

# Community REPORTER

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ST. PATTY'S MARCHES INTO TOWN page 6

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## DISTRICT PERSPECTIVE Expanding CHIPS to protect our youth



SEN. SANDY PAPPAS  
columnist

Think of a 12-year-old child: A sixth or seventh grade student, taking their first steps toward independence, on the cusp of everything from puberty to their first Instagram account. What do you remember from that age? Did you always make the best choices: Wear your seatbelt, stay away from fireworks, say no to peer

pressure? Personally, there are moments in my family I look back on that make me feel lucky to be here, happy and healthy — my brother once thought it would be fun to play with matches under his bed, for example. But not every child has the guidance, support and maturity to make choices that keep them and their community safe.

Our legal system has long been clear that children should be treated differently than adults in criminal cases. We acknowledge that by considering crimes committed by people under 18 in juvenile court, with a set of standards that acknowledges their life experiences and family circumstances. And for children who are very young, we don't treat them as defendants at all: We provide them with supportive and protective services and, if appropriate, provide their families with support, too.

I'm proud to be the chief author of a bill that would direct more children who break the law toward services that will help them back on the right path, rather than funneling them into the juvenile court system. The bill, SF 3694, would raise the age at which children receive protection or services (CHIPS), rather than sentencing in juvenile court, from 9 to 12.

Our growing knowledge of brain development shows just how significant a few years can be to a child's decision making abilities. It's easy to understand how radical the change can be when you're measuring a five-year-old against a seven-year-old, in everything from reading to physical coordination. It's a more subtle thing when the change is that your 13-year-old knows how to cook mac and cheese safely, but your 10-year-old would leave a wooden spoon on a hot burner without adult supervision. It's that gap in reasoning and ability to understand consequences that may push a troubled kid toward a decision to break curfew, pocket a pack of gum at the corner store, or let angry words turn into a punch during an argument.

SF 3694 would shift our state's juvenile criminal response toward an approach that prioritizes rehabilitation and recovery over punishment for children who, by and large, are not developmentally competent to stand trial in juvenile court. When we prosecute children as young as 11 or 12, they risk entering a juvenile justice system that may miss crucial opportunities for rehabilitation. Research shows that spending any amount of time in the juvenile delinquency system puts a child on a path toward more negative outcomes, from their academic performance and physical to health to their social and emotional development; while supportive services can help reverse a downward trajectory.

Young people go through a staggering amount of growth and maturation every year until their mid-20s, and our courts should hold a 15-year-old to a very different standard than an 11-year-old. Kids under 13 are at a fundamentally different stage of brain development than older teens, and they deserve the support and services necessary to put them back on track for success if they make a mistake that breaks the law.

By raising the CHIPS age from 9 to 12, this bill ensures that interventions reach more young people at key developmental stages and provides them and their families with supportive services. It acknowledges fundamental differences in how children of different ages arrive at the point of breaking our laws, and it prioritizes effective rehabilitation over punishment in order to decrease recidivism and promote long-term well-being and safety, for kids and for their communities.

## Riverview planning rolls to next phase

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

The Riverview Corridor Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) approved exploring three prospective plans for enhanced transit connections along West 7th on February 29.

All three options, which would connect Union Depot to MSP International Airport along West 7th and Highway 5 and replace the existing route 54, will be rolled out over the spring and summer in the neighborhood by Ramsey County staff to receive public feedback.

### THREE OPTIONS

Project staff finalized presenting the three preferred options to the PAC on February 29, following up on their January 31 meeting. The three options include two modern streetcar options and an arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) option.

The first streetcar option would feature a dedicated center-running right-of-way along 20 stops from Fort Snelling all the way to downtown. At Fort Snelling, it would connect with existing Blue Line tracks to connect to the airport and Mall of America.

Option two is planned to have the same alignment with dedicated right-of-way up until approximately Victoria St. where it would then be in mixed traffic, with stops located at the curbside rather than at stations in the center of the street. This option would also add two additional stops at Jefferson and Smith Avenues.

Both options would run along Kellogg through downtown before terminating at Union Depot.

The third option being taken to the public is an ABRT option, which would be dedicated bus service through the corridor. With ABRT, buses only stop at stations along the route. Fares are paid at the stations in advance of boarding and buses dwell at the stops for less time, increasing the speed and reliability of the service.

For all three options, service would be every



Rendering of what a modern streetcar would look like at West 7th and Davern.

10 minutes along the route for most of the day, dropping to every 30 minutes during late nights. Currently the route 54 runs every 15 minutes.

### RIDERSHIP ESTIMATES

Project planners are estimating that the two streetcar options will have roughly similar ridership by 2040, with an estimate of 11,600 and 11,200 riders daily, respectively. The ABRT option is projected to have significantly fewer riders, with an estimate of around 8,000 riders per day.

These numbers come with a fairly sizable caveat, however — the ridership estimates are based on pre-pandemic metrics. Since the pandemic, Metro Transit has seen drastic changes in how riders are using their service, especially with more people working from home. They don't yet have new data with which to create projections based on current trends.

Project planners expect to have updated ridership projections sometime this summer.

### TRAVEL TIMES

The two streetcar options are projected to take longer, end-to-end, than the current route 54 bus. Currently route 54 takes, on average, about 42

minutes eastbound and 43 minutes westbound between the airport to Union Depot.

Streetcar option one is projected to take a little more than 43 minutes eastbound and 44 minutes westbound. Streetcar option two is looking at a travel time of almost 45 minutes eastbound and about 45 minutes, 30 seconds westbound.

The proposed ABRT route has an estimated time of right around 40 minutes in either direction.

"End-to-end travel time is a little bit misleading in that not everyone is going to be taking this line end-to-end," said PAC member Tyler Blackmon. "I think one of the reasons that the streetcar is much longer is that there's a lot of other activity that's happening with the streetcar once it gets into Bloomington, and for a lot of folks that we are just taking it within St. Paul as they come downtown, that time difference may not be there. In fact, it actually might be quicker on the streetcar."

### COSTS

Each of the three options comes with a hefty price tag attached, further complicated by what is

TRANSIT, PG 9

## COMMUNITY BUSINESS

### Metaphysical apothecary, Potions & Pebbles, opens on West 7th

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

"I've always wanted a witch store since I was, like, 15," said Angelique Hanschen. "I tried to convince my mom to quit her job and open a store. And now here we are, many years later."

Hanschen, who along with her business partners Ben Polzin and Tay Herbaugh, finally got her wish when they opened Potions and Pebbles February 10 at 668 West 7th.

The store, which is located in the former check cashing business at the corner of West 7th and St. Clair Ave., has a focus on crystals, soaps and lotions, along with all things metaphysical. Not to mention the succulents, which take up an entire wall of the shop.

"Our succulents are grown in Woodbury by a local greenhouse," said Herbaugh. "They're super hardy and ready to go. They are a nice source of the sage and stuff, too."

Herbaugh and Polzin are largely responsible for the plants and crystals, which Polzin said he works hard to ensure are ethically sourced, while Hanschen is the expert in the "potions."

"I make all the beauty and skincare oils and candles," Hanschen said. "I converted my basement into a place where I can cook soap."

"It's like Fight Club down there," Polzin added. Hanschen said it is a family affair for her, getting help from her mother and kids making soaps, jewelry and perfumes.

In addition to items for purchase, they also offer rotating monthly classes and workshops.

"People want to come and just hang out and learn about crystals, or do spell jar classes or like New Moon and Full Moon Group where people can come and do different things and hang out," Polzin



Pebbles and Potions owners Ben Polzin, Tay Herbaugh and Angelique Hanschen. (right) A spell jar crafted at Potions and Pebbles.

said. "We also have an in-house tarot reader, so anyone can get their tarot reading or tarot cards read pretty much at any time."

