



FEBRUARY 2023

CIRCULATION 13,000

CITY PERSPECTIVE Lead water pipe replacement update



Hello Saint Paulites, As a Board Member of St. Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS), I am pleased to share an update about progress being made to replace lead pipes throughout neighborhoods across the SPRWS service area. The removal of lead pipes is one of **COUNCIL MEMBER** my top priorities as I finish my third and final term on the St.

CHRIS TOLBERT columnist

Paul City Council. There are more than 26,000 lead pipes in neighborhoods spanning the SPRWS service area. These service connections connect the water main under the street to homes and businesses. Lead pipes were used into the 20th century in the United States as a less expensive and more durable pipe option which was conveniently bendable. To see if your home is serviced by a lead pipe, visit: stpaul. gov/water

The EPA, CDC, and WHO all agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood system. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to negatively affect a child's intelligence, ability to pay attention and academic achievement by damaging a child's brain and nervous system. Besides the health and societal benefits, lead pipe replacements will positively impact the racial inequities that currently exist within the water system.

LEAD FREE SPRWS is our water service's program to remove all the lead pipes from St. Paul over the next 10 years at no cost to homeowners and creates good paying, barrier-free jobs. St. Paul is a leader in

LEAD WATER UPDATE PG 3

St. Paul forms Reparations Commission

BY CASEY EK

he City of St. Paul is one step closer to offering its residents who are Black descendants of slaves reparations as it forms a new commission for the task.

On Jan. 4, the St. Paul City Council voted unanimously to approve the formation of the permanent St. Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission set to advise Mayor Melvin Carter and the council on budget and policy decisions focused on "repairing the damage caused by public and private systemic racism in the City of St. Paul which resulted in racial disparities in generational wealth, homeownership, health care, education, employment and pay, and fairness within the criminal justice system among the American descendants of chattel slavery," the ordinance states adding that, "preference shall be given to candidates who demonstrate lived experience as it pertains to the work of the commission, are engaged in the local community and understand the role of reparations in addressing the impacts of chattel slavery."

Work on the city-level got a jumpstart in 2021 with the formation of a reparations advisory committee, who in June reported back to the council their recommendations for how to tackle distributing reparations. That body recommended the commission consider direct cash payments, assistance with school loans and mortgage down payments, among other measures.

"The city of St. Paul is entering the new year

The St. Paul City Council deliberates Jan. 4.

with a momentous new committment to racial healing, racial equity and racial justice as we adopt [the ordinance]," Said Ward 7 Councilwoman Jane Prince, who was the ordinance's lead sponsor, ahead of the council vote.

"I do feel this is a historic commitment, and I'm so glad that we moved quickly to fulfill this next step," Ward 2 Councilwoman Rebecca Noecker later added.

The decision to form the commission comes after Mayor Carter separately last August proposed his \$2 million Inheritance Fund, which would establish forgivable loans of up to \$100,000 to families displaced from the Rondo Neighborhood by the construction of Interstate 94.

The commission's funding sources are to be determined, but the reparations committee pointed to American Rescue Plan dollars, sales tax and other sources.

Verbal and written comments to the city were largely in support of the measure. At a public hearing last December, the ordinance drew almost unanimous support from the 20 or so members of the public who attended.

"I can say for a fact that this is a great undertaking, and it needs to be done. The time is now," said Rev. Carl Walker, the co-founder of Walker West Music Academy and a resident of St. Paul for over 60 years.

Written comments opposed to the measure stated that it is not the city's responsibility to take on reparations, and instead the federal government should take the mantle. Other comments were opposed to reparations in general.

Car Wash Revival on West 7th

BY JERRY ROTHSTEIN

Partners Jeff Harstad and Stephen Schumacher have rebuilt and reopened the historic car wash at Erie and Jefferson, adjacent to McDonald's. Their business, The Car Wash Co., is now operating seven selfservice locations around the Twin Cities, in West and South St. Paul, Maplewood, Little Canada, Coon Rapids and Fridley, with West 7th reopening this month.

Jeff and Steve have been friends since their middle school days in Blaine when they both worked for Jeff's dad's car washing business. He began investing in a number of sites in 1980, including a partnership with Todd Kormanik, who owned the West 7th

site and mentored the elder Harstad. Harstad expanded to five locations, four of which remain as part of The Car Wash Co.

Jeff and Steve wanted to build on their experience and bought two Robert Street car washes in 2014, in West and South St. Paul. Then when Todd Kormanik decided to retire in 2020 after 43 years, they added West 7th to their group

It was a challenge. Todd had expanded to 12 bays after starting with four in 1967, but his building had aged poorly and needed major work as well as up-to-date washing equipment. Jeff and Steve wanted to use all their accumulated knowledge and experience to take the project **CAR WASH REVIVAL,** PG 3



IN THIS ISSUE

Healthline - Pg 2 Community Nourishment - Pg 4 Federation Update - Pg 6 In the Community - Pg 6 Library Update - Pg 6 Keystone News - Pg 6 Bulletin Board - Pg 7



(above) Car Wash Revival before remodel. (left) Owners Stephen Schumacher and Jeff Harstad

tor A

Attorney Richard Duncan, who is working with neighbors to preserve the Justus Ramsey House, holds a temporary restraining order, halting the structure's demolition Jan. 24, 2023.

