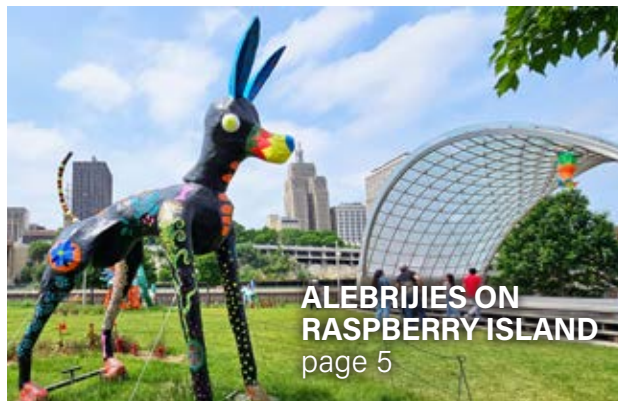


# Community REPORTER

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



**ALEBRIJES ON RASPBERRY ISLAND**  
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VOL. 55 NO. 7

JULY 2025

CIRCULATION 13,000

### BUILDING COMMUNITY

## At home on Raspberry Island



**TIM JOHNSON**  
columnist

It is a fair bet that Albert Einstein would have loved the colorful, fanciful, imaginative Mexican folk art exhibit presently installed on Raspberry Island. Hike down the Wabasha bridge

steps or exit off of Wabasha onto Fillmore St. and you will find yourself in the presence of "Alebrijes: Keepers of the Island". Surrounded by the Mississippi River on both sides, overlooking downtown St. Paul, Raspberry Island is the perfect venue for these four to sixteen foot vividly colorful creatures, whose heads and bodies are a fusion of a diverse and imaginative world. Einstein knew that imagination is crucial for scientific discovery, religious belief and more generally creating the type of communities and world in which we all hope to live. He would have been right at home among these bright and lively beings of the mind.

Recently a report on NPR noted that those who are now in their early 20s would have never known a time in which we were not separated into designations of red state, blue state, which only began in the early 2000s. Since then the division, hatred and animosity has only grown, creating the environment in which killing elected officials is no longer surprising. Current national leadership favors this environment, appearing to believe that hating those whose views and politics differ is not only the way to power, but an accurate reflection of human nature. It is in other words, dominate or be dominated. Control or be controlled. Be a winner or be a loser. There is no alternative to this polarization. White supremacy is particularly at home in this mindset, but it is also a tempting mindset for liberals and conservatives alike. Among other things, the "dominate or be dominated" orientation offers a shortcut to the more time consuming and challenging path of compromise, negotiation, listening and actually caring about those with whom we disagree. It often feels so much easier to live in a black and white world where there is a clear demarcation between good and bad, right and wrong, those on our side and those whom we oppose.

The question is how does a young person, who has only ever known a world of harsh division and polarization, move beyond this brutalizing approach to our common life? Is "winner take all" the only way to function in our communities or nation? Does being in leadership in one's family, community or elected office mean dominate in order to get things done? It is hard to blame someone born after 2000 for concluding, yes, that is the way life works and as a result either withdraw into ever smaller circles of safety or on some level join the fray.

This is precisely where art like "Alebrijes: Keepers of the Island" can and does make a difference. If the current reality, whatever it might be, seems cast in stone, unbending and unchangeable, art invites imagination to see and experience things differently. What presently exists is never the limit of what might be. Imagination unleashes new possibilities. Being invited into the space of imagination is to be invited into a world of transformation where change

HOME, PG 7

## County Moves Riverview Corridor Funding Away from W7th

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

**T**he Ramsey County Board of Commissioners reallocated nearly a billion dollars, almost three-quarters of which was originally earmarked for Riverview Corridor, on June 10.

In a unanimous vote, the Board funded several road and interchange projects, corridor wide improvements, updates to Union Depot and railroad projects, items they deemed "transformative and innovative" and "other" projects, which include the Purple Line transit corridor, trail extensions and all projects included in the 2024-28 Ramsey County Transportation Improvement plan.

Noticeably absent from the list of funded projects were improvements along West 7th, including the proposed plan for Bus Rapid Transit along the corridor.

### Proposed projects

In total, the County has allocated \$961 million of their Transportation Sales and Use tax funding, which is made up of a .5 percent sales tax and a \$20 vehicle excise tax on each vehicle sold by dealers in the county, to a number of projects throughout Ramsey county. About \$730 million of that funding was previously allocated to the Riverview Project.

Some of the major investments in the proposed plan include:

- \$250 million for interchange improvements at Lexington & I-94, Snelling and I-94, Snelling and Highway 36, Edgerton and Highway 36, White Bear Ave. and I-94 and Long Lake Road and I-694
- \$200 for corridor improvements to Larpentour Ave., White Bear Ave., Lexington Ave., Transfer Road/Pierce Butler, Maryland Ave., County Road B2, County Road B, Edgerton St., McKnight Rd. and County Road 96
- \$150 million in Downtown Investments, including potential funding for River's Edge and multi-modal improvements
- \$100 million to increase multimodal transportation staffing and facilities
- \$80 million for improvements to Union Depot
- \$75 million allocated to a grant program to fund local multimodal projects
- \$35 million to build a connection between County Roads 96 and H through Rice Creek Commons

**THE NEW WEST 7TH CORRIDOR**  
A CONCEPT FOR DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL

**WEST 7TH PROJECTS ABSENT FROM COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Investment in West 7th Street for safety, multimodal improvements & economic development—within and beyond the BRT corridor

- Current sidewalk widths maintained to support safety, comfort, greening, lighting & neighborhood businesses
- Traffic calming Transit & emergency vehicle priority lanes
- 4-to-3 Lane Conversion
- Realign challenging intersections
- Replace signals
- Retain half of existing on-street parking to support businesses
- Curb extensions, greening & street trees
- Address poor pavement & sidewalk conditions
- Street design & crossings that work for people of all abilities & ages
- CONCEPT: Repurpose space for safety, greening & parking

According to County Documents, in December 2024, after the dissolution of the Riverview Corridor study, the Ramsey County Board directed staff to develop a transit and transportation investment plan to reallocate the funding previously earmarked for Riverview.