The trio said they met as vendors at farmers markets around town. They realized they had a lot in common, and knew that putting a business together to share their passion with the area was the logical next step.

They had all participated in vendor markets at Keg & Case and landed on West 7th as an area

POTIONS, PG 3



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# Community News & Events

## "Mr. Positive" retires after 40 years at Bridgeview School



"Mr. Positive" Carl Bentson, 61, was honored with a sumptuous Mancini's dinner on March 18 for his 40 years of service at Bridgeview School. Nobody worked harder or was more faithful to his custodian job, agreed the 30 co-workers at the party. Benston's best friend, Karen Koeppel, accompanied him to the legendary Steakhouse to celebrate his retirement and reminisce on his decades of work at the school. - Tim Rumsey

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### FORT ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

Plots at the Fort Road Community Garden are now open to neighbors in the West 7th Community. Registration for plots for new gardeners are offered on a first-come, first-served basis until filled.

Garden plots located at the northeast corner of Jefferson Avenue and Victoria Street just south of I-35E are \$40 for the year and include commitments to help with communal spaces. The garden has water on-site and is near the Pleasant Avenue Yard Waste drop off site.

The Community Garden started as a way to both give gardening opportunities to neighbors and turn a vacant property next to the freeway into a community asset.

Interested in a garden plot this summer? Send a note to julia@fortroadfederation.org or visit fortroadfed.org/fort-rd-community-garden for more info.

### CHOO CHOO BOB'S COMING TO UNION DEPOT

Choo Choo Bob's Train Store is headed back to St. Paul in its new location in Union Depot on May 3. Their last day of business at their current location was March 24.

The interactive train themed toy store, which also has a pay-to-play train table space and hosts birthday parties & events, was a long-time staple of St. Paul, opening their Marshall Ave. store in 2005.

The train themed store is already booking birthday parties at their new location and has events planned for May 3. Learn more at choochooobobtrainstore.com.

### ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL PASSES \$45.1 MILLION FOR STREET, PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER PROJECTS

The St. Paul City Council passed \$45.1 million for street, parks and recreation center projects funded by the City's new 1% sales tax on February 28.

St. Paul Parks & Recreation projects included in the first of two resolutions passed total \$31.4 million intended to address long-deferred maintenance of parks buildings, athletic fields and downtown parks.

Projects earmarked in this round of funding include \$10.4 million for revitalizing amenities across the parks system, another \$10.4 million of deferred maintenance on park buildings, \$7 million for implementing the first phase of converting Como Park Zoo and Conservatory to geothermal heating, \$3.2 million for revitalizing downtown parks and \$410,000 for design work for the planned River Learning Center, River Balcony, Hillcrest greenspace and other projects.

The City Council approved an additional \$13.7 million in a separate resolution which will leverage 1% sales tax funding to support the Public Works improvements of Grand Ave. In 2023, St. Paul voters approved a 1% increase to local sales tax to be used for repairs and improvements

### FOR MORE COMMUNITY NEWS, VISIT COMMUNITYREPORTER.ORG/CATEGORY/NEIGHBORHOOD-NEWS

to streets, bridges, parks and recreational facilities within the city. City leaders say the tax will generate nearly \$1 billion over 20 years, of which \$738 million of funds must go to streets and \$246 million for parks.

### SPPS, SPFE AGREE TO CONTRACT, AVOID STRIKE

The St. Paul Board of Education voted to adopt a new two-year contract for the district's licensed staff, educational assistants and school and community service professionals. The new contract for 2023-25 increases pay across the board for licensed staff, as well as educational assistants and school and community service professionals.

Teachers also saw increases in their health coverage while maintaining classroom sizes and mental health supports for students. The district and teachers union agreed to a contract after months of negotiating on March 5, narrowly avoiding a strike planned by the St. Paul Federation of Teachers for March 11.

St. Paul Public Schools said that the agreement is several million dollars above their budget projections, where they are forecasting a \$100+ million shortfall in the 2025 fiscal year.

More information about the SPPS budget process is available at spps.org/FY25budget.

### ST. PAUL DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE RELEASES DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The St. Paul Downtown Alliance released a report calling several strategies to increase investment and economic development opportunities in downtown St. Paul, including converting office space into residential units, investing in pedestrian-oriented streetscape improvements and advancing redevelopment projects like Central Station, the Park at RiversEdge and underlying parking ramp and an entertainment district tying the Xcel Energy Center to the core of downtown.

This comes on the heels of Mayor Melvin Carter announcing on March 11 during his State of Our City address that the City is partnering with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to develop an office-to-residential conversion program to increase density, support downtown businesses and make the commercial office market more competitive.

The Alliance will be holding a gathering this spring to do a deep dive into the report and answer questions from community members. To learn more and to read the Downtown Investment Strategy, visit stpdowntown.org/investmentstrategy.

### CHANGES COMING TO CITYWIDE GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

Under the new proposal, beginning in April 2025, the city will contract with a single hauler, rather than the consortium of garbage haulers it currently contracts with, for garbage collection. The City said that it also plans to assume as much as 10% of garbage collection in harder to reach and higher priority areas of the city.

As part of the new proposal, the City plans to purchase new garbage hauling equipment for their pickup routes. The City has selected FCC Environmental as their new contractor and has begun negotiations with the firm, which has been providing waste collection and disposal services since 1911.

The City said they have retained Eureka Recycling as their contractor for recycling services, whose new contract would go into effect in November of this year.

The city had a five-year contract with the St. Paul Haulers, LLC (consortium of haulers) to provide residential garbage services for more than 74,000 1- to 4-unit dwelling properties from October 1, 2018-September 30, 2023.

In September 2023, the city and St. Paul Haulers agreed to an 18-month contract extension to provide residential garbage services through March 31, 2025. The garbage contract extension allowed the city to prepare and issue a comprehensive RFP that included program changes recommended by both the Garbage Advisory Committee and city staff.

Learn more about St. Paul's garbage and recycling programs at stpaul.gov/garbage.

### NEW SPPL MOBILE LIBRARY COMING SOON

St. Paul Public Library (SPPL) announced a new state-of-the-art mobile library is coming this spring. Formerly known as the bookmobile, the new traveling library will offer an expanded set of library services to neighborhoods across St. Paul.

The current Bookmobile will pause March 31 while library staff transition from one vehicle to the next. Residents are encouraged to continue accessing library services through their nearest brick and mortar SPPL neighborhood library. The new Mobile Library is expected to hit the streets in early May 2024.

After more than 19 years traversing all corners of the city, the current vehicle has reached the end of its useful library life. Learn more at sppl.org/mobile-library.

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### IN MEMORY Miriam "Mimi" Meyers Rothstein

Miriam "Mimi" Meyers Rothstein, age 78, of St. Paul, MN, died on March 21, 2024. Preceded in death by parents, Joseph and Alice Meyers. Survived by husband of thirty-five years, Jerry Rothstein; children, Joshua Berger (Rachel) and Nancy Rothstein (Brandon Finch); sisters, Barbara Richter (Dan), Kate Meyers Willenbring (Mark), and Nancy Meyers (Barbara Allen); grandchildren, Ian, Tryg, and Rhys Berger; and many close friends and extended family.

