

Community REPORTER

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



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CIRCULATION 13,000

ORIGIN STORIES

Part The Tenth: Origins Of The Church Of St. Paul



JOE LANDSBERGER
columnist

In 1680 Franciscan Louis Hennepin, a Catholic missionary, began exploring Minnesota along with French and métis fur traders. In 1727 two Jesuits, Michael Guignas and Nicholas De Gonnor, built the first church in

Minnesota, a log cabin Catholic mission at Fort Beauharnois overlooking Lake Pepin. It was dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel and abandoned in 1756. In 1891 Ursuline nuns built a convent and school at the location, then the Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center in 1970. It closed in 2016 and is now a boutique hotel/event center.

Protestant missionaries began their missions in 1834 when Samuel and Gideon Pond and Dr. Thomas S. Williamson established missions at Bde Maka Ska, Lac qui Parle, and Red Wing where they also encouraged Native sedentary farming. The Pond brothers assembled a Dakota language alphabet and the first Dakota-English dictionary. With the expulsion of the Dakota in 1862 to the Dakota Territory, missionaries relocated with them.

In 1829 Bishop Mathias Loras, of Dubuque, visited Fort Snelling, then returned to France to recruit priests for Minnesota. Joseph Cretin, A. Pelamourges, Lucien Galtier and Augustine Ravoux arrived in Dubuque April 19, 1839. In 1839 Loras, arrived in Mendota and Fort Snelling with Father Pelamourges. They baptized 56 and married eight of the 185 Catholics. In 1840 Father Lucien Galtier followed and organized a parish (St. Peter's) in Mendota at Bdote, the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. Galtier, who "had the face of a Caesar and the heart of a Madonna", served for four years.

In 1838 and 1841, with the expulsion of settlers from the Fort Snelling Reservation, two French-speaking communities developed down river from Fountain Cave and at Point LeClaire. Galtier visited the settlements to seek a site for a church. Two options were rejected: Lowertown/Pointe LeClaire (subject to flooding) and Dayton's Bluff/Mounds Park (elevated and inaccessible). In 1841 he chose a point mid-way between the Upper and Lower Landings on the sandstone bluff high above the river. The acre of land, donated by Vital and Benjamin Gervais, was thinly covered with groves of red and white oak with a tamarack swamp at back. The tamarack was logged for the rough-hewn chapel's rafters. Bark-covered slabs for the roof were brought from a Stillwater mill owner. A simple cross crowned the roof. The chapel was about twenty-five feet long, eighteen wide and ten high. A single window graced each side; it faced the river on its bluff. It was completed in a few days by eight workers: Joseph Labissonière was general superintendent with builders Isaac Labissonière, Pierre Gervais (the elder), Pierre Gervais (the second), Pierre and Charles Bottinneau, Francois Morin, and Vital Guerin. Their names are now commemorated on the stone memorial on its location in Downtown St. Paul.

Galtier: "The church was thus dedicated to St. Paul, and I expressed a

CHURCH, PG 7

Billboards Protesting ICE Pop Up on West 7th

BY ABIGAIL HORTON

On February 15, community group Gardeners of Resistance revealed their first posters of their 12 month billboard campaign aimed at protesting Immigrant and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, in the Twin Cities, and the actions taken by Trump Administration.



The billboards were initially installed on February 2nd, with them planned to be presented the following week, but this was soon postponed after word of other community groups holding a memorial to those murdered by ICE. However, by the next week, everything was a go.

"Billboards allow us to communicate a message to everyone passing by even when our members aren't on the corner with signs," said Emily Goodhue, one of the group's founders, referring to the group's weekly protests.

Although it began as a community gardening group, it rapidly became a network of neighbors who came together with concern over what they expressed as the country's increasingly authoritarian actions. "We have to use many forms of outreach to connect with all the people," said another founder, Jeff Austin. "Our main goal is to activate community members to get involved in resisting fascism in the U.S."