Country staff then help internal conversations to compose a list of projects to propose to the Board by March of this year, the final list of which was not publicly available until early June.

In addition to the dissolution of the Riverview project, the County cited needing to update their transportation plan and priorities, which still included Green and Gold line operations since taken over by Metro Transit.

### Public Pushback

In March of this year, just as County staff were wrapping up their proposed list of projects, the City of St. Paul rolled out their plan for a proposed transit project along West 7th, picking up where the Riverview project left off. That project was conspicuously left off the list of proposed projects in the County's plan, leaving members of the community and City staff to advocate for its inclusion in the funding proposal.

In a joint letter to the County Board, Mayor

Melvin Carter, Metropolitan Council Chair Charlie Zelle and MnDOT Metro District Engineer Khani Sahebjam asked the County Board to reconsider and include the West 7th project in the list of projects.

"Achieving this transformative vision for the West 7th corridor will depend on the financial commitments and advocacy of each of our agencies, including Ramsey County," the letter read, in part.

On June 3, the Ramsey County Board hosted a public hearing on the proposed reallocation of the funds, which was overwhelmingly met with resistance from the community. In all, the Board received 29 letters in opposition to the plan as proposed. Additionally, nine people spoke against the proposal during the public hearing, largely advocating specifically for investment in the proposed transit project along the West 7th corridor.

"West 7th has been holding its breath for two decades waiting for the Riverview project. Investment has been delayed, building projects abandoned and the future has been on pause. And

FUNDING, PG 2

### LOCAL EATS

## Big Island Poké Brings Authentic Hawaiian to St. Paul

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

Before opening Big Island Poké, located at 74 Snelling Ave. S, owners Jenii Phu and Hailey Erickson worked in another poké shop together for a few years. But something wasn't clicking with the store.

"So we decided to do something on our own," Phu said.

Their vision was to have a more traditional poké experience in the Twin Cities, while offering healthy, quick dining options.

Poké (pronounced poh-kay) originated in Hawaii in the 1960s. Traditionally it is a rice bowl base with sushi grade raw seafood for protein and lots of veggies.

"It's a good lunch. It's good dinner. It's even a good breakfast sometimes," Phu said. "You know, rice and veggies and protein like that's a very versatile meal."

While they do serve traditional Hawaiian versions, Erickson said that, because of the versatility of the dish, there are lots of options available.

"We've got the traditional raw fish that you'd expect with poké, but then we've also



Owners Jenii Phu (left) and Hailey Erickson are offering up quick, fresh, affordable and healthy options to fast food.





## EDITORIALS &amp; OPINIONS

## ORIGINSTORIES

## Origin Story, Part the Third: Native Lands

BY JOE LANDSBERGER

For eight thousand years the Dakota navigated the waterways of our state in their dugout canoes. This network of streams and rivers was created by great glacial floods that also informed a topography that determined their seasonal way of life. Two main heritage centers were 90 miles distant: *Mde Wakan* (Lake Mystery/Mille Lacs Lake) and *Bdote*—the confluence of two major rivers: Haha Waka (river of the falls/Minnesota) and Mni Sóta Wakpa (sky tinted water/Minnesota).

*Bdote* was the spiritual home for the Dakota. Nearby was *Mne Owe Sni* (Coldwater Spring), a center for gatherings, and across from *Bdote* rose *O-He-Ya-Wa-He* (Pilot Knob burial grounds).

In their history “*Mni Sota Makoce* The Land of the Dakota,” Gwen Westerman and Bruce White said, “The Dakota knew *Mni Sota Makoce* as a network of connected places, each defined in specific ways. They followed a seasonal way of life, hunting game in the woods in winter, pursuing buffalo on the plains in summer, gathering edible plants in the woods and wetlands, fishing the rivers and lakes, ricing and growing gardens on the lakeshores and riverbanks.”

The Dakota were organized as the *Oceti Šakowi* (Seven Council Fires) of eastern and western peoples with three dialects and seven major bands. The eastern Dakota, *Bdewakantunwan* or *Mdewakanton* controlled the area of the West End including *Bdote*. However, between *Bdote* and the Lower Landing at Phelan Creek there were no villages along the Mississippi. The bluffs precluded



Dacotah Village, 1849–55. Watercolor by Seth Eastman. “The building supplies for these elm-bark lodges came from the Minnesota River Valley. The porches allowed for a bit of shade and a handy spot to dry animal skins.”

access to the upper terrace and its land was bog and swamp and densely forested.

The first village from *Bdote* was *Kap’oza*, Little Crow’s village, below Mounds Park, near *Wakan Tipi* (Carver’s Cave), another heritage site of the Dakota. The village was known for manufacturing dugout canoes until the advent of European fur traders and the Ojibwe who arrived via the Great Lakes from Canada. As they headed south, the Ojibwe colonized northern Minnesota pushing the Dakota south,

disrupting their way of life.

Imagine an ink-black sky with uncountable stars. For millennia this inspired Native spirituality. Prayers and spirituality were not separate from everyday life but were an integral part of each day. The word for God in the Dakota language is *Wakan Tanka*—great mystery. The spirits of the people came down from *Canku Wanagi* (the spirit road) made up of the stars of the Milky Way.

The phrase *mitakuye oyasin* (we are all

related) concludes prayers: the greatest responsibility was to be a good relative. Their society depended on social order and cooperation for survival, and rules governed behavior. Being a relative meant taking care of all of your relatives.

Noted Dakota folklorist Anpetu Wastéwin (Beautiful Day Woman/Ella C. Deloria 1889–1971) said “Dakota religious life was purely individual. There was nothing that all must do with reference to God, but only what each man felt as an inner compulsion that could not be denied.” This individuality is reflected in the vision quest, in which no one really knows beforehand what to expect.

In the 1600s Dakota life changed with the arrival of the French and Ojibwe. European fur traders and voyageurs took Native wives to survive the wilderness, adopting their customs and language for trade out of Québec. After a brief period of British control (1763–1783), Americans dominated extractive industries, impoverished Native tribes and appropriated land through a series of treaties.

In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson wrote to William Henry Harrison, “We shall push our trading houses and be glad to see the good and influential among them (Natives) run into debt, because we observe that when these debts get beyond what the individuals can pay, they become willing to lop them off by a cession of lands.”