Born in St. Paul, her first challenges were in the sport of speed skating, where she became a junior and U.S. champion, a world champion, and finally, an Olympic silver medal winner. She was then inducted into the Speed Skating Hall of Fame. Her master's degrees in Education and Curriculum Development led to a brief teaching career, and she also explored roles in health and nursing assistance. She emerged as a writer and editor in a wide range of fields. Her poetry, represented by the volume "Object Constancy," became her focus, even after cerebral events in 2015 and 2017 compromised her health and stamina. This was the work she continued to do until her death. While she offered her heart to all, she was particularly happy to be able to be a loving and supportive grandmother to Ian, Tryg, and Rhys. May her memory be a blessing for us all.

## Dear West End,

## Thank you for your continued support

Someone recently asked me, "What are the benefits of being a nonprofit newspaper?" It's a great question and one I had to stop and think deeply about.

There are, of course, tangible benefits, like the ability to apply for grants and discounted postage. More importantly are the intangibles, like an increased credibility that comes with a nonprofit status, that make the *Community Reporter* unique.

Probably the most important benefit of being a nonprofit news publication, however, is a question of ownership. Unlike national news, or even our Twin Cities daily news outlets, we aren't owned by corporations or billionaires. The *Community Reporter* is owned by you, our community.

Our Board of Directors is composed of people who live or work in the West End (or both!), and care deeply about telling the story of our community. Likewise, our writers live in the West End and have a vested interest in the continuous improvement of their community. But it doesn't stop there. We partner with community organizations, local elected officials and small businesses to bring the stories of the West End to your doorstep every month.

That simple question caused me to want to pause and offer my appreciation to everyone who continues to make the *Community Reporter* an integral part of our community.

That includes our Board, our staff, our volunteers, our partners and... you. Thank you for continuing to read our publication and share the stories of our community to keep the West End thriving. We couldn't do it without your support.

If you have ever wondered about how you could become more involved in what we do, here are a few simple ways to be more plugged into the *Community Reporter*.

**Join our mailing list**

Never miss an issue, or an opportunity to support us, by signing up for our newsletter. Once each month, an email version of the *Community Reporter* can be delivered to your inbox. Find news you may have missed, or updates to stories that you won't find in the print editions. Sign up at [communityreporter.org/newsletter](http://communityreporter.org/newsletter).

**Send us a tip**

Is there an important issue happening in your neighborhood? A new business opening up across the alley? An event you want the community to know about? Let us know about it. The West End is such a thriving community that we can't possibly know everything that is happening. That's where you come in. Let us know if there is something important that you'd like to see in the pages of the *Community Reporter*. Email me at [editor@communityreporter.org](mailto:editor@communityreporter.org) to let me know.

**Write a letter to the editor, or a story**

We want to hear from the experts, and who is a better expert on our community than those who live in it. Write us a letter about an issue that you think needs more attention, no matter how big or small. Or take it a step further and pitch a story you'd like to write about someone or something in our community. We can't print everything, but we try to give a voice to as much as possible. Email me at [editor@communityreporter.org](mailto:editor@communityreporter.org) with your ideas.

**Financial gifts**

Producing a free newspaper isn't free. The *Community Reporter* is working to raise \$30,000 for some big plans we have this year. Consider making a tax-deductible pledge of \$5 per month – our goal would be met with 500 \$5 monthly commitments this year. Donate online at [communityreporter.org/donate](http://communityreporter.org/donate).

**Join our Board**

We are always on the lookout for community members who want to help shape the future of the *Community Reporter*. Our Board of Directors meet monthly to help provide oversight on the long-term vision of our paper. If you are interested in learning more about joining our Board and what it entails, email [info@communityreporter.org](mailto:info@communityreporter.org).

Regardless of how much time you give us, we appreciate your continued support of the *Community Reporter*.

Thank you,  
Damian Goebel, Editor



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## BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Range anxiety and the Green Book

BY TIM JOHNSON

When it comes to electric vehicles, range anxiety is a thing. "Will we make it to our destination?" being the central question driving the anxiety. In late January we leased an electric car from Hyundai. Our Ioniq 5 has a range of 266 miles, which is quite sufficient for traveling anywhere in the Metro region. Our goal, however, was St. Augustine, Florida to visit family. Would we make it the entire way, finding charging stations when needed or would we find ourselves stranded along the road in Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky or one of the other states through which we had to travel?

During our trip, I read an article in the Star Tribune entitled "The Green Book guided Black travelers safely through segregated Minnesota, too". The article explained that the Green Book was like a travelers Bible for Blacks, identifying hotels, restaurants, gas stations

and other needed establishments where they would be welcomed. There were 80 such places in Minnesota that were listed in the Green Book. Included on that list were the Lexington Restaurant on Grand Ave. and the downtown St. Paul Hotel. The Green Book was a resource for African Americans wishing to travel so they might visit family, relocate or go on vacation. A Black family wishing to travel from St. Augustine, Florida, home to both Civil Rights leaders and the Klu Klux Klan, to one of the few resorts in Minnesota that welcomed Blacks, would rely on the Green Book. They may have very well stayed at the St. Paul Hotel and grabbed a meal at the Lexington Restaurant. The Green Book addressed the understandable range anxiety felt by African Americans who wished to travel.

For my part, I spent several days prior to our trip reviewing planning apps that identified

charging stations on our route. I downloaded four apps and settled on two as the ones I would primarily use. I chose one app that enabled us to find Electrify America charging stations because our lease came with two years of free charging at Electrify America. I chose a second app that identified alternative charging stations in case there were any issues or problems with Electrify America. I carefully reviewed each route taking note of the distance between each charging station to ensure we stayed safely within the driving range. Probably because I am a Baby Boomer, I felt it necessary to print all this so I also had a hard copy. Those route planning apps were our Green Book.

I, of course, do not wish to minimize the travel risks faced by African Americans with the uncertainty of finding a charging station for an electric vehicle, but the required planning and the anxiety of traveling outside of your home area are points of connection. It certainly gave me a glimpse into how it might have felt starting out on an extended trip for the first time. The Star Tribune quotes Rondo elder and historian, Frank White, who notes "You had to

have a strategic plan. You could run into things that were devastating in addition to not being served."

We made it safely to St. Augustine, Florida and back home to Minnesota without issue. It was a great trip. One which I would do again without hesitation, especially with apps that give me confidence I will make it to my destination. Hopefully the same was true for many African Americans who found their way to Minnesota utilizing the Green Book. It is a credit to the Lexington Restaurant and the St. Paul Hotel that they were included in the Green Book, last published in 1967.

The question of range anxiety, arriving at one's destination safely, is in some respects always with us. It is true for our LGBT neighbors who sadly are increasingly targets of hate. For most of us, we can only imagine what it must be like for new immigrants to this country, regardless of their status. I would like to think our community is known as a place of safety and welcome and that perhaps 50 years from now might be celebrated for having been listed on an app, not unlike the Green Book.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Kids deserve a healthy balance between online safety and access for support

Dear *Community Reporter*,

I appreciate the conversation our state is having to keep children protected online as the prevalence of social media and digital platforms continues to grow within a child's education and early development. At the same time, lawmakers and leaders must carefully consider how some aspects of the Age-Appropriate Design Code (AADC) will limit access to crucial online safe spaces for marginalized groups.

Minnesota is one of the most inclusive and welcoming states for LGBTQ+ individuals, but recent studies illustrate that many of our state's students report feeling unable to express themselves and are regularly exposed to anti-LGBTQ+ remarks at school. To make matters worse, many LGBTQ+ students in Minnesota indicate not having access to in-school resources and support.

While we are working to improve in-person and community resources, online communities remain critically important. LGBTQ+ youth have

increasingly turned to social media as a place to find resources and a supportive community. To many kids, especially in the Black community where they already feel marginalized because of race, these online spaces could be some of the only sources of external validation for their identities.