While the current billboards refer to ICE and their recent enforcement actions in the Twin Cities, Goodhue emphasized their continued importance even as enforcement activity has changed.



Billboards protesting ICE placed by the Gardeners of Resistance at 506 W. 7th Street, near Dousman St., as part of their year-long campaign

"Getting most ICE agents out is a good first step towards ending fascism in the United States," she said, "Since the Trump regime took office, the U.S. has been checking more and more of the boxes of what makes a fascist country. We must continue to build momentum and people power in the resistance against the fascism that is impacting our neighbors and our nation, of which the ICE surge is simply one iteration."

According to Goodhue, the current billboards will be up for another six to eight weeks, but the group is already generating other designs. "We welcome community input about what

would be most impactful," she said, noting that once replaced, they will be offered to local businesses for the opportunity as protest signage in public spaces for display.

"We are still reaching out to artists that share our goals," Austin added, "and offering to make the panels available for their messaging as well, so we are still unsure of what the next ones will be."

To ensure that the project continues, the group is also in need of community funding. Those interested in contributing can contact Emily Goodhue, Jeff Austin or gardenersofresistance@gmail.com.

Tease Salon: A West 7th Mainstay with Heart

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

On West 7th Street, in a brick building that blends quietly into the corridor, Tease Salon has become a steady fixture — not through splashy marketing, but through decades of relationships.

For more than 20 years, the salon has built a loyal following, with some clients driving from as far away as Lake Superior for appointments. Originally located near Shamrocks, Tease moved into its current space at 696 West 7th a decade-and-a-half ago when the original owners Carol Jasin and her husband John bought the current building.

Carol and John are now retired and their long-time employee Amber Mann is running the show, purchasing the business a little more than three years ago after working there for 14.

"I wanted to carry on the legacy of what they created and what our community has supported," Mann said of the former owners, who remain connected to the salon. Carol still creates rotating art installations that hang above the shampoo bowls, changing with the seasons.

Mann's path to ownership was unconventional. She enlisted in the Air Force at 17, serving on active duty and later in the Air National Guard, including deployments overseas. After leaving the military, she attended beauty school and took a job at Tease — her first salon position. When the opportunity arose to buy the business and the building, she leaned on weekly meetings with her banker and accountant to make the leap.

Today, Tease operates with eight stylists and two front desk staff in a hybrid model of employees and chair renters. The range of experience spans decades. Two stylists have worked together since the early 1980s and have been part of Tease longer than the salon has carried its current name. The newest stylist joined about a year and a half ago. The evening receptionist, 20, has been coming to



"I just want to exist happily with our incredible community and keep supporting in all the ways that we can," said Tease Salon owner Amber Mann.

Tease since she sat in a booster seat while her mother had her hair done.

"It's like family," said stylist Auri Mena, who is bilingual and serves Spanish-speaking clients in the community. "We've just gained family and friends." Mena said what keeps her coming to work every day is the clientele and the neighborhood. "West 7th brings in a really great group of people."

Despite being located in one of the city's most competitive salon corridors, Tease has relied almost entirely on word of mouth. Clients often discover that friends or neighbors have been coming for years without realizing they share the same stylist.

"You get one person, then their mom, their whole family," Mann said. "You're doing weddings

and first haircuts. It just keeps going."

The salon's atmosphere is intentionally relaxed but modern. There are no uniforms; stylists "pick your style and rock it," Mann said. The space is filled with plants and rotating work by local artists. A current exhibit features a St. Paul photographer. Past installations have included handcrafted fish sculptures that sold out.

Since purchasing the salon, Mann has expanded its community engagement. Tease regularly serves as a collection site for donations — clothing, school supplies and pet items — which are distributed through

SALON, PG 7



COMMUNITY VOICES

FILM REVIEW

Zootopia 2 is Compassionate, Rebellious

By Zach Murphy

The first “Zootopia” film was a fun, colorful and surprisingly thoughtful animal-driven tale of diversity and acceptance. Its sequel, “Zootopia 2”, cruises in nine years later, and thanks to its clever script and timely themes, it proves to be a delightful follow-up that the whole family can enjoy.