You can find a copy of “*The Origin Story of Fort Road/West Seventh Street, the Township/City of Saint Paul, the Territory/State of Minnesota: Glacial Age Forward*” at your local library. Learn more and find Joe’s upcoming conversations about the history of West 7th at [josfland.com](http://josfland.com).

## FUNDING, PG 1

that sucks,” said Tom Basgen, Legislative Aid to Ward 3 Council Member Saura Jost. “But there’s good news, we are picking up the torch with the new West 7th project being led by the City with partnership from Met Council and MnDOT. We’re just missing one last partner to invest. That’s you - Ramsey County.”

“The Riverview project began with a study in 1998. Since then, it’s consumed over \$11.7 million in public funds and created decades of delay. We lost out on earlier transit investment \$28 million in 2014 alone because of it. Our mill and overlay project was put off until 2022, then 2024 and now 2028 or 2029 to align supposedly with the Riverview corridor construction,” said Julia McColley, Executive Director of the West 7th/Foart Roade Federation. “Whether or not you supported the streetcar plan, canceling the whole project without supporting an alternative leaves our neighborhood behind once again. The decision hurts real people who depend on transit, walkable streets and public infrastructure,” she added.

While much of the testimony centered specifically on West 7th transit, additional concerns with the plan and process were brought up as well.

“I want to express my concern that the significant policy action, setting a framework for the investment of nearly three-quarters of \$1 billion in sales tax revenue is being taken with very little opportunity for public input,” said St. Paul resident John Levine. “The document that we’re commenting on today was released, I think, last Thursday. So just two working days to respond, which really isn’t very much time.”

“This document reads mostly like a plan to

rebuild a bunch of county roads, not like a plan to systematically improve multimodal travel,” Levine later added.

Ultimately, despite opposition, the County Board opted to exclude the West 7th project from inclusion in the funding proposals.

**What’s Next for West 7th BRT?**

While the exclusion of the West 7th transit corridor from county transportation sales tax funding is a significant blow to the project, it is unclear what the immediate impacts of moving forward with the project are.

County Commissioners and staff also seemed unclear on that question at times during their June 10 meeting in advance of their vote to reallocate the funding.

“Could this board decide to do some different things based on the configuration of the project? It certainly has the purview to do that,” said Ramsey County Public Works Director Brian Issacson during his June 10 testimony to the Ramsey County Board. “But typically these are things that the County doesn’t have a role in.”

However, in her closing statement in support of the proposal, County Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong said that funding the Purple Line, another BRT transit project, albeit one mostly contained to streets owned by Ramsey County, was a necessity of reallocating these funds.

“I just really want to make it clear to our residents that right now we don’t have a federal project for Purple Line at Ramsey County,” she said. “It is because of us that we are literally keeping this plan and project alive. This is a way for us to pivot and to continue to invest in our roads and our infrastructure so that we can increase and partner with Met Council or Metro Transit to get more bus service and/or build out, both arterial BRT as well as BRT.”

is the freshness of their product - saying they receive daily deliveries of produce and protein.

“Everything comes in daily,” Phu said. “It’s nice and fresh.”

In addition to suggested and make-your-own bowls, Big Island Poke offers a number of sides and, in partnership with Mochinut, mochi donuts (a slightly chewy mix of traditional American donuts and mochi) Korean Hot Dogs (uniquely battered hot dogs on a stick) and bubble tea.

“The reason why we chose this location is because we were thinking, with the college students and with the demographics, maybe people would like more healthy food,” said Phu. “Of course, when you have college students, you want sweets. So, we decided to add some unhealthy food too.”

Phu said the donuts are made daily in-shop, sometimes twice a day. While the donuts are fresh when you buy them, Phu said they can be enjoyed for longer than your typical pastries.



Ramsey County Board of Commissioners



Mayor Melvin Carter



Julia McColley

## Community REPORTER

265 Oneida St. St Paul, MN 55102

**Copy Deadline: July 21, 2025**

**Ad Deadline: July 23, 2025**

**Community Reporter is a nonprofit, and donations are tax-deductible.**

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## POKÉ, PG 1

got cooked options because we have a lot of people that are comfortable with that.” Erickson said. “Or for vegans who come in, tofu is an option.”

Ultimately, Erickson said that their philosophy is to make sure people are finding what they like and having a good experience in their shop.

“Let’s say you go through the line and you don’t want any veggies on your bowl, obviously, we’ll give out more rice,” she said. “We’ll try to make sure that extra toppings account for it because you’re paying a premium price for a premium product.”

“I think everybody can find something that they like,” Erickson added. “There’s tons of customization, so we’re very eager to make whatever bowl you can think of, whatever you imagine.”

Given that the shop specializes in fresh produce and raw fish, Phu and Erickson said one of the things that set them apart

## COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

### Take The Great Park Walk with the St. Paul Parks Conservancy

This summer, celebrate St. Paul's incredible parks by exploring 20 parks at your own pace. The newly published Parks & People historical coloring book highlights the walk's 20 featured parks. Every step helps raise awareness and support for our beloved green spaces.

Choose your adventure: You have 80 days to discover all 20 parks, or visit a few. You can invite others to join your team or explore on your own. Earn prizes, and raise funds to support St. Paul parks. The Great Park Walk is free to register and play!

Celebrate at the Finish Line on August 3, 2025, on the riverfront in downtown St. Paul.

To learn more, including information on how to register, visit [saintpaulparksconservancy.org/great-park-walk](http://saintpaulparksconservancy.org/great-park-walk).



SAINT PAUL PARKS CONSERVANCY

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investment strategy at [downtownstpaul.com/ddc](http://downtownstpaul.com/ddc).

#### ST. PAUL REOPENS DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, EXPANDS INHERITANCE FUND

Programs will award a total \$2 million for residents who meet income and asset limit qualifications or are direct descendants of the Rondo and West Side Flats communities

The City of St. Paul reopened the application window for the Downpayment Assistance programs (DPA), a \$2 million initiative for residents who meet income and asset limit qualifications or are direct descendants of the Rondo and West Side Flats communities. The program was temporarily closed in 2023 due to a high volume of applications.