Unfortunately, the Age-Appropriate Design Code could restrict access to these vital resources and portals for self-discovery and support. Requiring more data collection on Minnesota's kids and forcing online platforms to decide what content is in the "best interest" of children – without giving guidelines – could result in unintended consequences for diverse communities. If we aim to uphold Minnesota's reputation as an inclusive and welcoming place for children, it's imperative to consider these potential impacts. Let's strive to establish online security while also creating digital safe spaces for children who may otherwise lack such environments.

Curtis Shelton

## Thanks to the FRF for making our street safer

I would like to give a shout out to Julia McColley, Executive Director of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation, for assisting me in getting pedestrian crossing signs installed along Otto Avenue this past fall. Although the signs have been removed for the "winter," I appreciate her assistance in putting in the request with the city to help with safer crossing for our children and all walkers in the community. Cars along Otto Avenue tend to speed throughout all hours of the day and rarely stop for pedestrian traffic. Having those signs helped bring added awareness as kids were on their way back and forth to school and getting on and off the bus. The "20 is Plenty" sign movement helped temporarily but I found myself constantly picking up the signs. Hopefully we'll see the signs replaced soon but in the meantime I appreciated the help from her as I have been asking for a stop sign along Otto for years.

Thank you, Jenna

## POTIONS, PG 1

they wanted to settle in. So far, they've been happy with the results.

"My parents bought their first house, like two blocks away on Superior. So that was where I grew up, too. I went to school over here," said Hanschen. "So when Ben texted me this and I drove by, I was like, yes, this is where we need to be. This is it."

That doesn't mean that being located on

a lively street doesn't come with its own challenges for them.

"It's funny because there's definitely a lot going on. Like, we'll be lighting Palo Santo and cleansing the place, and then we'll hear the buses outside," said Polzin. "So it's kind of funny because it'll be like 'beep beep beep beep beep beep beep,' and we're trying to be all zen, but it still works out for the best."

They said customers have been a mix of

people seeking them out as well as people from the neighborhood just stopping by. Regardless, they are happy to be part of the neighborhood.

"You can see people in their car excited to see that we're here," Polzin said.

**POTIONS AND PEBBLES.** 668 West 7th, St. Paul. Wednesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Info: [@potionsandpebbles](https://www.instagram.com/potionsandpebbles) on Instagram [@potionsandpebbles](https://www.tiktok.com/@potionsandpebbles) on TikTok.



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# In the Community

## Carol Carey retires from Historic St. Paul

BY PAUL BARD

After leading Historic St. Paul (HSP) for over two decades, Carol Carey, the organization's Executive Director, recently retired from her position. As reporter James Walsh noted in the Star Tribune, although historic preservation often focuses on "grand, stately properties of the long-ago elite," to Carol Carey, "preserving history also meant infusing new life into scores of St. Paul's working-class houses and storefronts, one humble address at a time."

Recent successful HSP projects in the West End neighborhood include the John and Ann Lewis House at 412 Goodrich Ave, the Hope Engine Company fire station at 1 Leech St. and the façade of Joe and Stan's Pub and Grill at 949 West 7th.

Here is the text of the letter that Carey distributed to supporters of Historic St. Paul, announcing her retirement:

*"After 25 years of work with Historic Saint Paul (HSP), first as a volunteer board member, then as Executive Director, I want to share the news with you that I am retiring to take on my next chapter. As I have been preparing this transition I have reflected on many things - the beginnings of HSP, the work we have been engaged in, the relationships we have established, the generous support we have received, the challenges facing the field, and the exciting opportunities for the work of heritage preservation in the future.*

*I came to the organization as an advocate who recognized the importance of harnessing the power of preservation for the benefit of underserved neighborhoods and celebrating the history of its working people. Initially this ran counter to the perception many had about heritage preservation, but with your help and support I believe we have started to change that perception. I have been honored to work with so many committed people on this journey and cannot tell you how much I have appreciated your support, partnership, and friendship. Without that, we simply would not have achieved the accomplishments we proudly celebrate.*

*Historic Saint Paul was established to encourage the use of heritage resources in community and economic development efforts and has worked predominantly in some of Saint Paul's oldest communities. Our mission is to preserve and promote the cultural heritage, character, and vitality of Saint Paul*



Executive Director Carol Carey with other members of Historic St. Paul in front of the Justus Ramsey House.

We have advocated for threatened properties and sought to reinforce the value of preservation in public policy. This has been a frustrating aspect of the work as we have watched battle lines being drawn over a false choice between heritage preservation and progress.

- Carol Carey

*neighborhoods. We have not focused on high style architecture or on neighborhoods that represent the history of Saint Paul's elite, but on the neighborhoods that contain the stories and structures of the people and communities who labored to build the city and serve its growing populace.*

*Our bricks and mortar projects have been primarily focused on modest structures that reflect the working roots of the communities we serve, and we strive to preserve and improve residential and commercial buildings that serve people and neighborhoods. We have worked with homeowners seeking to invest in their properties in ways that preserve their character for the future, rehabilitated properties scheduled for demolition for use as affordable housing and assisted small businesses serving diverse communities. We have seen over and over again how these investments have enriched their environments.*

*We have sought to tell a more complete history of Saint Paul. Despite our efforts to highlight the history of working communities, there is much work to be done in this critical area. We are at a moment in time where it is abundantly clear how important it is to tell the stories and celebrate the places that reflect the true diversity of Saint Paul and the contributions of the full complement of its cultural communities. History is complicated, and there will be uncomfortable subjects to take on, but our city and its stakeholders will be better off for it."*

*We have advocated for threatened properties and sought to reinforce the value of preservation in public policy. This has been a frustrating*

*aspect of the work as we have watched battle lines being drawn over a false choice between heritage preservation and progress.*

*Historic resources are vital to city building and the civic life of communities. They provide a continuity that bridges generations, creating connectivity and adding to a community's resilience. Unfortunately, preservation is currently not a priority for city leadership and the systems in place to identify, protect, and educate others about our heritage resources are being tested. At times it seems as though attitudes toward preservation have gone backward.*


*The mission and work of HSP has never been more important. The continued involvement of each and every one of you will make a difference. You can help by talking to city leaders about why heritage preservation is important to you, and why it should be for them. You can help by engaging your neighbors in discussions about its role in community building and development, and by continuing to offer your financial support to Historic Saint Paul.*

*Stepping away from this role is both challenging and exciting. It's difficult to say goodbye to an organization and a community that have become such an integral part of my life. But as the work passes on to a new generation of leadership, I am excited and inspired about where they will lead us and will definitely continue to be there to support them - I sincerely hope you will join me.*

My heartfelt thanks,  
 Carol Carey"



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# Community Nourishment

## GAP creative writers share mini memoirs

This spring, Global Arts Plus (GAP) Creative Writing students will publish their work in each issue of the Community Reporter between March and June. Their work will range from long-form articles to bite-sized memoirs to poems and stories. They are so excited to share their stories with you.

This month, GAP Creative Writing students were challenged to write a memoir in under 250 words, having to pack lots of detail and feelings into limited space. Here are five of their stories.

-Olivia Wilsson, Global Arts Plus English Language Arts Teacher

### “SWEATY HANDS”

I sat next to him in our afterschool program, stealing glances at him. “Can we...uhh...hold hands?” I asked softly. He nodded, flustered. Under the table, his hand waited for mine. I grasped his hand gently, awkwardly. I could feel his incredibly soft hand. I turned my attention back to Dungeons and Dragons. As we packed up to leave, he turned to me. “Your hand was really sweaty.” “Umm...sorry,” I responded, thinking of everything bad. Oh, god, what if he didn’t like it? He shook his head, “No, it’s okay.” Before he left, I gave him a hug. “Love you,” I whispered. Because of that day, he now means the world to me.