In case you need a refresher, the film does a great job of catching us up to speed. This time around, the eager and bright-eyed rabbit Judy Hopps (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin) returns along with her sly fox of a sidekick, Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman). Now a duo at the Zootopia Police Department (ZPD), the two go on a twisty journey through the winding metropolis as they attempt to solve a case revolving around a mysterious viper named Gary De’Snake (Ke Huy Quan).

The animation is dazzling and sleek, and the screenplay flourishes with an awesome amount of rollicking humor that is sure to make you laugh—especially if you love the world of wildlife. It’s loaded with top-notch puns (my favorite being the streaming platform “EweTube”), cheeky pop culture jokes, and keen references to classic films,

from “The Lion King” to “The Shining.” And if you’re hoping for an appearance from the fan-favorite sloth DMV worker from the first installment, you definitely won’t be disappointed.

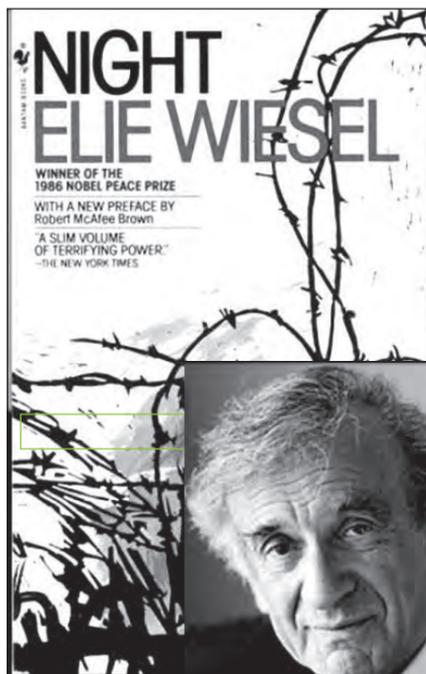
Even amidst all the furry escapades and scaly silliness, “Zootopia 2” is a smart and heartwarming story that dives much deeper than the surface. In addition to tackling heavy issues such as systemic oppression and prejudice, it’s about the power of community, empathy and friendship, and it shines a bright light on those who stand up for what’s right—which is so fitting for the current climate we’re living in. Sometimes, it’s animated films that convey the most important lessons, and “Zootopia 2” should be commended for its compassionate and rebellious spirit.

“Zootopia” is available to rent or buy on all major streaming platforms, and available to stream with your Disney+ 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](#).



"Zootopia 2" promotional poster



"Night" book jacket

BEA'S BOOKS

Elie Wiesel's "Night" is a Blunt, Chilling Story of Survival

By Beatrice Cosgrove

Two weeks ago, my English teacher assigned the book “Night” by Elie Wiesel, telling us little more than that it was a story about the author’s experiences in a concentration camp during World War II. In a little over a week, I had finished the book, mortified.

I was not oblivious to the horrors that occurred during the Holocaust, but I had never had them presented in such a blunt manner, making the novel all the more chilling.

Elie’s story begins in Sighet, Romania, where he devoted himself to the study of his faith, Judaism. The war brought separation to Sighet, the Nazis pushing Jewish people into ghettos before deporting them to concentration camps. Unaware of what was to come, Elie and his family were deported, his sister and mother killed in the gas chambers but himself and his father managing to remain together through the traumatic events that shape the book.

A focal point of this book is the way Elie writes about religion, and how his perspective

changes throughout just a few years. He describes himself as incredulous that God could allow such things to happen and confused as to why faith still existed among such battered believers, many of whom had turned against one another as a last resort. The pain of realizing such a violent severance of faith is felt throughout, and remains constant through the turbulencies of Elie’s story.