Packaged as part of Mayor Carter's All-In Housing Framework, the City's DPA programs are set to award a total of \$2 million to eligible homebuyers for a 15-year deferred term loan at 0% interest to use toward the purchase of a home in St. Paul. It also expands the Inheritance Fund program, first enacted in 2023 to provide financial homebuying assistance for descendants of the Rondo community, to include descendants of the West Side Flats, which was removed in the 1960s to build a flood wall and the Riverview Industrial Park.

The DPA program offers up to \$40,000 for residents who meet income and asset limit qualifications. Funds can be used toward a downpayment, closing costs, or to buydown interest rate. Eligible applicants descended from the Rondo and West Side Flats communities can receive between \$50,000 and \$110,000 in total downpayment assistance.

First-generation homebuyers may also qualify for an additional \$10,000 for a maximum award of \$50,000.

To begin the application process, obtain a mortgage preapproval with a loan officer of your choosing, then visit [stpaul.gov/dpa](http://stpaul.gov/dpa) to submit an interest form. This is a preliminary form that does not guarantee DPA funding. All information will be verified prior to receiving assistance.

Homebuyers seeking Inheritance Fund downpayment assistance should use the separate Inheritance Fund interest form. Visit [stpaul.gov/inheritance](http://stpaul.gov/inheritance) for information.

Direct questions regarding the programs, application, and timeline to the Downpayment Assistance Program team at [downpayment@stpaul.gov](mailto:downpayment@stpaul.gov) or call 651-266-6585.

#### KEYSTONE'S FARMERS MARKETS IS BACK

Keystone Community Services announced the return of its Free Farmers Market drive-through events this summer, offering fresh, healthy produce to all community members—no registration required.

Food insecurity remains a serious issue for families across the Twin Cities. Even as grocery prices stay high and many struggle to stretch their budgets, access to fresh fruits and vegetables is critical for good health and well-being. The Free Farmers Market helps bridge

this gap by providing nutritious produce that might otherwise be out of reach.

These markets also reduce barriers related to transportation, stigma and limited food shelf eligibility, offering a welcoming, drive-through model where everyone is invited to participate without registration or impact on other food support.

Each participant will receive a generous assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables. These events do not count as food shelf visits and will not affect anyone's eligibility for other Keystone food programs.

The summer 2025 Free Farmers Market schedule includes 14 events across three convenient community locations: **Roseville Covenant Church**, 2865 Hamline Ave. N, Roseville, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3. **Galilee Lutheran Church**, 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. July 25, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 10. **Allianz Field**, 400 Snelling Ave. N, St. Paul. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. July 18, Aug. 8, Sept. 12.

In a community effort, Keystone partners with companies and organizations across the Twin Cities to support these events, including dedicated volunteers who help make each distribution possible.

For more information, to access food shelf services at the Keystone Community Food Center, or to view all Keystone food resources, visit [keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org) or call 651-645-0349.

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#### RAMSEY COUNTY DOWNTOWN SERVICE CENTER REOPENS WITH EXPANDED SERVICES, UPGRADED SPACE

After seven months of renovations, Ramsey County's Downtown Service Center has reopened in a newly upgraded office just a few doors down from its previous location on the second floor of the Metro Square building.

Included in the renovation is a long-planned expansion of how residents can access county services and significant space upgrades to enhance privacy and reduce wait times.

The news space will allow the County to better assist residents with services and connect with county programs and benefits like Financial Assistance Services (FAS), including SNAP, cash assistance and emergency aid, child support services, housing stability including rent assistance and housing support and the Community Career Lab / CareerForce.

The upgraded space includes 12 service counters, self check-in kiosks and improved signage to help visitors access those services more efficiently.

The Downtown Service Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No appointment is needed.

Learn more at [ramseycounty.us/content/service-center-downtown-saint-paul](http://ramseycounty.us/content/service-center-downtown-saint-paul).

#### SPDDC WORKING TO ACQUIRE ALLIANCE BANK CENTER

The St. Paul Downtown Development Corporation (SPDDC) announced it has purchased the bank note for the former Alliance Bank Center building, located at 55 5th St E. The financial details of the transaction are private.

The SPDDC will soon initiate legal proceedings to place the currently vacant building into a receivership to ensure the 300,000-square-foot property is appropriately maintained and secured, including continuing the current skyway closures. The City of St. Paul has been providing emergency building services to Alliance Bank Center since the previous property management company abruptly closed the building in March.

As the SPDDC evaluates legal options to obtain site control, it is also assessing opportunities to restore the property, which faces significant structural and mechanical issues following years of disinvestment and neglect, to a productive use either through rehabilitation or redevelopment.

"There's no greater example of the challenges and opportunities in downtown St. Paul than the Alliance Bank Center," said SPDDC President Dave Higgins. "We can't create a strong and vibrant downtown St. Paul without creating a stable and robust core – and the Alliance Bank Center site is critical to making that happen."

Several businesses were impacted by the building's closure earlier this year. City staff worked with the St. Paul Downtown Alliance to help businesses transition to new downtown locations, many of which have already reopened or plan to in the weeks ahead.

Learn more about the SPDDC and the downtown

### FREE FARMERS MARKET

#### Drive-Through Events

Receive FREE fresh fruits and vegetables all summer long!

For more information and dates visit: [keystoneservices.org/ffmevents](http://keystoneservices.org/ffmevents)



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**Community REPORTER**

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**Thoughts and Prayers Continue to Not Be Enough**

By Jonathan Dickman, MD, PhD

Back in 2022 I wrote in this column how “thoughts and prayers” were not going to be enough to solve our gun violence problem. Now with the recent Minnesota political assassination, it is time to circle back to this topic as gun violence continues to impact our community. Gun violence not only impacts the people who are injured or killed, but also many others who care for or receive care from that person. Some people make the argument that guns simply need to be removed from certain people such as criminals or those who struggle with mental health. That type of thinking, however, would not have prevented this event as it was completed by a person with no previously known criminal background or mental health concerns. We simply need to work together to have common sense gun behaviors and legislation to keep everyone safe.