Neighbors rush to save Justus Ramsey house from unexpected wrecking ball

BY CASEY EK

Neighborhood preservationists were left scrambling to save the Justus Ramsey House, an 1850s-era historic stone building on the patio of Burger Moe's, after learning that Mayor Melvin Carter Monday Jan. 23 filed an order to have the house leveled, calling it unsafe.

Neighbors then filed a temporary restraining order that was later signed by Ramsey County District Judge Laura Nelson at around 7:30 on Jan. 24, in an effort to legally halt demolition. Early on the 24th,

neighbors representing a wide array of community organizations, including the Fort Road Federation and the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association and others began taking shifts in front of the Burger Moe's Patio, 242 West 7th, in an effort to convince would-be crews to put down their tools in the face of the restraining order. Neighbors have devised plans, which Ward 2 Councilwoman Rebecca Noecker has endorsed, to relocate the home to a

JUSTUS RAMSEY, 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 Woke and aware



Growing up in a small rural Minnesota town, there was little that gave me reason to consider the lives of Minnesotans who identified as Black, Indigenous or what we broadly identify today as people of color. Nor did we have cause for considering the lives of those who were gay. Straight and white were so normative that we

essentially took them as

TIM JOHNSON columnist

a given for everyone. Our monocultural outlook was reinforced not only by the apparent absence of folks who fell outside of the dominant norm in our community, but also by the ever present images in school books of white people as the principal actors in every realm of endeavor and in church of white people, including a white Jesus and white disciples, as the originators of Christian faith.

We did once find an arrowhead on the land my parents farmed, but that was experienced as an old artifact of a long ago time that essentially had nothing to do with us. It certainly opened no windows into Indigenous life and reality in Minnesota. If there were Black, Indigenous or people of color in the area, they remained hidden from our view. In adulthood I did discover that a cousin who attended our home church and who later died of AIDS was gay and that both our music teacher and shop teacher were gay. But, none of this was known at the time.

There was a great deal about which I was unaware while growing up. I was unaware that speaking of

"mankind" as if it included everyone was in practice a way of saying that one half of the population mattered more than the other half. I was unaware that the people warehoused in what was known as a "mental institution" in a nearby town had the potential to live meaningful lives. When our church choir visited the folks locked up in this facility, it sadly felt a bit like a trip to the zoo. I was unaware that there was such a thing as gender identity, since as far as we knew; there were only boys or girls and nothing else.

This world of not knowing is essentially the world which Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, and likeminded folks would have us return to in their campaign against being "Woke". Woke was a term briefly used by people in the antiracism movement as a way of talking about what it means to begin recognizing things like systemic racism and the preferences provided to white people in jobs, education and bank loans, to name a few (also known as white privilege). To be woke simply means to become aware of that which you previously had failed to see or recognize. Folks like DeSantis see "woke" as a viable political hammer to be used against those individuals and corporations (including Disney) who have the audacity to become aware of those things previously hidden and create practices based on that awareness.

None of this "wokeness" is new to those who have been sidelined, ignored or hidden from view. As Michael Dyson says in his book *Long Time Coming*, "while white folks are in many instances just waking up, Black folks have been awake – "woke" – for centuries...We have been under attack for so long that we dare not close our eyes even for a minute."

To some extent I benefited from my lack of awareness, but if I am honest the benefits from waking up have been much greater, including a much richer relationship with my wife than the one I would have in a patriarchal world dominated by an ideological preference for mankind. I have grown and learned from all the many people who were hidden from my view as a child.

DeSantis proudly proclaims "Florida is where woke comes to die." It sounds to me like a place where awareness, and all the gifts that awareness can bring to our lives, our communities and our nation, go to die.

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

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 WEST END HEALTHLINE

 Feeling sad? You
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BY JOEL GIFFIN, DO

The dark days of January can be a difficult time for many people, especially in Minnesota. Some people call this the winter blues, but the medical term for this feeling is seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. It is common to feel a little down in January, but full SAD goes beyond a small change in mood. Seasonal affective disorder is a type of depression that is triggered by the change in seasons. This seasonal depression usually gets worse in the winter until it gets better in the sunnier days of spring. Unlike the "winter blues", SAD can affect your daily life, including how you may think, act or feel. Let's take a closer look at SAD and what you can do about it.