Overall, Elie sets forth a clear and direct narrative of his experiences that is difficult to read, yet hard to put down as he recounts the nauseating events and conditions of the

concentration camps. To me, the clarity was the most terrifying part. The fact that humans could treat each other with such hate is the crux of this novel. And the parallels: the deportation of law-abiding people, the mistreatment of said people, and the sowing of hate to promote division that only benefits the powerful, these themes do not preside solely in “Night”, they crop up in the margins and on the front covers of history, the pages of which no one is exempt.

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Vina Vietnamese Restaurant offers authentic traditional Vietnamese food

Each month, we are featuring a Highland Park business or organization. Community Spotlight honorees may have deep roots in Highland Park or might be new to the neighborhood. Visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/community-spotlight to see more spotlights and to have your business or organization featured.

This month, we are featuring Vina Vietnamese Restaurant located at 756 Cleveland Ave S. Vina offers authentic traditional Vietnamese food with recipes that have been passed down through generations using fresh ingredients, aromatic broth such as Pho, Egg-roll, and Spring Roll. See their menu or order online at vinahighland.com.

From Joann Nguyen, Vina’s Manager:

When did you first start your business/efforts in Highland Park? 40 years ago

What was the inspiration for doing the work you do? My family has been in the restaurant business for many generations, therefore I am inspired to continue the family’s tradition.

What’s your favorite thing about Highland Park? When I first came to the U.S, I grew up in the Twin Cities. I attended/graduated from Highland Park Senior High School in 1995. Therefore I have known and admired the Highland Park area along with the people that live here.



The welcoming staff at Vina Vietnamese Restaurant

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ADVERTISING

info@communityreporter.org

EDITORIAL

Damian Goebel, Editor
612-986-8026
editor@communityreporter.org

LAYOUT/GRAPHIC DESIGN

In-Fin Tuan, Graphic Designer

BOOKKEEPINGAilie Deloia adeloia.cr@gmail.com**STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Elisha May Jacobsen
elishamayart@gmail.com

PRINTING

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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Aldi To Replace Former Lunds & Byerlys In Downtown St. Paul

A full-service grocery store is set to return to downtown St. Paul after nearly a yearlong absence, with discount grocer ALDI planning to move into the former Lunds & Byerlys space at the Penfield.

Ward 2 Council President Rebecca Noecker announced the development in a video posted to social media, calling the project a long-awaited milestone for downtown residents and workers.

"I know this has been something that so many of you have been asking me about," Noecker said. "We've all been missing our downtown grocery store."

According to the Star Tribune, ALDI has filed permits to renovate the former Lunds space at 115 E. 10th St. Building permit applications indicate construction is expected to begin in mid-March — with one filing listing March 16 — and continue through late June.

The Lunds & Byerlys store closed March 26, 2025, leaving downtown without a walkable full-service grocery option. The grocer cited unsustainable operating costs, staffing shortages and security concerns, including shoplifting and vandalism, as reasons for the closure. The store had opened in 2014 as part of the Penfield, a 10-story mixed-use development viewed at the time as a catalyst for downtown revitalization.

City officials say the return of a grocery tenant is critical infrastructure for downtown's recovery.

"A downtown grocery store is a key piece of infrastructure for our neighborhood's vitality," Noecker's Legislative Aide Megan Jekot said in an email. "With ALDI coming to the former Lunds space, downtown will once



Aldi will take over former Lunds & Byerlys space, which closed in March 2025, again have a grocery store within walking distance."

Noecker said the discount chain's pricing and product mix make it a strong fit for the neighborhood. She also framed the announcement as part of a broader wave of downtown improvements, including the reconstructed Robert Street corridor, expanded transit access and investments in nearby Pedro Park.

The absence of a grocery store has been a persistent concern for downtown residents since the 2025 closure, particularly for those without easy access to

transportation. City leaders said they heard frequent requests for a replacement during the past year.

ALDI's arrival is expected to restore everyday grocery access while building on the existing infrastructure of the former store. Officials said additional details about the opening timeline will be shared as renovations progress.