The gun violence problem continues at an unacceptable rate. According to the Gun Violence Archive, in 2023 there were over 46,000 people in the United States that died by a firearm. That is over 127 deaths per day or over five people every hour. Even worse is that there continues to be more than one mass shooting, on average, every day in the United States (defined as at least 4 people being shot in one incident). In comparison, Canada had less than 300 people die from firearm related homicide in 2023. When thinking about the stark difference between these two countries, it becomes clear that we need to take steps to reduce gun violence in our community.

What can you do now? First is to “Be SMART” with gun safety. This acronym stands for the basic tenants of being wise regarding



guns that already exist in our community. First is to Secure all firearms in your household and ensure it is stored, locked, unloaded and in a location that is inaccessible to children. Next is to Model responsible behavior around guns and Ask your neighbors about whether they have guns and requesting that they also take the same safety measures. You are also encouraged to Recognize the role that guns have in suicides. In 2023, according to the Gun Violence Archive, over 58% of gun related deaths were suicides. Thus, while some feel that they want a gun for safety, in reality the most likely target of a gun is the owner or their family! Finally, Tell others about how they can “Be SMART” with guns.

Some of you may also be asking, what about gun violence prevention laws? Do they work? Turns out that a recent study published in JAMA Pediatrics suggests that stricter laws

are effective in reducing gun violence. This is why it is critical that we reach out to our local representatives and ask them to champion common-sense gun violence prevention measures. You can visit [everytown.org/state/minnesota](http://everytown.org/state/minnesota) to learn more about what local gun violence prevention efforts would be worth discussing with your representative. To determine which politician you should contact, check online under “Who represents me” ([gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/](http://gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/)). Tell them what you learned from this article in addition to your own experience. Let them know that “thoughts and prayers” have never been, and never will be, enough to keep us safe. We need action to keep our loved ones safe from gun violence.

*Dr. Dickman is a physician at Allina Health United Family Physicians, 233 Grand Ave, St. Paul, 55102, 651-241-5200.*

**BEA'S BOOKS**

**The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson (Part Two)**

By Beatrice Cosgrove

And so we continue our journey with Rachel Carson. Welcome back to my two part review of “On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson” by William Souder. The second part of the book opens as Carson navigates the publication and success of her new book “The Edge of the Sea” while examining the ups and downs of her personal life, including her romance with Dorothy Freeman, the death of her sister, Marjorie and multiple health complications.

“The Sea Around Us,” Carson’s launch to success, put her writing into the hands of a multitude of American readers, allowing them a glimpse into the curious mind of Rachel Carson, who spun the interconnectedness of the sea into mesmerizing prose. “Then in my thoughts these shores, so different in their nature and the inhabitants they support, are made one by the unifying touch of the sea,” she writes.

As the section goes on, it explores the everlasting and lethal environmental consequences of atomic and hydrogen bombs, namely one that had unheard of effects on the crew of a Japanese fishing boat. Not only was radiation from nuclear bombs a serious health threat, but the emergence of DDT, a prominent insecticide, imperiled nature’s processes and inhabitants;



including humans in a time where many had learned to constantly fear for their lives. In a way, radiation and DDT mirrored each other, as they were both deemed perfectly safe, yet were found to be health hazards that put nature’s balance in danger. In multiple instances across the country, DDT significantly lowered the population of wildlife. In a DDT spraying targeting gypsy moths, 83% of the area’s bird population was killed, with 15% less birds the following year. In another instance, over 90% of the local salmon population was wiped out by the insecticide. In other situations, unknowing humans died within a matter of hours after fatal DDT exposure or ingestion.

Atomic and hydrogen bomb testing and the introduction of DDT to the United States largely caused the country to turn its back

on conservation efforts. “In the new age of environmentalism the species that most needed our help would be us,” Souder writes.

The ever present and divisive topics of nuclear bombs and pesticides intrigued Carson as she set out to write another book, this time moving her attention away from the sea and towards the pesticide-ridden land. “Silent Spring”, Carson’s last and most famous book, was published in the last years of Carson’s life and cracked the scientific community in two. “Silent Spring” caught the attention of the US government, influencing policy while generating outrage. The uproar that Carson’s book ignited was coupled with the author’s cancer and other health issues, complicating her day to day life and making it difficult to attend engagements and accept awards for her work.

The second part of Souder’s book captures the life of Rachel Carson in a captivating way, deliberating the reverberations of “Silent Spring” carefully and with great detail. Although I thoroughly enjoyed this book, I did not lack grievances, which lay in the unnecessary and winding detours Souder took and sometimes confusing timeline. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed “On a Farther Shore” and look forward to diving deeper into the movements that Rachel Carson’s legacy inspires.

**FILM REVIEW**

**Paddington is a Bright Spot, Expands True Meaning of Family**

By Zach Murphy

Everyone’s favorite fuzzy, bucket hat-wearing, marmalade-loving bear is back with “Paddington in Peru.” Whether you’ve seen the first two films in this series or not, there is plenty of fun to be had in this wholesome and heartwarming romp. It’s an assuredly pleasant family film that expands upon the true meaning of family.

When we catch up with Paddington (voiced by Ben Whishaw), he’s enjoying his home in England with the Brown family. But his life is upended when he discovers that his beloved Aunt Lucy has gone missing back in his homeland of Peru. From there, Paddington and the Browns embark on a perilous adventure through the Amazon rainforest to find Aunt Lucy.

“Padding in Peru” is the kind of film where you’ll find yourself adoringly saying “Awww...” multiple times throughout. Your face might even get a bit sore from smiling so much, and that’s a good problem to have.



Paddington in Peru

The precious moments stack on top of one another like a tower of gooey marmalade sandwiches. Paddington is such a pure soul, and his enduring earnestness is once again on full display.

The story also doesn’t forget to pack a charming sense of humor for the journey. There’s a delectable spread of funny

dialogue, along with an abundance of slapstick laughs as Paddington gets caught up in various shenanigans. And like the first two films in this series, the visuals are spunky and whimsical, from the paintings coming to life to the crafty miniature sequences reminiscent of Wes Anderson.