SYMPTOMS

There are many different symptoms of SAD including: sadness and depression; isolating from friends and family; having less energy; sleeping more than usual; losing interest in activities you once enjoyed; having cravings for carbohydrates (such as chips, snacks, bread, pasta or rice) leading to weight gain; having feelings of hopelessness and difficulty concentrating.



breakfast or work. It is best to use the light box within an hour of waking up. Psychotherapy, also known as talk therapy, in

Psychotherapy, also known as talk therapy, involves working with a therapist to learn strategies for how to cope with the sadness or anxiety that you may be feeling. A therapist may also help you identify negative behaviors or beliefs that may be making you feel worse.

Medications help a lot of people as well. After discussion with your primary care provider or mental health provider, you may choose to start taking medication in the fall, before symptoms of SAD develop each year. Keep in mind that it often takes several weeks of taking a medication to notice the full benefits from an antidepressant. Lifestyle plays a large role in how we feel. Try to go outside every day, even if it is cloudy. Try to get at least 30 minutes of exercise most days of the week. Stay involved with your social circle and activities that you enjoy. Make your living environment sunnier and brighter. Focus on your sleep patterns, keeping a regular routine. Be mindful of your alcohol intake, which often makes symptoms worse or could interfere with any anti-depressant medication.



Letter to the Editor It's time to divest from fossil fuels

Since the early 1900s, the science has been clear. The more carbon we pump into the atmosphere, the warmer our planet becomes. In spite of having this knowledge, our society has continued to develop a fossil fuel-based economy regardless of the environmental cost. The decision to go down this path has led us to the point where we must ask ourselves if the children of today and tomorrow will have a livable planet in their future. With the outcomes being so clear, it begs the question: what are we thinking? Why for so long would we engage in this self-destructive behavior? There are likely many answers to this question, but I would propose the most obvious answer is explained with one word: money. Throughout the development of our fossil fuel-based society, the wealthiest among us learned that a lot of money could be made in harnessing, selling and burning fossil fuels. Due to this seemingly unending source of wealth, companies, politicians, etc... have done everything they can to fund, protect and support a fossil fuel based-economy. Unfortunately, those efforts continue today.

a fossil fuel-based future is that of divestment. Divestment simply means removing financial holdings from funds or companies supporting the fossil fuel-based economy. This effort does two things. First, it removes money from an industry which is literally killing our children's future. Second, these individuals/groups who divest are showing where their values are by where they put their money. At a minimum, they are stating they are unwilling to fund the killing of our children's futures. The good news with this effort is that we are seeing it done locally. Kudos to St. Paul Public Schools who this last November officially decided to divest their financial holdings from fossil fuel industries. In this one effort, SPPS has taken a clear and tangible step in the fight against climate change. So much more is needed, but thanks to SPPS for leading the way. Hopefully, in response to their effort, we will see others follow along, whether it be other school districts, local government, local business, etc. The time is NOW to divest! There is no time to wait and our children deserve nothing less.

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

CAUSES

We don't exactly know what causes SAD. Researchers suspect that a decrease in the hormone serotonin in our brains could be one cause. Another could be changes in our biological clocks related to less sunlight. Seasonal affective disorder is also more common in younger people and in people that have previously had depression or bipolar disorder. Seasonal affective disorder is also more common in people that live in the northern climates, far away from the equator. About 10% of Americans get the "Winter Blues" and about 5% of Americans suffer from SAD.

TREATMENTS

Do not brush off these feelings as simply something to deal with on your own. There are many effective treatments! Your primary care provider can recommend which of these treatments are best to start with.

Light therapy is a treatment that involves a very bright lamp that is specially designed for this situation. When using a light box (some people call this a happy lamp), don't look directly at the light. Place the lamp two to three feet away from your face while you read, eat

SUMMARY

Seasonal affective disorder is a type of depression that happens every year during a season, usually winter. Symptoms can include a lack of energy and feelings of hopelessness. Fortunately, there's treatment for seasonal depression. Talk to your healthcare provider for help if you are concerned about SAD.

Dr. Giffin is a family physician at Allina Health United Family Physicians, 233 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55102, phone 651-241-5200.

One powerful tool in the fight against

Tom Lucy Huron Street, St. Paul

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Community News & Events



Jazz Fest announces 25th annual lineup The Twin Cities Jazz Festival will celebrate its 25th anniversary when it returns to St. Paul's Lowertown Arts District for two days of free and familyfriendly entertainment, Friday, June 23 and

Saturday, June 24. This silver anniversary celebration will be the swan song for Founder

TWIN GITLES

ANNIVERSARY

CAR WASH REVIVAL, PG 1

to an excellent conclusion. This meant rebuilding the original Quonset hut sections, redesigning the bays, installing new equipment and amenities. Their goal was to create a fairly priced, flexible and reliable service.

A quick inspection of the equipment room now being outfitted with everything needed for the operation drew a remark from Steve: "We're installing the best there is on the market - look at this copper piping!"

Their variety of equipment allows customers to create their own washing pattern and better meet their specific needs. Available tools are presoak, high pressure soap, foamy brush, wax, rinse and new blow dryers. Payment can be made with a credit card and is standardized at \$1 for 100 seconds for any of the tools. And the traditional Half-Price Tuesday will return. The bays are heated, and a warm room is available for changing and has a fully stocked vending machine. After an early February opening, the entire month will be offered at half-price to welcome the community back.