-Augie, 7th grade

### “MEGABUS”

Before we moved back to Minnesota, my mom, my brother, and I used to take the Megabus to Minnesota from Gary, Indiana for birthdays and holidays. I’ve always brought a teddy bear with my bedcover cause if you know me I’m going to sleep. It was just me, my mom and brother, and I don’t know if it still does this, but the bus stopped at gas stations and fast food places like McDonald’s so we had food to eat on the long ride back to Gary, Indiana. I always got 8 piece nuggets, small fries, and a small shake. Then from the gas station we’d all get candy and chips, when we got back on the bus the bathroom always stunk, so we tried to hold it but it never worked. I remember how we used to always play I Spy, but I saw grass and things that looked like farms, so the main color we saw was green. In other people’s eyes, this memory might seem stupid, but I remember it the most because I was spending time with family. It was really fun, not knowing that as I got older, family time would go away. I loved spending time with my family when I was younger. Now look at us. Mom works so much I barely see her, and my brother doesn’t care to come out of his room anymore. The family time is gone.

-Hayz, 8th grade

### “SEASICK”

The summer before sixth grade, I went to California, and went on a boat in the middle of the ocean. There wasn’t any land you could see, and the waves were really high, and made the boat tilt a lot. I didn’t exactly know what the boat was supposed to be for, or even why I was on it in the first place. Along with the boat tilting, and the confusion of why I was there, every other person on the boat was sick. It took about 1-2 hours, and I couldn’t wait to get off. I used to have a small fear of the ocean, and because of this I absolutely hate it. I only like the shore and the beach now.

- Oliver, 7th grade

### “NO PUPPIES!”

We were moving into our new house and wanted to get a dog. But one rule was in place: NO puppies. I asked to go see a litter of pit bulls from an online ad. My mom said yes, but reminded me we wouldn’t get them. So Jett and I went to go look. “EEEEEEEE,” I said straight away when we entered. Puppies were in little play-pens, I looked over each one and picked one up with a brown spot & white body who the workers called Uno. I fell in love within seconds.

At home, Jett told my mom about the puppy. She still said no, saying they were too much responsibility compared to an older dog. But she finally decided to go look. When she came back, our hearts were tied to the little pup. We opened the website and Uno was the only pup left from the litter. The workers agreed they could hold her for us for the 2 weeks we needed to prepare. From then we waited for the day of the pup’s arrival. Now Uno is Rocky, and she is ours forever.

-Sylvia, 7th grade

### “POOL DAY”

Laughter, yelling, splashing, “MARCO” “POLO!” I spot my 12 year old brother front-flipping into the pool. I envied him. As I quickly separated from my mother and waddled towards the pool, I made a small SPLASH. Thumps, snaps, I could feel the chemical water tickling into my ear then suddenly another bigger SPLASH. I feel a hand similar to a grown-up’s hand, at least 10x bigger than mine. It grabs my tiny arm, harshly pulling me out. The sounds of laughter, yelling and splashing start to sneak back into my hearing. As my small feet innocently swing in the water, I look up noticing my three year old hand being held by my furious mother.

-Abby, 7th grade



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Dorothy, Resident at Sholom *(Shown Above)*

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# St. Patrick's Day parade marches back to Downtown



Hundreds of revelers came out for the "Greatest St. Patrick's Day parade in the nation" on March 16.

Despite the blustery cold, people lined the 5th Street from Rice Park to Mears Park to celebrate the city's Irish heritage at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown St. Paul.

The annual event, organized by the St. Patrick's Association, featured dozens of parade entries, from local politicians, like Mayor Melvin Carter and Senator Amy Klobuchar, and businesses to fan favorites like the Vulcan Krewe and St. Paul Bouncing Team along with people representing their Irish "clans."

According to the St. Patrick's Association's website, they have been organizing the annual event since 1967.

This year's event was held on March 16, the day before St. Patrick's Day, because the holiday would have fallen on a Sunday, which organizers have historically avoided.

Check out some of our photos of the festivities. See more photos online at [communityreporter.org/st-patricks-day-parade-marches-back-to-downtown](http://communityreporter.org/st-patricks-day-parade-marches-back-to-downtown)

- Damian Goebel





# Community Traditions

## Schmidt on West 7th hosts St. Paul Spring Art Crawl

What do Rembrandt, Georgia O'Keefe, Banksy and Andy Warhol have in common? They all started as local artists. Meet a spectacular collection of local artists for Spring Art Crawl at Schmidt Artist Lofts April 19-21.

Over 80 artists, artisans and makers will be exhibiting and selling their work from the Tunnel Gallery up to the Rooftop. The event features many art styles and mediums, including paintings, ceramics, illustration, jewelry, photography, block printing, glass art, digital work, healing arts, fiber arts and, new this Crawl, sand art.

Open Palette live painting and art demonstrations will be conducted by a select group of artists on the Rooftop level. MaryBeth Garigan will emcee this unique "spectator art" feature. Attend a session and get inspired. Be sure to take selfies with the performers against the backdrop of the scenic St. Paul skyline.

In the center of the Atrium, you will find the 43rd Annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students in Minnesota's 4th District. The winning entry will be displayed as part of the national exhibit in the U.S. Capitol. Entries from the runners-up will be displayed in Congresswoman Betty McCollum's offices in St. Paul and Washington DC.



Lynne Hinz

Food trucks will be on site to keep attendees and artists fueled all weekend with crowd favorites, such as Buna Coffee Cart, Egg Roll Queen, Red Rocket Pizza and Mini Donuts. ROK Music Lounge offers libations and food truck seating. Saturday, Phil's Well House will be open for a rare glimpse inside the Keg-O-Verse. Rumor has it, there may be cookies!

Art Crawl for a day or the whole weekend in the West 7th Arts District of St. Paul. After



Amy Clark

touring 5 floors of art at the historic Schmidt Brewery/Artist Lofts, continue along West 7th Street to Friedli Gallery and Great River Gallery. You'll find several uncommon dining and shopping options along the way.

Art Crawl is held in numerous venues throughout St. Paul during 3 weekends in April



Sara Nogle

and the 1st weekend of October each year, in partnership with the St. Paul Art Collective. For more information: theschmidtartcrawl@gmail.com, www.schmidtartists.com, www.stpaulartcollective.org

**SCHMIDT ON W. 7TH ART CRAWL:** April 19-21; Friday 6-9 p.m., Saturday 12-7 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m. Enter at Door 1 near the tall smokestack on the north side of the Brewery building. Attendance to Art Crawl is free and all are welcome. Parking is free on nearby streets and in select marked lots. Please pay close attention to signs indicating parking restrictions.



### HEALTHLINE

## Harnessing the power of spring: Exercising outdoors

BY ALEXANDER WOONER, MD

As the seasons shift and the chill of winter gives way to the warmth of spring, there's a sense of renewal in the air. With the sun shining bright and nature coming back to life, what better time to get back to that exercise routine, or to continue your current one, by taking it outdoors. Embracing exercise is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and outdoor workouts not only offer a refreshing change of scenery, but also bring health benefits for both the body and mind.

A sedentary lifestyle is known to be associated with poor health outcomes across the board. This includes increasing risk for developing heart disease, diabetes and cancers which can lead to shortened lifespans. However, engaging in at least 30 minutes of moderate activity daily including walking, bicycling, water aerobics, sports or even gardening can offer significant physical benefits if done consistently. These activities done daily can have similar effects on health compared to 20-30 minutes of high-intensity exercise 3 times per week. Benefits have even been shown by splitting up an exercise routine into 10-15-minute intervals throughout the day.