For now, city leaders are emphasizing the symbolic and practical significance of the move.

"This is a win for downtown St. Paul," Jekot said, "and we're moving forward together."

FOR MORE COMMUNITY NEWS, VISIT

[COMMUNITYREPORTER.ORG/CATEGORY/NEIGHBORHOOD-NEWS](https://communityreporter.org/category/neighborhood-news)

RESPONSIVE GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

A new \$3.5 million grant pool aimed at stabilizing small businesses is now available statewide, offering potential relief to struggling commercial corridors in St. Paul as economic uncertainty grows.

The Minneapolis Foundation announced the Economic Response Fund, which will distribute grants through community organizations experienced in small-business support. Funding is intended to help businesses maintain payroll, keep staff on schedule, pay rent and preserve inventory during periods of disruption.

The initiative builds on the foundation's earlier Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine effort following the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 civil unrest, which mobilized about \$50 million for businesses and communities.

For St. Paul, the funding arrives as many neighborhood businesses — particularly immigrant-owned shops on the East Side and along West 7th — report declining foot traffic and workforce disruptions tied to ongoing federal immigration enforcement activity.

Additional targeted relief is also available. Hmong American Partnership is offering stabilization grants of up to \$5,000 for Southeast Asian and immigrant/refugee entrepreneurs, while the Latino Economic Development Center has launched emergency grants for Latino-owned businesses on St. Paul's East Side affected by recent enforcement activity.

Initial distributions from the Economic Response Fund are expected in the coming weeks, with priority given to areas facing the most urgent need. Find more information and apply for grants at minneapolisfoundation.org/ledcmn.org, hmong.tfaforms.net/69

SWEEPING MEDICAID PROVIDER INSPECTION EFFORT

Minnesota officials are mobilizing state workers to conduct unannounced site visits to more than 5,800 Medicaid providers statewide — including many serving St. Paul — in an accelerated push to strengthen oversight and protect federal funding.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services said 168 employees from multiple agencies will be temporarily reassigned to help complete provider revalidations in 13 high-risk service areas by this summer. Training begins in February, with inspections planned across all 87 counties.

Deputy Commissioner and State Medicaid Director John Connolly called the effort "a major step forward" to ensure providers meet legal and quality standards. The initiative comes as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has threatened to withhold more than \$2 billion in annual Medicaid funding over program-integrity concerns — a move state officials are appealing.

For health providers, particularly those serving seniors, people with disabilities and low-income families, the reviews could bring increased scrutiny but are also intended to safeguard long-term funding for Medical Assistance.

Federal data released this month showed Minnesota's Medicaid improper payment rate at about 2.1%, well below the national average of 6.1%, according to state officials.

Alongside site visits, Minnesota is expanding anti-fraud measures, including enhanced provider training, tighter oversight of managed care organizations and expanded use of analytics and artificial intelligence to flag suspicious claims before payment. Officials say a full pre-payment review system is expected by the end of the year.

A new public fact-check webpage aimed at countering misinformation about Medicaid is available at mn.gov/dhs/general-public/medicaid-integrity.

ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL ADVANCES NEW LIMITS ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

The St. Paul City Council has unanimously approved a package of ordinances designed to increase law-enforcement transparency and restrict the use of city property for federal immigration operations.

In a 6-0 vote, council members adopted Ordinance 26-5, which prohibits law enforcement from staging

immigration operations on non-public city-owned property — including parking lots, ramps and facilities — unless required by a judicial warrant or other legal obligation. Officials said the measure responds to resident concerns about federal agents using local spaces.

The council also passed Ordinance 26-6, requiring officers operating in St. Paul to display visible identification on the outermost layer of their uniforms while performing official duties. Supporters say the rule strengthens accountability and helps residents distinguish authorized officers.

A third measure, Ordinance 26-7, generally requires law enforcement to operate without face coverings except in limited circumstances such as undercover work or necessary protective gear. Council members cited community reports that masked federal agents have heightened fear and reduced public trust.