LEAD PIPE UPDATE, PG 1

the upper Midwest to remove lead pipes, and we should feel proud of the dedicated staff working to supply all citizens with clean and safe drinking water.

St. Paul Regional Water Services is able to replace lead pipes using critical federal funding in project zones that will be updated yearly on SPRWS's lead pipe map(bit. ly/3kBKJZj). When a home is eligible for a lead pipe replacement, SPRWS will proactively contact homeowners within project areas and walk property owners through the free replacement process. In 2022, more than 250 lead pipes were replaced in St. Paul, and planning is already underway for the 2023 construction season. To ramp up the replacement of all the lead service

Steve Heckler. He'll hand over the baton to a new executive director, Dayna Martinez. Martinez currently serves as Vice President of Programming & Education for the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. More info: twincitiesjazzfestival.com

Public safety community meeting Join neighbors from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Feb. 9 for updates and conversation with Councilmember Rebecca Noecker and St. Paul Police about

bit.ly/3iSKl8d.

public safety in West 7th. Registration required:

Jeff and Steve are clear that they have invested a lot in this effort in part to honor the long community history of this spot. In the late 1800s it was a lumber yard. In 1905, the Commercial Club — a citywide organization for civic betterment — established its West 7th location there, and was a major community resource until 1964, when the building was destroyed by fire. McDonald's opened in 1964, and Todd Kormanik followed in 1967. In that era, McDonald's had neither drive-through nor indoor seating. But the teens who loved cars gathered on the spot, bought their Big Macs and malts, and lovingly washed their cars, and the site became a destination.

Now, the Car Wash Company is ready to resume that tradition.

Jeff added, "West 7th is really different from our other locations because it is part of a community that cares about its history. We've tried to build on the tradition, make a beautiful building, and show everyone how welcome they are."

THE CAR WASH CO., 536 Clay St. at Erie. Thecarwashcomn. com; Washingcars777@gmail.com.

lines, SPRWS is looking to fill 20 new water utility worker 1 positions this spring. These positions are good paying union jobs starting at \$28.59/hour plus excellent benefits. If you know anyone who may be a good fit, please encourage them to apply at stpaul.gov/jobs.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership of SPRWS General Manager Pat Shea for his efforts to launch LEAD FREE SPRWS. Pat recently testified at the Minnesota Legislature in favor of HF 24, a bill that would increase lead pipe replacement funding for all Minnesotans. By 2033, I expect our goal to remove all lead pipes will be met, and that St. Paulites will have the confidence of lead-free water flowing from their kitchen faucets.

Apr 16

West 7th's House of Thune channel inner growth to take world snow sculpting title

Sculpting Championship in Stillwater in late January. Taking on teams from around the globe, including teams representing Canada, Turkey, Finland and others, House of Thune is made of captain Dusty Thune and members David Aichinger and Kelly Thune. Their sculpture, entitled Journey, was inspired by "falling apart, picking up the pieces and trying to rebuild ourselves," according to a Facebook post by Aichinger. In the midst of the competition Aichinger got a phone call informing him that he'd lost his arts studio, the National Heritage Art Centre in Oceola, Wisconsin, to a fire. After dropping his tools he later returned to competition only to take the top spot. "I know the coming days will be filled with mourning, but I also know that all these great memories will at least give me something to smile at," he said. A GoFundMe has been set up to rebuild the studio: bit. ly/3QXVFfT.

> Chat with Dave Pinto Join Rep. Dave Pinto for an informal conversation about the ongoing session of the Minnesota Legislature. Feb. 11 12:30-1:30pm at Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave. Note: location change



JUSTUS RAMSEY, PG 1

nearby lot at no cost to Moe Sharif, who owns Burger Moe's. Plans would have the structure deconstructed and reassembled. Noecker said that she intended to bring forward a resolution at the Jan. 25 Housing and Redevelopment Authority meeting to approve roughly \$100,000 to help with the move.

"We do have a plan in place, and it can still move forward," Noecker said.

Ward 7 Councilwoman Jane Prince, who joined in support of neighbors who kept warm next door at Tom Reid's, said Carter did not reach out to city council before issuing his order, adding she felt his decision was "undemocratic." Sharif and his attorneys have contended that the structure, which is condemned, poses undue risk to restaurant patrons and staff. Sharif's attorney Brian Alton did not respond to a request for comment in time for publication.

This was a developing story at the time of publication. For the most up-to-date information, visit Communityreporter.org.

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Wildflyer youth program taking over Fresh Grounds building

BY CASEY EK

Those in the neighborhood who miss the mission-driven Fresh Grounds coffee joint at 1362 West 7th St., which closed in the wake of the pandemic, can perk up knowing it will soon be replaced by a similar establishment.