Now, it is tough to maintain a structured

exercise routine and to keep the body moving every day, but some things that can help make this commitment easier include finding a partner, joining a group program around town or in your neighborhood, using one of the many fitness apps available or joining a gym/working with a fitness professional if you are able. Getting outdoors can be one way to start this fitness habit and comes with its motivations and benefits, too.

Let's briefly explore these benefits and how the changing of the seasons can ignite a positive change within you too.

#### NATURE'S VITAMIN D INFUSION

Sunlight is our body's primary source of vitamin D, a vital nutrient essential for bone health, immune function and mood regulation. After months of limited sunlight exposure during the winter, stepping outside to exercise allows your skin to soak up those much-needed rays. Basking in the sun while engaging in physical activity can help replenish your vitamin D levels and lift your spirits, contributing to a sense of vitality and well-being.

#### MENTAL REVITALIZATION

Whether you're jogging along a scenic trail,

**OUTDOORS, PG 10**

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# In the Community

## NOTEBOOK RECOLLECTIONS

### Piano lessons – finale

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.

BY TIM RUMSEY, MD

Ever since the first piano – outside – the UFM clinic column in December’s “Community Reporter,” letters have been pouring in. Well, three. One congratulatory, one asking about a “rash down there” and one cease and desist note begging for a “column about anything other than another piano.”

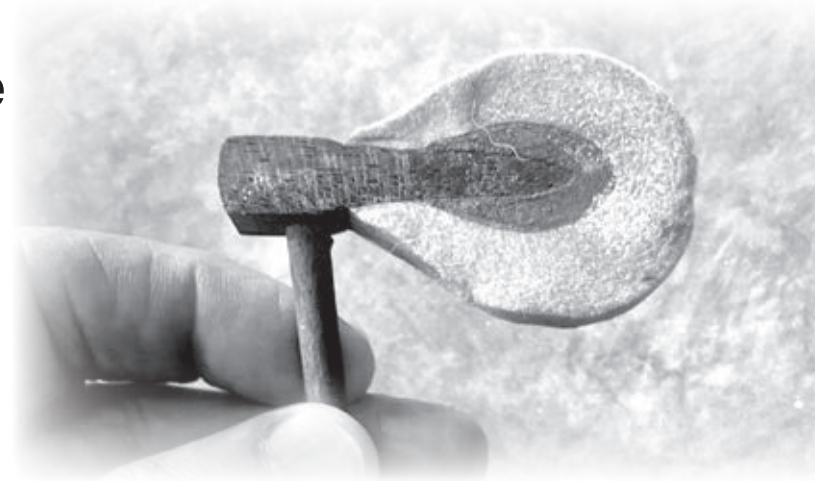
Got it. This really is the last one. Even though technically, there would be two more outside Clinic pianos.

Because this is the last Clinic piano column, we’re going to overlay a few dates from last month.

**2-15-17. Monday.** An uncommon 40°. Outside campers Mark and Anthony were at the piano today for an hour playing and sometimes singing. Anthony has started seeing Dr. Ravi at Clinic. Mark was just hanging around the outside piano area. Sleeping on the black wrought iron “to serve and teach” bench by the carport door.

**2-17-17. Wednesday.** Tex emergency-cabbed in Cowboy and his mom. No cowboy hat, no piano plunking. Cowboy sprained an ankle and badly skinned an elbow. No mention of shots or signs of clinic aversion.

**2-21-17. Sunday. 9:30 a.m.** Really foggy out. Ravi and I were dictating and charting. On the computer! Modern medicine had arrived last month.



A piano hammer from the first United Family Physicians Clinic piano

An hour into our electronic record carnival, Ravi went to answer a pounding at the clinic main entrance. Piano Mark. Ravi let him in to wash up and use the “lav.” Then he gave Mark a vending machine bottle of OJ and a three-count Oreo cookie package before letting him out again.

At around 1 p.m., Ravi and I heard a massive sound – blast.

“Sounds like the foghorn from the Titanic,” Ravi said.

I had to laugh. We used that as a sign to end the charting.

Here’s the thing. It was the Titanic fog horn. Not kidding. I read it in the Monday, St. Paul *Pioneer Press*. Our science Museum of Minnesota had it for a day or two. Part of a traveling exhibit. The actual, recovered Titanic foghorn was blown outside at 1 p.m. Sunday for all St. Paul to hear.

**2-22-17. Tuesday.** Tex is in clinic to see me via a borrowed bicycle. He asked right off if it was OK if we didn’t talk about the piano today.

I said, “of course.”

Tex said he was feeling pretty down. I could see he wasn’t the everyday fired up guy

we all knew.

Tex said he felt like the clinic piano looked. Cachectic, anemic. Down in the dobber.

We had a solid 20 minute talk all about Tex. And no piano chat. From me.

**3-1-17. Wednesday.** 51°. Early morning, pre-clinic. A handsome, thin, older, black man is jazzing the Clinic piano. A lit, long ash-cigarette was hanging out one side of his mouth. Bare feet. Blue jeans. Good. Really good.

I gave him a thumbs up.

He called out. “Thanks, Dr. Toso.”

I said, “I’m Rumsey. But you have a good doctor there with Toso.”

“I do. He plays classical guitar. I’ll see him next week. Inside.”

**3-20-17.** Outside fellow, Mark, was becoming troubling. And he now had two black eyes and a limp. He was becoming very possessive of the piano. He was basically living around the clinic. Paper towel bathing in the men’s washroom when we were open. Demanding to have his phone charged whenever the public outlets were plugged. He was asked to leave about every other day. Front desk had to call the police once to assist him out the door.

## TRANSIT pg 1

and isn’t included in the estimates.

The two streetcar options are being estimated at roughly the same top-line cost, coming in at \$2.1 and \$2.12 billion in 2033 dollars, respectively, for construction and purchasing equipment. They also have another \$34 million in operations costs.

The ABRT option is estimated to have a significantly lower cost at \$121 million with another \$16.8 million for operations in 2030 dollars for building stations and replacing the existing route 54 buses with new, all-electric units.

With that said, those top-line numbers aren’t exactly comparing apples to apples.

Major differences between the streetcar and ABRT options include a complete street reconstruction and bridge replacement included in the cost of the streetcar, with neither happening with the ABRT project.

Also not apparent is the 40% contingency built into the estimated cost of each proposal.

“The big thing that jumps out to me is the 40% contingency,” said Time Marino, a transit advocate from St. Paul. “If we take out that number, we are looking at \$1.32 billion for rail, including the estimated amount for the reconstruction of 7th street, which is \$272 million. That doesn’t include the cost we will eventually need to replace a

63 year old bridge on Highway 5.”

“I would rather see the estimate include the reconstruction,” said Blackmon, addressing the exclusion of street reconstruction from the ABRT costs. “I’ve lived in this area for a long time, and it very much is in need of reconstruction.”

“I was also curious about the capital cost for the two streetcar options being broken out,” said Russ Stark, the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of St. Paul. “I think the public would be interested in knowing that, and I would be interested in knowing, what is the cost of reconstructing the entire [Highway 5] bridge?”

The project team said they are working with MnDOT on anticipated costs for replacing the Highway 5 bridge and the reconstruction of West 7th and are hoping to have the information available for the public this summer.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

Project planners said that, despite the high price tag, either streetcar option would have a more significant long-term impact on economic development in the area.

Based on their analysis, they found that if either streetcar option were to be built, \$843 million in real estate value would be created, including a projected 6,800 new residential units and 653,000 square feet of commercial space over 20 years in St. Paul alone.