And while “Paddington in Peru” might not reach the magnificent heights of the masterpiece that is “Paddington 2,” it’s hard to complain about a film that is so sweet and delightful. Paddington is a bright spot in a world that isn’t always so bright. Like his beloved Aunt Lucy would say, “When skies are grey, hope is on the way.”

“Paddington in Peru” is available to rent or buy on all major streaming platforms, and available to stream with your Netflix subscription.

Zach Murphy is an avid enthusiast of cinema, theater and storytelling. He lives with his wonderful wife Kelly in St. Paul. You can read more reviews at his blog, [Fade to Zach](http://Fade to Zach).

**COMMUNITY TRADITIONS**

**Raspberry Island Welcomes Colorful, Whimsical Alebrijes for the Summer**

Raspberry Island welcomed 16 new inhabitants last month when Alebrijes: Keepers of the Island moved in.

The new exhibit, which runs through October 26 features the gargantuan Alebrijes, fantastical, brightly-colored papier-mâché sculptures of whimsical, magical creatures.

First envisioned in 1936 by Mexican artist Pedro Linares, cartoneros (papier-mâché artists) in Mexico City have crafted ever-more fantastical creatures over the generations. The Minnesota Latino Museum, in partnership with the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, has brought this art experience to Minnesota.

See even more photos of the exhibit online at [communityreporter.org/alebrijes](http://communityreporter.org/alebrijes) and learn more about the exhibit at [stpaul.gov/alebrijes](http://stpaul.gov/alebrijes)



Alebrijes: Keepers of the Island runs through October 26 on Raspberry Island.

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**NEIGHBORHOOD cleanup day**  
 Saturday, July 26th  
 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Meet at:  
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 Help pick up litter and connect with neighbors  
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## IN THE COMMUNITY

### NOTEBOOK RECOLLECTIONS

## Happy as a Clam

By Tim Rumsey

West Seventh All-Star cab driver, William “Texan” Dubois is a happy man. Ever-wise, calm, alert and ready. Knows who he is and what he is doing.

Tex is happy... I’m pretty sure.

I asked Tex once if he was and he said, “You bet” and then he laughed hard. “I’m 64 years old, still standing, working. My elimination functions are under control. No debts. Nothing to run from.”

OK, good.

But just what is happy? A blue sky day? A work day off? Wining the Minnesota Lottery? A warm chocolate chip cookie? Hair just cut? A cool shower? A warm shower? Good health?

How about a 10-count “snack pack” of peanut butter and cheese sandwich crackers on a tough afternoon at work?

Like, what really is happiness?

Ancient people wondered: helping others, lack of worry-fear-consternation. Happy is

feeling comfortable. No money problems.

Then there’s the Bible! Absence of sadness. Distance from sin, evil, jealousy.

Love is kind. What religion should be, could be.

How about bringing happy to others? A happiness delivery.

Tex said Carl is always happy. Never ever had an evil thought in his gray matter.

In the summer, Carl always had water bowls on the sidewalk for passing dogs on hot days. People got a glass of ice water.

He let a young man of the street stay out of a rainstorm one afternoon in his house. That guy was Tex 10 years ago.

Tex says, “Carl smells happy. Like a bakery-warm glazed donut or a new baby.”

“How do you know new babies?” I asked.

“I’m a livery driver, doctor. In my 30 years of cabbng I’ve seen life unfold in the passenger seat. All of it. Loving, hating. Calm, steamy. The whole kit and caboodle of the life show.”

“Got to be hard to keep your eyes on the road?”

“For sure,” Tex said, “but I’m a professional.”

Note to self: “If one is always asking ‘what is happiness?’ maybe you will never know.”

Then one day last spring, somebody, a patient most likely, dropped off something quite extraordinary. A combination quote from two books: “The Street Bible,” by Rob Lacey, and “The Message” from Eugene Peterson.

“Love never gives up. Cares more for others than for you. Doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut. And doesn’t have a swelled head. Love isn’t always me first. Love doesn’t fly off the handle and keep score. Doesn’t make others grovel. Love never looks back, it just keeps going. Love never dies.”

Just last week, Tex found a perfect, unopened, still plastic-covered 10 pack of peanut butter and cheese crackers that he promptly gave to a little kid passing by on a trike.



## FEDERATION UPDATE



### NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP

Join us on Saturday, July 26th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Palace Community Center for a community cleanup! We’ll provide all the supplies - just bring yourself, or even better - bring a friend! Coffee & treats for volunteers!

### WEST 7TH MERCH

Get yours today, t-shirts, tank tops, sweatshirts, zip up, can koozie, cookbook, yard signs and glassware. Support West 7th/Fort Road Federation today. Visit [fortroadfed.org](http://fortroadfed.org)

### JOIN THE BOARD

Two vacant seats are open - Area 1 Coordinator (renter) and At-Large Coordination. Visit [fortroadfed.org](http://fortroadfed.org) to fill out an application today.

### UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

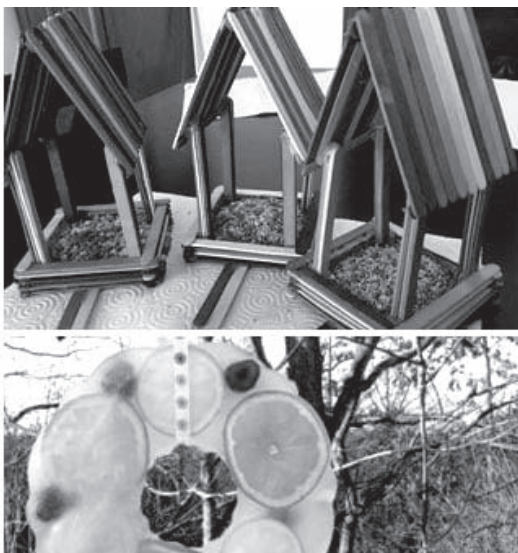
- Transportation & Land Use, 7/9, 6:30 p.m.
- Board Meeting, 7/14, 7 p.m.
- Community Engagement, 7/22, 6:30 p.m.

### STAY IN TOUCH

“Like” us on Facebook. Subscribe to e-newsletter. More information at [fortroadfederation.org](http://fortroadfederation.org)

### CONTACT

Julia McColley, [julia@fortroadfederation.org](mailto:julia@fortroadfederation.org); 651-298-5599; 395 Superior Street, St. Paul



SAINT PAUL  
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WEST 7TH

we bring stories to life through playful yoga poses. This session is designed for all ages to enjoy together. Some mats will be provided, feel free to bring your own.