Wildflyer Coffee, a work and life skills program aimed at tackling youth homelessness that takes the shape of a café, is coming into the community. The program, which began in Minneapolis, offers participants 16-24 years of age the hard and soft skills that come with working in coffee shop as well as case management, employment counseling and other supportive measures. This holistic, understanding approach, according to Wildflyer Program Manager and social worker MacKenzie Diessner, is aimed at ensuring graduates leave the program gainfully employed.

"It's really about that [socio-economic] upward mobility piece," Diessner said.

Lulu, 19, an Oct. 2023 graduate of the program, who did not provide a last name for privacy reasons, said that the program helped her flourish in more ways than one.

"The program has helped me by providing me with basic etiquette and knowledge of how to perform in a work space environment and how to take care of yourself to balance your work and personal life. It also helped me by giving me connections to my peers and people who have a desire to help in any area they can assist. It really helped in giving me the space to express myself and create new, exciting pieces(opportunities) that could benefit me in the future financially and personally," she said.

The site on West 7th is also home to RS Eden's Seventh Landing, a 12-unit recoveryfocused youth housing complex. RS Eden, which operated Fresh Grounds for over a decade, offers residents access to support services, including case management, life skills and access to employment services. Wildflyer will be teaming up with them in an effort to help eliminate barriers for youth experiencing homelessness who are seeking employment.

"Transportation is a huge barrier for youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability, so if we're able to partner with any



Wildflyer Operations Manager Anne Woster and Program Manager MacKenzie Diessner inside the future home of Wildflyer Coffee at 1362, West 7th St., which was once home to Fresh Grounds.

young people who are residents here to be participants of our program that would be awesome," Diessner said. "As Wildflyer is expanding it's really cool to be affiliated with RS Eden."

The new coffee shop was getting a fresh coat of paint on Jan. 16, and the team hopes to open their doors for a soft opening on March 7 with a grand opening slated for March 11. Operations Manager Anne Woster was refining the workflow of the coffee bar while painters worked. She said that those familiar with Fresh Grounds can expect a similar welcoming experience, noting that Wildflyer customers will have a chance to help shape young careers in ways not found at commercial establishments.

"(By purchasing coffee from Wildflyer), customers are actively playing a role. You are a participant in what we are doing," Woster said.

Wildflyer works alongside other coffee shops in the Twin Cities to refine its operations and to ensure program participants are gaining the most relevant work skills. Caribou Coffee runs workshops on customer service as well.

Wildflyer began as a coffee cart in 2017 before it grew into its brick-and-mortar shop at 3262 Minnehaha Ave., in Minneapolis.

Thanks to nearly \$23,000 raised on Indiegogo, and a \$50,000 grant through Mutual of America's Community Partnership Award, Wildflyer will be able to double the amount of participants they can take in. In its lifetime, Wildflyer has employed 50 youth with 25 of those coming last year alone.

Diessner said that Wildflyer, which hires four times a year, attempts to meet the youth they employ half way. Where a traditional employer might fire a participant for no-showing a shift, Wildflyer staff try to see the factors that might have led to their absence, like a lack of transportation or mental health needs.

"Wildflyer is very intentional about being understanding and empathizing with the complex barriers youth experience,' Diessner said.







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Qualis Staffing offering career options

Qualis Staffing LLC is a minority-owned staffing agency based in St. Paul. The owners of Qualis have been residents of the Frogtown area for 36 years, giving them keen insights into the needs of the people and businesses in similar communities around the city.

Qualis takes pride in impacting the community in a positive way, meeting practical needs of workers like providing transportation options to and from work. They established a partnership with the U.S. Probation Office District of Minnesota in an effort to help give families a second chance. Qualis also works closely with residents of the Union Gospel Mission and Listening House, which is colloquially known as the "living room of the streets."



At Qualis, career opportunities provided include: driver/customer service, medical assembly, linework, machine operators, forklift drivers and food packaging. They continue to connect with companies that offer roles that match the needs of the communities they support. Current openings start anywhere from \$16-\$25/hr. with the opportunity to advance.

Qualis is now hiring. Are you looking for a new job? Apply at Qualisusa.com or call 651-340-0096.



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Community Reporter Archives GoFundMe Campaign https://gofund.me/3eb3fca0

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Community Nourishment

BEA'S BOOKS Connecting with Ramona Quimby through something unexpected



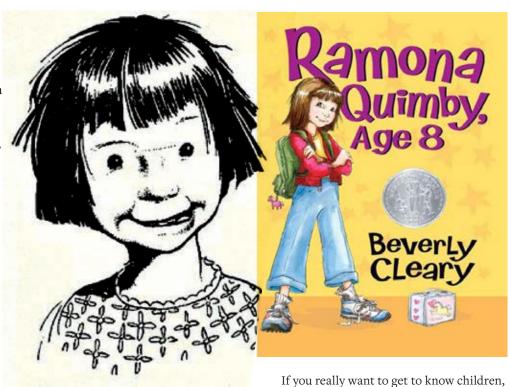
Ramona Quimby. What do you think of when you hear that name? An annoyance? A troublemaker? A pest? (Watch out, she'll get you for that last one). Or, do you think of something different? A kid just being a kid? It's definitely

BEATRICE COSGROVE reviewer

possible that I think of all three, especially when I look at Ramona from Beezus' point of view (her older sister). Beezus and I share the name Beatrice, and I can often sympathize with her regarding the little sibling aspects, for I, myself, am an older sister. This month, I'm not exactly going to review a book, but talk about how Ramona Quimby and Beverly Cleary's timeless books have helped me see what being a kid can be all about and how I was able to connect with Ramona Quimby through something unexpected.

