highland Park, 1974 Ford Pkwy,

has a Homework Center where students of all ages can drop in and work on their homework independently or with the help of volunteer tutors. Homework Center hours

SAINT PAUL from 4 to 7 p.m. PUBLIC LIBRARY WEST 7TH

> and resources for students - it's one of the things we love to do! At the library, students can access a wealth of print and digital sources to write research papers and complete school projects and presentations.

> St. Paul Public Schools, and many other public and charter schools in St. Paul, automatically get a library card when they enroll in school through the Library Go

are Monday, Tuesday program. Library Go allows students to check out items and use online resources. Visit LibraryGo.org to learn more.

Find more information at sppl.org

St. Paul Public Library is here for students remotely, too. Anyone with a library card can visit sppl.org/homework to get free online, one-to-one homework help in English and Spanish from 1-11 p.m. every day

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.

CANDIDATES, PG 1

State Congress

Please provide a brief biography and describe your knowledge of the district.

Dan Walsh, Republican, District 64A

I was born and raised in St. Paul and attended Nativity Grade School and Cretin High School. I have worked in technology my whole career, the last 20 years in cybersecurity, and also am a licensed Minnesota real estate broker. My knowledge is deep having lived here my whole life. My interest is in saving St. Paul from a trajectory that currently has it competing with Chicago and LA as a declining city.

Dave Pinto, Incumbent-Democrat, **District 64B** davepinto.com

I grew up in the St. Paul suburbs, attended public schools and received graduate degrees in law and business. Since 2014, I've represented the southwest part of St. Paul in the Minnesota House, I serve as a prosecutor of domestic and sexual violence; for several years, I directed training and protocol development for Minnesota's system for responding to the sexual exploitation of young people. My work has been recognized by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, Council of State Governments, Ramsey County Bar Association, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, and League of Minnesota Cities. My wife Abby and I are longtime residents of the area, with kids in the public schools.

María Isa Pérez-Hedges, Democrat **District 65B**

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mariaisa.com

I am a lifelong West Sider, cultural community organizer, international recording artist and youth

I direct the mentorship program for the Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project, which empowers young people through music and a cultural curriculum at several Twin Cities recreation centers, including El Rio Vista. As a Type 1 diabetic and insulin organizer, I have been a prominent leader in the fight for affordable health care in Minnesota. In April 2020, I played an integral role in advocating for the passage of the Alec Smith Insulin Affordability Act, and I continue my leadership within the Minnesota #Insulin4all Chapter.

I am an alumna of the Wilder Foundation Community Equity Program, and for my work with Youthrive Live!, educating incarcerated youth throughout Minnesota, I received the National Hispana Leadership Institute's "Rising Latina Star" award.

************ To read the full version of this Q&A in which each

candidate who participated answered three questions, visit Communityreporter.org. Community Reporter did not receive responses from the following candidates, but links to their websites are provided below, with the exception of Lorraine Englund(64B), who did not have a website listed on the Minnesota Secretary of State Website.

Kaohly Vang Her, Incumbent—Democrat, 64A, herforhouse.com

Kevin Fjelsted, Republican 65B, kf4hr65b.com Erin Murphy, Incumbent—Democrat, Senate District 64, murphyfor64.com

Robert Bushard, Republican Senate District 64, bushard4sd64.wpcomstaging.com Sandy Pappas, Incumbent—Democrat, Senate

District 65, sandypappas.com Paul Holmgren, Republican, Senate District 65,

citizenstoelectpaulholmgren.com Betty McCollum, Incumbent—Democrat, U.S.

Congressional District 4, mccollumforcongress.com. May Lor Xiong, Republican, U.S. Congressional District 4, may4mn.com.



FEDERATION UPDATE fortroadfederation.org



Fort Road cookbook now available

Months in the making, the Fort Road 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 features 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.

Upcoming Meetings, via Zoom

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

Stay in touch

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

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



WEST 7TH COMMUNITY CENTER 265 Oneida, St. Paul 651-298-5493 keystoneservices.org

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

Activities for Seniors

From fitness classes to arts programming, Keystone has a variety of fun social activities for older adults (age 55+) in our community. As the weather turns colder, join us to get connected and try something new. See the full calendar of senior activities and learn more about our programs online at keystoneservices.org/seniors/ or call us at 651-298-5493 for more information.