### Family Movie Night: *The Princess Bride*

July 25, 6:15-8:00 p.m.  
Join Keystone and the W7 Library one Friday night a month for our favorite movies on the big screen in the gym. Bring your favorite blanket & snacks, and wear your pajamas if you like. Fresh hot popcorn will be served!

### Build a Birdfeeder

July 28, 4-6 p.m.  
Welcome birds in your neighborhood this summer! Our friends at Elpis Enterprises will help you create your own suet bird feeder from recycled wood, and you’ll take it home for the birds near you! Note: We will be using real hammers and small nails. Ages 5+, all materials provided.

### Obstacle Course

July 29, 3-5 p.m.  
Create your own obstacle course with the Mission Impossible gym set! Use indoor/outdoor gym equipment to create a strategic and physical challenge course for solo or team competitions. Good for individuals and families.

No library card or registration required for most events—just drop in and join the fun! Visit [sppl.org/events](http://sppl.org/events) for things to do at the library all summer long

## Spend Your Summer at the Library!

Summer Spark, the Library’s summer reading and learning program, is packed with activities to keep kids and teens inspired all summer long. It’s not too late to jump in! Young readers can visit any library location to pick up their own Summer Spark Reading and Activity Log—plus a free book to keep.

Featured summer performance: The Rex and Mr. Fox Show Storytime on Saturday, July 19 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Highland Park Library! Minnesota authors and illustrators David LaRochelle and Mike Wohnoutka share their latest funny picture books “Go and Get with Rex” and “Mr. Fox’s Game of ‘NO!’” Help Mike as he creates amazing pictures right before your eyes. Join Rex in a rousing game of “Go and Get.”

Learn more at [sppl.org/summer-break](http://sppl.org/summer-break).

### Regular programming at West 7th

Playdate: Tuesdays 3-5 PM

Storytime: Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.

### Chinese Games at West 7th

Games create social connections, teach critical thinking and exercise the mind. Workshops are geared toward adults, but interested young people may attend. Free. Register at [sppl.org/events](http://sppl.org/events). July 7- Mahjong; July 14- Gomoku (Connect Five); July 21- Chinese checkers

### Dream in Color Yoga

July 8, 3-4 p.m.  
Bend, Breathe & Read: Family Yoga. Let’s bend our bodies, open our minds, and get lost in a story! This interactive session invites children and parents to stretch, breathe, and engage their imagination as



HIGHLAND  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
For information, visit  
[highlanddistrictcouncil.org/events](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/events)

### ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

Community Engagement Committee is responsible for programs, spaces, and events related to community outreach, safety, recreation, the arts and the environment. Attend the July 28 committee meeting to be considered for a committee position. Find dates and more information at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar).

### OUTDOOR MOVIE AND PIZZA ON JULY 10

Outdoor fun, free pizza and sambusas, and a movie (*The Parent Trap*) at Sibley Manor Apartments. Activities and food begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Weather-related updates posted on HDC’s Facebook page by 4 p.m. the day of the event.

### AIRPORT NOISE FEEDBACK SESSION ON JULY 29

The Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) Noise Oversight Committee quarterly listening session July 29, 6 to 7 p.m. Highland Park Community Center.

### UPCOMING COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Highland Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy  
[highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar).

- HDC Board - Thu, 7/17, 7 p.m.
- Community Development - Tue, 7/15, 6:30 p.m.
- Community Engagement - Mon, 7/28, 7 p.m.



## WELCOME

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[keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org)

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

## Fresh, Free Produce Available All Summer

Keystone Community Services Free Farmers Market events is back this summer, offering fresh, healthy produce at no cost to anyone who needs it. These drive-through markets are open to all with no registration required.

Many families face increased challenges during the summer months when school meal programs are unavailable, and grocery and childcare costs remain high. Keystone’s Free Farmers Markets help fill this gap by providing nutritious fruits and vegetables to support good health and well-being.

The markets will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at three convenient locations across the Twin Cities. In Roseville, the markets will be held at Roseville Covenant Church on July 11, August 1, September 5, and October 3. Also in Roseville, Galilee Lutheran Church will host markets on July 25, August 15, September 19, and October 10. In St. Paul, the markets will be at Allianz Field on June 13, July 18, August 8, and September 12.

Everyone is welcome at these markets. There is no sign-up or paperwork, and participation will not affect eligibility for any other food support programs. Each visitor receives a generous assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables.

## Get in Gear with Express Bike Shop

Express Bike Shop, a nonprofit shop and social enterprise of Keystone Community Services, is open Tuesday - Saturday and we’re here for all your biking needs! We sell high-quality refurbished bicycles at affordable prices. We are a full-service shop so can tune up your bike or update it to make it more comfortable. We also sell a variety of accessories like seats, locks, helmets, and more. Whatever your bike needs, we’re here; give us a call at 651-644-9660 or stop by the shop at 1158 Selby Ave, St. Paul.

# BULLETIN BOARD



HISTORY THEATRE

## GLENSHEEN IS BACK

July 9-27. History Theatre. \$30-\$88. On June 27, 1977, heiress Elisabeth Congdon was found dead in her bedroom in the Glensheen mansion, smothered with a silk pillow. Outside her room, the night nurse, Velma Pietila had been violently beaten to death with a candlestick by an intruder. Roger Caldwell was arrested for the murder and sentenced to prison. Caldwell was husband to Marjorie Caldwell, one of Elisabeth's adopted daughters. What followed has become the most talked-about murder case in the history of Minnesota.

*Glensheen* premiered at History Theatre in 2015, now 10 years later, History Theatre is thrilled to announce it will return for a limited run. Many original cast members, led by Jen Maren, Dane Stauffer, and Wendy Lehr will reprise their roles created by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and composer Chan Poling. Directed by former History Theatre Artistic Director, Ron Peluso tickets. For tickets and more information, visit [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com).