I was always that one kid who was scared of doing anything wrong. I would follow the rules and would only break them if one of my friends had superhuman convincing powers. I was pretty uptight, if you know what I mean. Whenever I read about Ramona's adventures I would think to myself, Why on Earth would anyone do that? And I wondered why Ramona did not know better than to wreak havoc wherever she went. The truth is, I wondered what it would be like if I did these things, if I was a rebel once in a while. This was just in my imagination, but somehow I connected with Ramona and all her wild ways.

I connected with her through adults. Sounds silly, right? For all the kids reading, you most likely understand. Adults can be frustrating. It often seems (though it's not the case) that adults can do whatever they want, whenever they want, and the worst part is you have to listen to them. Ramona always fought back against the grown-ups in her life, mostly because they were somewhat



restricting. She just wanted to explore and find joy in life, but the way she went about it was not always the most pleasing for her parents. As she grew up, she began to get a glimpse into the world outside of Klickitat Street. I loved how Beverly Cleary showed this throughout her books. Ramona was learning, but was still finding ways to retaliate against the hierarchy. As a kid, I've always done that, even in small ways. Adults can be a lot of fun, but sometimes it can be difficult to find that whimsical side of them, so here is a little trick for the adults out there!

Icebreakers

What do you generally ask a child when you meet them? I have been asked time after time "How is school?" Or "Where do you go to school?" Or "What subjects do you learn in school?" It can be quite frustrating, and I wish adults would have a little more variety in their icebreakers.

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ask them about what they enjoy, what are their hobbies? What do they like to do? You can also ask seasonal questions, for example, "Do you like to play in the snow or stay inside?" I love it when adults ask me stuff like that! If you are able to fit the time in, engage the child in conversation and talk about what you like to do, as well. This always made me feel included and seen by adults.

To conclude, I would just like to say that Ramona Quimby has affected me in many ways. She has made me cringe, made me laugh and has connected with me on so many levels. She is the ultimate pest, the ultimate little sister, but she is also ultimately a classic.









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FEDERATION UPDATE



61

Join our board

The West 7th / Fort Road Federation welcomes new board members: Ruthanne Atkinson (secretary), Jessica Nelson (area I coordinator), and Lynne Rollins (area III coordinator).

We are currently seeking board candidates for our annual meeting in April. Positions on the ballot this year include: president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and area coordinator. If you are interested in learning more, please send us an email fortroadfed@ fortroadfederation.org

Upcoming Meetings, via Zoom

Info: fortroadfederation.org/calendar

Public Safety Community Meeting

- West 7th, 2/9, 5:30-6:30 pm. Join the Fort Road Federation, Councilmember Rebecca Noecker and Chief Axel Henry to discuss safety in the West 7th neighborhood. Registration required. fortroadfederation.org/calendar

Transportation & Land Use

Committee, Wed, 2/1, 6:30 pm

Board Meeting - Mon, 2/13, 7-9 pm

Stay in touch

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

Contact

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



resolutions at Keystone! Are you looking to start the new year off by moving your

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In the Community

Notebook Recollections: Walk This Way

Local icon 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. He continues writing about his observations to this day. Here is just one tale.

BY TIM RUMSEY, MD

One sees stuff when one walks to work.

Monday, Feb 5, 1999

It's 2 degrees below zero this morning. Ahead of me on St. Clair I see a cab pull into a driveway, blocking the sidewalk. As I approach, the back door opened.

"Warm your buns, doctor." It was Tex. "When you're toasty, just open the other door and proceed."

"Tex," I said. "You've got a gold mine here. A mobile warming house."

Tex liked the thought. He said it could be a year-round deal. In the summer, he could sell AC by the minute.

I asked if Tex was in the neighborhood on business.

"Affirmative. My second least favorite pick-up other than a crack house at 2 a.m."

"What can be worse than that?" "The whelping den at St. Stan's Daycare."

I said I thought Tex liked kids.

"I do," he said. "But not five of them in the

backseat with grape juice boxes and graham crackers.'

"I thought that was illegal, five kids in the back of a cab." "Grape juice is what should be illegal."

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1999

Tex was off his Camels for two weeks and had lost a little weight. He celebrated with a stylish red tie he wore on-duty. When he wasn't working cab, he bussed to St. Mary's nursing home to see Frank Heller. Tex hoped he could get his act together. Mr. Heller needed him. Tex even wheeled Frank down to the nursing home chapel every visit.