Free Farmer's Market **Drive-Through**

Just few free farmer's market events left this season. Open to anyone and are a great way to stretch your grocery budget. Every household will receive 5-7 varieties of free fresh vegetables and fruits. Oct. 7: Roseville Covenant Church; Oct. 14: Rice & Arlington Field. 10am-12pm. Call 651-645-0349 or visit keystoneservices.org/events/

Square Dancing is back

Square dancing has returned! Hosted by Dakota Grand Squares. Mondays 6:15-8pm. West 7th Community Center gym. Mondays through January 2023. Oct. 3 is free and includes instruction. Future sessions will be only \$5 each. time. Kids under 18 are always welcome free of charge.

Fare for All

Oct. 28, 10am-12 pm. The event will be held in the gym at the community center. Stop by to purchase low-cost and delicious food packages. All are welcome.

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Free electronic recycling

Ramsey County residents now have a free and easy way to recycle laptops, televisions, cell phones or other electronics. Ramsey County residents can drop off unwanted electronics (e-waste) to be refurbished or recycled into new products at Électronics (E-Waste) Collection Site, 860 Vandalia St, Saint Paul.

Become a recycling ambassador

Registration for Ramsey County's fall Recycling Ambassador Program training is open. Undergo a six-week training to learn more about environmental health. Ambassadors volunteer 20 hours or more annually to encourage others to reduce, reuse and recycle. The trainings via Zoom from 6:30–8:30 p.m. every Tuesday (9/13-10/18. Visit bit.ly/3Atg3ig.

Steppingstone Theatre youth classes

Registration for a series of youth classes through Steppingstone Theatre is now open. Classes at SteppingStone Theatre for Youth create space for young artists to express themselves, make cool theatre 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. Learn more: steppingstonetheatre.org/series/2022-fall-

Smoking and commercial tobacco ordinance now in effect

The Ramsey County smoking and commercial tobacco use ordinance went into effect on Aug. 26, 2022.

The ordinance prohibits smoking and vaping commercial tobacco product use:

On property owned, leased, rented, contracted or otherwise used or controlled by Ramsey County.

In both indoor and outdoor spaces. In private vehicles parked on Ramsey County property. Read more: bit.ly/3ScDGCc.

Storkfest 2022

Wednesday, Oct. 12 at Mancini's at the Rathskeller (882 7th St. W.). A German-themed event supporting Second Stork with live music from Pat Mancini's band The Goombas. Proceeds supporting Second Stork, a community non-profit that helps support new parents in need. Tickets are \$35 and available here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/storkfest-22tickets-405977819587

Beginning hand drumming classes

The Women's Drum Center is offering a beginning hand drum class on Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 3:30 to 4:30pm: Djembe Joy. Class members play djembes to explore pulse and rhythms. Easy, energizing exercises will be utilized to build skills. Join us for the opportunity to explore an enriching musical experience. The focus will be on having fun! Instructor: Jo Klein. Drums are provided. Masks are required. \$15.00 per participant. Register at womensdrumcenter.

Back-to-school reading habits

Fall schedules are filling up fast for families as students head back to school, Lisa Von Drasek. curator of The Kerlan Collection of Children's Literature at the University of Minnesota, answers questions about the importance of independent reading and how to make it a priority for kids this fall. Read more: bit.ly/3fgacVx

Paint and Sip at Bad Weather

Wine and Canvas is hosting a paint and sip event at Bad Weather, 414 West 7th, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m. Classes are \$39. No experience necessary.

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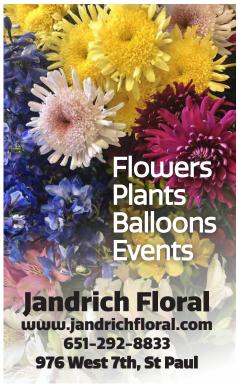
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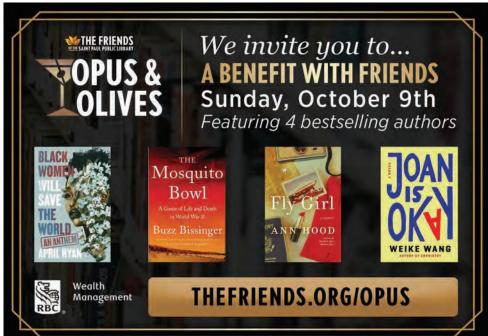
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