## ROLLER SKATING FUN NIGHT

El Rio Vista Rec Center. July 9, Aug. 20. 6-8 p.m. Free. A limited amount of skates will be provided, so attendees are encouraged to bring skates from home if possible. Snacks and tons of fun provided. All welcome. Visit [stpaul.gov/summer-events](http://stpaul.gov/summer-events)

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH COUNCIL MEMBER REBECCA NOECKER

July 10, 9-10 a.m. Union Depot. Thu, Aug 14 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Caydence, 900 Payne Ave. Join Council President Noecker for these informal opportunities to ask your questions or share your concerns. Learn more at [stpaul.gov/department/city-council/ward-2](http://stpaul.gov/department/city-council/ward-2).

## ST. PAUL MOVIES IN THE PARKS

July 10 at dusk. Sibley Manor Apartments. Free, open to the public. Featuring *The Parent Trap*, *Sweet Dairy* food truck. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair to enjoy a starlit night of fun. All children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Rated R/NR movies are 18+ events. Pet friendly events (unless otherwise noted), must be kept on a leash no longer than 6ft. Unless noted, all movies will be closed captioned in English. Visit [stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/activities-events/summer-activities-events/movies-parks](http://stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/activities-events/summer-activities-events/movies-parks).

## RONDO DAYS

July 19, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Martin Luther King Rec. Center. Free. Rondo Days is the annual weekend celebration and is always held on the 3rd Saturday in July in St. Paul that commemorates the legacy of the Rondo neighborhood. Celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Rondo neighborhood and join us in defining the future of our community. Learn more at [rondodays.net](http://rondodays.net).

## LOWERTOWN SOUNDS

Select Thursdays, Thru August 14. 6 p.m. Mears Park. Free. A free, independent community concert series featuring live, local music plus food trucks and local beer and wine — benefiting Cookie Cart. See full schedule at [lowertownsounds.com](http://lowertownsounds.com).

## SUMMER NIGHTS IN RICE

July 10: Boiled in Lead (Celtic punk and world music), 5-7 p.m. Rice Park. Free. A free outdoor summer concert series occurring through September. Grab a

hot dog, visit local downtown Saint Paul restaurants for happy hour, and head to Rice Park for community connections, and hot summer night dancing! In case of rain or inclement weather, concerts will be moved into Landmark Center. Learn more at [landmarkcenter.org/summer-nights-in-rice](http://landmarkcenter.org/summer-nights-in-rice).

## DANCING IN THE PARK

July 1 & 8, 6-8 p.m. Harriet Island Pavilion. Free. Join Tapestry Folkdance center for live music and dancing in St. Paul. Everyone welcome, no experience necessary! Event will happen rain or shine! If rain, event will be moved into the Harriet Island Pavilion. July 1: Contra Dance with David Kirchner & live music from Northern Aire; July 8: Family Dance with Robin Nelson & Musicians. Learn more at [facebook.com/tapestryfolkdance](http://facebook.com/tapestryfolkdance).

## CLIMB TO THE TOP (NORTH TOWER)

July 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Landmark Center. Free. Enjoy a rare opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes exploration of Landmark Center's North Tower. Get a bird's eye view of downtown St. Paul by climbing the steps and walking through a secret door to get to the top. This is the one rooftop you don't want to miss this summer. Don't forget your camera! Self-guided, No reservations required. The North Tower is accessible only via stairs, 61 steps total from the 6th floor landing to the top. Or skip the elevator all together and climb the 198 stairs from the first floor. Learn more at [landmarkcenter.org/climb-to-the-top-north-tower](http://landmarkcenter.org/climb-to-the-top-north-tower).

## FIRST ANNUAL CHICANO FESTIVAL

July 12, 1-9 p.m. St. Paul College. This dynamic celebration brings the rich and colorful culture of the Chicano community right to our city, offering a day filled with entertainment, culture and community spirit. Experience the thrill of the Lowrider and car show, enjoy a lively dog show, savor delicious flavors from a variety of food trucks featuring authentic and diverse culinary delights, explore local vendors presenting unique crafts, art, and goods that highlight the creativity and heritage of the community. Learn more at [twincitieschicanofest.com](http://twincitieschicanofest.com).

## CIRCUS JUVENTAS 'LUMIÈRE'

July 25-Aug 10, Circus Juventas. \$25-\$55. This summer, Circus Juventas rolls out the red carpet for a trip through time and Tinseltown with a twist of paranormal intrigue. Join a lively crew of ghostbuster-style teens who, thanks to a lightning strike, find themselves transported to 1939, amidst the glitter and glamour of the Golden Age of Hollywood. Traverse the phantasmic fifth dimension, filled with celebrities, bellhops, gangsters, paparazzi, and studio heads as they navigate the bright lights and haunting shadows of the mysterious Hotel Hollywood. It's an adventure you won't want to miss! For tickets, showtimes and more, visit [circusjuventas.org](http://circusjuventas.org).



COURTESY, CIRCUS JUVENTAS. PHOTO BY DAN NORMAN

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

## HOME, PG 1

is possible. The Human Rights Foundation observes, "Authoritarians have always understood a certain truth: creativity is a threat to their power." Communities like the West 7th Street neighborhood are blessed to have artists in our midst. They are a constant reminder that we can imagine a community and world that offers life to our human spirit. Albert Einstein once said, "The most

beautiful emotion we can experience is the mystical. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead." The whimsical creatures on Raspberry Island present a direct challenge to the hopeless resignation that we must submit ourselves to bitterness, animosity and hatred. We can imagine another world. Einstein would be right at home on Raspberry Island.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**PAINT PATCH:** Interior, exterior, caulking, stain, mold, small jobs wanted. Painter Jim. 612-202-5514

**YARD HELP:** Customer supplies lawn mower. Contact Jim at 612-202-5514.

**WALKING CLUB.** Saturday mornings. Contact Liz at 651-695-5155 (no texting); 651-358-8648 (calls and texting) for details.

**WE'RE HIRING! CARPET CLEANING TECHNICIAN.** Full/Part Time. Flexible hours. \$16-20/hour + commission, depending on experience. Background check, drug test required. Local, family-owned company. Contact Paula at 651-341-0933 or [paula@naturewischemdry.com](mailto:paula@naturewischemdry.com)

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