Let's talk about me for a second. I served 6 a.m. mass every Monday, in that very same chapel during my eighth grade 1962 spring. That salved my conscience when missing some Sundays during my high school years.

Tex was bedeviled by the Taylor brothers. This was news to me. Two white boys up to no good. Letting air out of his cab tires. Hectoring from across the street. They even rolled him back in the days he was busbench-sleeping. Their mother, Laura Taylor, was a saint.

Walking home from clinic, I saw Laura Taylor in the Cooper's checkout line through the store windows. Years ago, I often saw she and the husband at Coopers. Mr. Taylor would fly up and down the aisles, grabbing as many things out of their cart to return as Laura put in.

"We have vanilla ice cream at home, don't we?" He yelled at her as he snatched the container out of the cart and put it on the cracker shelf.

"Is the bread fresh?" he barked at her. "Yes." She would answer.

"Did you feel the bread?"

"No." "Then you don't know, do you?" Mr. Taylor put the bread back and squeezed, mashed really, about five different

loaves of Wonder Bread before selecting one. In the check-out line, a little later, he

would be kissing Laura's neck from behind and rubbing against her as she paid the bill and bagged the groceries.

Monday, February 25, 1999

I went to St. Mary's Home for a scheduled medical visit with Frank Heller. Nursing home elevators in those days were so slow I thought I had stepped into a closet. I heard

an interesting page during my ride: "There will be a steak and shrimp dinner for all residents at 4 pm. Staff who need Heimlich Maneuver re-certification should report to the dining room at 3:00."

Three days after getting on the elevator, I arrived on Frank's floor on second. Frank looked good. Of course, he never complained. Mainly, he wanted to be sure we got to the Historical Society. With Tex.

When I told Tex that Taylors still had Jumpin'-Jack Flashe's rough sleeping spot in the 35E woods, he headed off on a recollection of their father.

"We were the same age," said Tex. "Went to Monroe together."

Mr. Taylor was part of a pack of white boys who tormented the fragile souls of Monroe School. Once their group even ambushed Tex, who was not a fragile soul, on the way to school. Three boys held him down while Taylor kicked him in the stomach and head and called him a 'halfbreed darkie.' Then he spit on Tex.

"I played opossum for a second and they lightened up on me," Tex said. "Then I jumped up and took the boys behind the woodshed. All except Taylor who was gone the moment I got loose."

Tex collapsed in second period. The kick to the abdomen ruptured his spleen. He was police-ambulanced over to Ancker Hospital for emergency surgery.

"I stayed away from the anal sphincter, Taylor, from then on," Tex said. "Were you afraid of him?" I asked.

"Afraid I'd kill him."

Wednesday, February 27, 1999:

Carl's new vertical thermometer says 15 degrees today. It's still winter on West 7 th . There were even hockey puck echoes off

backyard hockey boards.

Library Manager

George Latimer Central Library, 90 West 4th St., on Rice Park, is celebrating Winter Carnival Feb. 4-5 with events to engage all ages. Warm up with hot cocoa and enjoy a slideshow from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4. The Roe Family Singers will perform a family-friendly show in the youth service area from 11:30 a.m. to noon with face painting before and after the show. Enjoy a Florestan Chamber Ensemble concert at George Latimer Central Library on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 2-3 p.m. before the

Free faxing and scanning

If you need to fax or scan documents, the library is here for you. Faxing and scanning is free, and the library also offers low-cost printing and copying and staff who are happy to help you. There are computer stations with Internet and Microsoft Office to work from, or



you can send items to the printer from your own device. Visit sppl.org/printing to learn more about how to print from anywhere.

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.

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Federation District Plan under review

by Anthony Molaro, Federation treasurer Our district plan is a localized implementation of the 2040 St. Paul Comprehensive Plan. The city's plan shapes and defines the physical development of St. Paul; therefore, a district plan shapes and defines the physical development of a neighborhood. The Planning and Economic Development Dept. of St. Paul, the Zoning Commission, the Planning Commission, the St. Paul City Council and the Met Council all refer to this document when making policy decisions. It helps shape land use (new buildings and renovations); zoning and permitting rules and regulations; transportation (roads, sidewalks, speed limits, bike lanes); parks, recreation, and open spaces and numerous other indispensable facets of life in St. Paul. When a company recently wanted to build a Dollar Tree on West 7th, it was our district plan that was used to reject the request.

Community Engagement Framework

At the heart of any district plan is community engagement. We plan to incorporate the community in five major categories: providing information; consulting and involving the

Planning a visit downtown to enjoy the Winter Carnival? Stop by the library too!

By Terry Giinther

Winter Carnival Torchlight Parade.

community; collaborating and empowering

Methods

Public feedback includes surveys of the general public and businesses/nonprofit organizations. The second step will involve using forums to solicit more in-depth feedback. As the chapter drafts become available, they will be shared for additional feedback via the website, newsletter and social media.