They found building ABRT would have

less impact on economic development in the corridor, creating about \$336 million in real estate value and adding 5,100 new housing units and 494,000 square feet of commercial space, which is about 12% growth over what they are projecting if nothing were to be built.

Short-term, both options would hit residents and business owners in the area during construction.

Post construction, streetcar option one would have the biggest impacts on parking and access to local businesses, restricting crossing except at signalized intersections and removing all but 35 parking spaces in the corridor.

Streetcar option two and ABRT would retain much of the on-street parking and allow traffic to flow mostly as it does now along West 7th.

TRANSIT pg 10

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Comparison by the Numbers				
	Streetcar Option 1	Streetcar Option 2	ABRT	Route 54
Number of Stations	20	22	21 (14 new)	26 stops (MOA to Union Depot)
Dedicated lanes	~10.1 miles or 87%	~8.2 miles or 72%	~0.52 miles or 4%	~0.52 miles or 4%
Service Frequency	10 mins/30 mins <sup>1</sup>	10 mins/30 mins <sup>1</sup>	10 mins/30 mins <sup>1</sup>	15 mins/30 mins <sup>2</sup>
Travel Time (westbound)	44:02 min	45:33 min	40:05 min	43:00 min
Travel Time (eastbound)	43:22 min	44:49 min	39:57 min	42:00 min
2040 Ridership	11,600	11,200	8,000	N/A
Capital Cost	\$2.10 billion (2033)	\$2.12 billion (2033)	\$121 million (2030)	
Operations and Maintenance Cost (2023)	\$34 million	\$34.5 million	\$16.8 million	

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# In the Community

## Free programs for kids and teens during spring break

By Donicia Soliz  
Library Manager

St. Paul Public Library (SPPL) invites kids and teens to spend spring break at the library. Kids ages 7-11 can have a blast at all library locations with events including Pokémon parties, air-dry clay sculpturing, robotics and bean art. Teens can level up their gaming skills at one of several Clash of the Controllers gaming tournaments happening at seven locations.

George Latimer Library, 90 Fourth Street West, is one of the seven library locations hosting a Clash of the Controllers gaming tournament for teens ages 12-18 where they can show off their gaming skills and win prizes on April 10 from 3-5 p.m.

Kids ages 7-11 can have fun with bean art at West 7th Library, 265 Oneida Street, on April 11 from 3-5 p.m. and at George Latimer Central Library, on April 13 from 11 a.m. to

Noon. Create your masterpiece out of a variety of beans with different colors, textures, and shapes.

In addition to spring break activities, St. Paul Public Library and the St. Paul Conservatory of Music are partnering to offer intergenerational music programs at three locations. Son de Cuerdas will present music from North and South America in English and Spanish at Riverview Library, 1 E. George Street on April 6 from 1-3 p.m. and at Arlington Hills Library, 1200 Payne Avenue on April 20 from 1-3 p.m. These events include a musical instrument petting zoo and a meal celebration.

All events are free, and no registration is required. Find additional programs happening at libraries around St. Paul at [sppl.org/spring-break](http://sppl.org/spring-break).

**WEST 7TH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 265 Oneida St. Hours: Mon, Thu 12:30-8 p.m., Tue 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Wed, Fri 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.



## FEDERATION UPDATE

### 2ND ANNUAL WEST 7TH COMMUNITY MERCHANDISE DESIGN CONTEST

Seeking artists to submit designs. Proceeds from the sale of the t-shirts will help the West 7th/Fort Road Federation fulfill its mission to promote a welcoming and safe community.

### CITYWIDE SPRING CLEANUP

Celebrate Earth Day at the 38th annual Citywide Spring Cleanup! On April 20, 9-11:30 a.m., join forces with your neighbors to clean up the litter in our parks and neighborhood streets. Stop by Pleasant Place Park (Harrison Ave & Garfield) for supplies and then head out into the neighborhood to pick up litter. This is a rain or shine event.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

April 23, Summit Brewing Company. Social Hour at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Food provided and beverages for purchase. Join us for conversation and connection. Voting for board seats opens on April 8 (online). In-person voting will take place.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Transportation & Land Use Committee: 4/3, 6:30 p.m.  
Community Engagement/Fundraising - 4/18, 6:30 p.m.

### STAY IN TOUCH

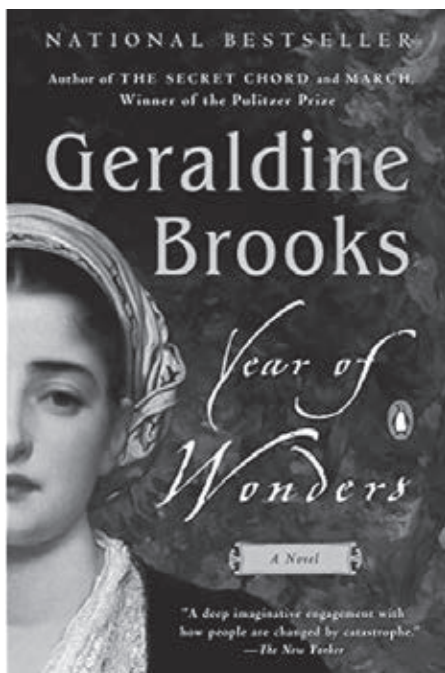
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### CONTACT

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## BEA'S BOOKS

### "Year of Wonders" is an enthralling story of death and happiness



BY BEATRICE COSGROVE

I was bored, so I picked through the bookshelf in my house in the hopes of finding something to read. I found "Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brooks and began a journey through the Plague days in medieval England.

This book encapsulates what it meant to be a woman during the Plague and explores themes of death, self-discovery and what it means to be truly happy. This one took a while to read, especially because of the flowery language and sometimes slow-developing storyline, but I thoroughly enjoyed the book and was sad to finish it.

The story begins in a village in the home of Anna Frith, the recently widowed mother of two young children. Anna worked at the rectory in the town, cooking for the reverend and his wife. After taking a traveler in for a night, the man becomes ill and dies. No one knows exactly what happened to the man until others begin catching a similar sickness, causing the death of a plethora of townspeople. Anna watches as her friends and neighbors fall ill,

and begins attempts to help the town, making new friends and discovering who she, and those around her, really are. Anna's tireless efforts are inspiring and small interludes to the lives of different families gives the book perspective.

I thought it held a lot of hidden messages about what it means to be alive and how simple kindnesses can change lives. It had me on the edge of my seat wondering what would happen next (a surprise to me!). Anna's character seems to be one that anyone can connect with, though I did find her to be shallow at times and wished the author would have given her more depth. The story was also slightly slow, especially near the beginning, but I was glad I continued reading, especially because it sparked so many interesting conversations about the Plague, womanhood in medieval times and how different everything is now. Death is a major piece of the book and I found myself having to step back purely because of the heaviness the story carried. The story is enthralling and fascinating to pick apart, many themes are very mature. I would recommend it to anyone ages 14+.

## TRANSIT, PG 9

### MIXED OPINIONS

Residents along the corridor had far ranging opinions of the plans, which ranged from building a larger light rails system to not building anything at all.

"Under the current projections of ridership, neither streetcar option measures up to the cost and performance advantages of the so-called 'best bus,'" said Jay Severance, a member of Citizen Advocates for Regional Transit (CART). "Unless the ridership is increased, I don't think the streetcar should be considered."

"I would definitely not be in favor of option one, that takes away most of the parking along West 7th," said Paul Hardt, who is a member of the Fort Road Federation Board and serves on the Riverview Community Advisory Committee. "Parking along there is vital to the businesses as well as the residents. If the parking is taken away, I believe that alternatives need to be considered, including possibly some parking ramps."