Steering Committee

The Committee is providing overall direction for the district council plan. They ensure that the plan meets the needs of the group they represent and started meeting in January.

First Public Forums

- Sunday, Feb. 20, 6-7:30pm online. Topics: research, collection and analysis of information on the characteristics of the district, determine critical challenges and opportunities of the district and formulating district goals.

• Monday, Feb. 21, 6-7:30pm online, community businesses and organizations will tackle the same agenda.

• Saturday, Feb. 25, 1-3pm in-person, Palace Recreation Center, the third forum will continue to address the same agenda.

To register for the online forums, go to fortroadfederation.org/calendar.html

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Foodmobile brings food shelf to the neighborhood

Keystone's Foodmobiles (mobile food shelf) travels throughout St. Paul and the northern suburbs of Ramsev County to bring nutritious food to people in need. For more information about where our Foodmobile stops, visit our website at keystoneservices.org or call us at 651-645-0349.

Opening Doors to food security

Since 2019, we have been planning for long-term solutions that would help Keystone bring more needed food resources to our community. With the advice from so many community members and early generous gifts from many supporters, we developed plans for a new center that will support our community for years to come. The Opening Doors to Food Security Campaign will help us open the Keystone Community Food Center in 2023. To learn more about our campaign, you can visit our website at keystoneservices.org

Fare for All at West 7th

Feb 3, March 3, 10am-12pm West 7th Community Center gym.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.

BULLETIN BOARD



HEAD TO THE NORTHWOODS WITH THE ROOT BEER LADY

The story reflects the beauty and hardships of Dorothy Molter's solitary, yet satisfying life, in the Boundary Waters. The play, funny and passionate, explores her independence, fortitude, love of nature and pushes back against the premise that her time in the North Woods made her the "Loneliest Woman in America," as the *Saturday Evening Post* claimed in 1952. Through Feb 19. Tickets: 651-292-4323 or historytheatre.com. Groups 10+: 651-292-4320.

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

DRUMLINE CAMP

Triple T Square Dance Club will be offering beginner square dance classes from 6:30-8:00 p.m. starting on Feb 6, 2023 at the St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 7thStreet, St. Paul, MN. Cost is \$5.00. First night, dance is free. Square Dancing is for everyone; solos, couples, families and youth. No partner is needed. For more information call 651-503-7040

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Tue, Feb 14, 7:00 pm

us as we create exhilarating grooves with toms, snares and bass drums in this popular style of ensemble percussion performance. This camp will explore original drum pieces, as well as songs performed by drumHeart, the premier ensemble of the WDC, and will be led by Jo Klein, drumHeart member since 2009. Some drumming experience is encouraged, and drums will be provided. Join us for stick drum tips, techniques and FUN! Saturdays: 2/4, 2/11, 2/18 and 2/25, 6pm to 7pm. Fee: \$65.00. Please register in advance at www.womensdrumcenter.org. to guarantee your place; class size is limited.

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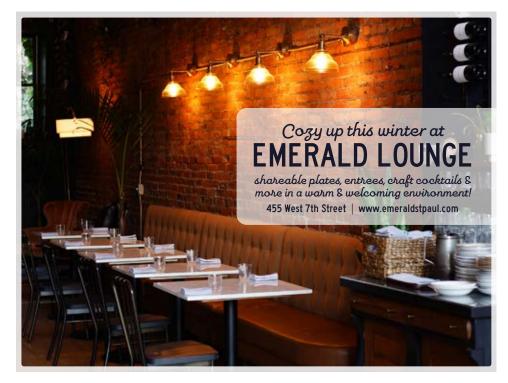
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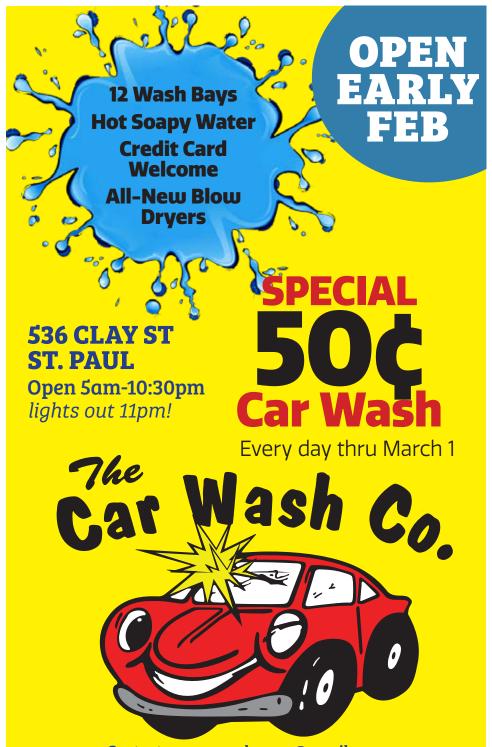






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