Marino said one of his biggest considerations in the cost is what funding sources are available for different aspects of the project.

"What can qualify for federal money? A reconstruction of West 7th street won't qualify for federal money, so even if that is \$200 million

to pay for the project on the streetcar, versus paid outside of it, that could be a difference of 50-60%," he said.

Joe Landsberger, another member of CART, said that he would like to see more information about impacts to the area during construction.

"I hope there will be additional information that has not been presented," he said. "First, the costs of any implementation to West 7th businesses and their customers, This includes not only construction, but inconveniences to their customers."

Mac-Groveland resident Adam Farley said, for him, economic development is key in any decision on which version of the project to move forward.

"Streetcar will increase investment and property values along west 7th to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars," he said. "This multiplier effect has been shown time and time again with real projects, the Green and Blue Lines, in our own backyard."

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

Now that project planners have been given the green light by the PAC, they will be taking the concepts to the community.

They plan to begin outreach throughout the corridor this spring and summer to solicit

feedback from those impacted by the proposals.

They will bring the feedback back to the PAC this fall, with the hopes that PAC members will be able to choose an option to move forward with.

### LEARN MORE

To learn more about the proposed options, including maps, animations, meeting materials and more, visit [ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/transit-corridors-studies/riverview-corridor](http://ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/transit-corridors-studies/riverview-corridor)



### SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS - ELECTION IN APRIL

Seeking candidates ages 18+ who live in or represent a business in Highland Park to run for a 2-year term on our board of directors. Board members represent their neighbors living in 55116 on issues like development, transportation, affordable housing and environmental concerns. Applications are due April 10 at 5 p.m. Call us at 651-695-4005 or email [info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org](mailto:info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org) with questions. The election will be held April 17 at 7 p.m. to April 22 at 10 p.m. More info at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/2024election](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/2024election).

### ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

6:30 p.m., April 17, Summit Brewing (910 Montreal Circle)  
The annual event is an opportunity to learn about projects in the neighborhood and meet candidates running in the HDC's Board Election. The meeting will be streamed live at [www.facebook.com/HighlandDistrictCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/HighlandDistrictCouncil) (no Facebook account required).

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Highland Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy with an online option. Zoom link and meeting agendas at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar).

## OUTDOORS, PG 8

cycling through the countryside or practicing yoga in a tranquil park, being outdoors is a refreshing escape. Outdoor exercise provides an opportunity to clear your mind, reduce stress and enhance mental clarity, leading to relaxation and rejuvenation.

### SOCIAL CONNECTION

Exercising outdoors provides an excellent opportunity to connect with others and build a sense of community. Whether you join a local running group, participate in outdoor fitness classes or simply go for a walk with friends or family, outdoor workouts offer a chance to bond over shared experiences and mutual support.

Some things to keep in mind when spending more time outdoors include staying

hydrated, protecting your skin by wearing sunscreen and listening to your body and adjusting your workout intensity or duration as needed to prevent injury.

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, seize the opportunity to embrace outdoor exercise and harness the rejuvenating power of spring. Whether you're soaking up the sunshine, exploring new trails or simply enjoying the beauty of nature, outdoor workouts offer a holistic approach to health and wellness that nourishes both body and soul. With the changing season look towards making a change for yourself by getting outside and starting your own exercise journey today.

DR. WOONER is a family physician at Allina Health United Family Physicians, 233 Grand Ave, St. Paul, 651-241-5200



**WEST 7TH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
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[keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org)  
Check the website for the latest information or call the Center.

## The Foodmobile

Keystone's Foodmobiles (mobile food shelf) travels throughout St. Paul and the northern suburbs of Ramsey County to bring nutritious food to people in need. For more information about where our Foodmobile stops, you can visit our website at [keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org) or call us at 651-645-0349. campaign information, including a food drive toolkit!

## Fare for All at West 7th Community Center

Fare for All allows you to shop for quality, nutritious foods at a discount and budget-friendly prices. All are welcome! The upcoming Fare for All events at West 7th Community Center are April 5, May 3, June 7. The events will all run 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit [keystoneservices.org/events](http://keystoneservices.org/events)

## Kick Off Your Spring Season with Express Bike Shop

Bike season is almost upon us! Express Bike Shop is open Tuesday - Saturday to make sure you and your bike are ready to hit the trails this spring. We sell high-quality refurbished bicycles at affordable prices. Or update your bike by browsing accessories like seats, locks or bells. You can also bring your bike in for a tune up as well. Whatever your bike needs, Express Bike Shop has got you covered! Give us a call at 651-644-9660 or stop by 1158 Selby Ave.

## Get Moving with Pickleball!

For those 55+. Novice and advanced Pickleball matches played for fun and include similar levels of play. Stop by Keystone's Merriam Park Community Center on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. to get a good and enjoyable workout. \$2/per session to play. For more information, you can visit our website at [keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org).

# BULLETIN BOARD



## PUBLIC SHOWING OF "CECIL THE LION"

Through April 13, Frameworks Gallery. For one month a series of Italian paintings are on exhibit. Cecil's portrait was painted on July 29, 2015, during the public protest located at the River Bluff Dental practice of Dr. Walter J. Palmer in Bloomington, Minnesota. The portrait was an interactive public work that began on-site in the morning, Balma worked without stopping to eat or rest and completed it on-site the same evening. Balma painted this portrait of Cecil in silent protest over his unethical killing and respect for all animals. Info: Mandy Madsen at Frameworks Gallery, 651-698-3372, frameworksmn.com

## FREE COURTROOM CONCERT: ROD KELLY HINES AND CELESTE MARIE JOHNSON

April 4, 12 p.m. Landmark Center. Free and open to the public. Info: schubert.org/event/free-courtroom-concert-rod-kelly-hines-and-celeste-marie-johnson

## DJEMBE IMPROVISATION AND SOLOING WORKSHOP

Women's Drum Center. April 6, 13. \$50. Unlock your rhythmic expression in a 2-part workshop with Dan Engebretson. Drums provided. 16+. Some drumming experience suggested. Learn more at womensdrumcenter.org/classes.

## AESOP BOPS AT PARKS SQUARE THEATRE

April 14, 2 p.m. \$15-30. Featuring internationally acclaimed storyteller David Gonzales. Fast-paced,

funny and packed with audience participation! A potpourri of Aesop's classic stories parksquaretheatre.org/box-office/shows/2024-2025/aesop-bops/

## SPRING FLING PARTY

April 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Linwood Recreation Center. Come meet your neighbors while kids have fun with games, music, demonstrations, information tables and more! Learn more at https://bit.ly/4au99Z8

## CITYWIDE SPRING CLEANUP

April 20, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Celebrate Earth Day! No pre-registration necessary. Stop by a kickoff site to check in and pick up bags and gloves. Learn more at stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/natural-resources-volunteers/citywide-spring



## PROM OUTFIT SHOPPING

**Prom Sale (Battle Creek):** All dresses and suits under \$5. Jewelry, shoes and ties available. Donate used dresses, shoes, suits/pants or accessories to Battle Creek Recreation Center or call 651-501-6347. April 8, 4-8 p.m., April 10, 4-7 p.m., April 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and April 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Prom Dress Giveaway (Jimmy Lee):** Presented with Project Fairy Godmothers. Dresses, shoes, accessories available. Register for shopping time: bit.ly/promshop24. April 6, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., April 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

FOR MORE CALENDAR EVENTS, VISIT [COMMUNITYREPORTER.ORG/EVENTS](http://COMMUNITYREPORTER.ORG/EVENTS)

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