Together, the ordinances represent one of St. Paul's most significant recent policy responses to heightened federal immigration enforcement across the Twin Cities. City leaders say the goal is to protect residents' access to public spaces while reinforcing transparency standards for agencies operating within city limits.

The measures will take effect 30 days after mayoral approval and publication.

Learn more at stpaul.gov/city-council.

DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL INVESTMENT FUND LAUNCHES

A new real estate investment fund aimed at accelerating downtown redevelopment has launched with \$30 million already committed, marking a significant private-sector bet on the future of the capital city's core.

The newly formed St. Paul Downtown Investment Fund is managed by the St. Paul Downtown Development Corporation (SPDDC), a real estate-focused subsidiary of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance. Lead investors Securian Financial and the Bush Foundation have jointly committed the initial \$30 million.

SPDDC leaders say the mission-driven capital fund is designed to improve access to financing for commercial, residential and mixed-use projects intended to support the long-term revitalization of downtown St. Paul.

Fund priorities include office-to-residential conversions, pedestrian-oriented streetscape improvements, historic preservation work, job creation and efforts to expand opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses. The initiative also aims to address substandard property conditions and increase housing supply downtown.

According to SPDDC, the fund has already supported several major downtown property transactions, including the Alliance Bank Center, Capital City Plaza parking ramp, Empire Building, Endicott Arcade and the U.S. Bank Center mortgage note.

The fund is part of the broader Reimagine Downtown St. Paul engagement effort, which is gathering community input on the future of the city's core.

Learn more at downtownstpaul.com/reimagine.

LEGACY AMENDMENT AWARDS MORE THAN \$5.2 MILLION TO MINNESOTA HISTORY PROJECTS

In the latest funding cycle, Minnesota Historical Society approved 42 small grants totaling \$610,846 and 38 large grants totaling \$4,668,796. The competitive awards support nonprofits, educational institutions, local governments and federally recognized Tribes working to preserve and share Minnesota history.

Several St. Paul recipients were included. The Cathedral of Saint Paul received a \$9,230 small grant to restore two significant architectural drawings. The City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department was awarded \$10,000 to restore a historic monument.

Among larger awards, Hmong Museum received



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COMMUNITY TRADITIONS

St. Patrick's Day Parade Tradition Marches On in St. Paul

When green-clad marchers step into downtown St. Paul this March, they will be continuing a tradition that stretches back more than a century — and a modern parade that has become a defining civic celebration.

The city will mark the 60th annual downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2026, an event organizers say reflects generations of Irish heritage, volunteerism and community pride.

Deep Irish roots

St. Paul's enthusiasm for St. Patrick's Day predates the current parade by well over a century. Minnesota's first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in St. Paul in 1851, an impromptu celebration featuring about 300 participants, speeches and a ceremonial salute.

Irish influence in the city ran deep even then. Downtown's earliest settlers included Irish soldiers from Fort Snelling, and by the 1880s a large Irish community had formed in the Connemara Patch neighborhood on the East Side. Irish Americans also held significant political influence; between 1932 and 1972, nine out of 10 St. Paul mayors were of Irish descent, Visit St. Paul notes.

Early parades often carried a temperance message. The Irish Catholic Temperance Society led many of the first marches, and in 1856 the Benevolent Society of Erin hosted a St. Patrick's gathering featuring toasts of cold water instead of alcohol.

The celebration peaked in 1901 when the Ancient Order of Hibernians coordinated special railroad rates that helped draw about 4,000 parade participants. But the following year, Archbishop John Ireland halted festivities he believed had become excessive, and large-scale parades faded for decades.

A grassroots revival

The modern era began in 1967 with a conversation at Gallivan's restaurant and bar.

"It was a bitter cold day during the Winter Carnival," Bob Gallivan later recalled to the St. Patrick's Association. Looking for a way to celebrate local Irish culture, he suggested starting a parade "before we get too old."

The idea quickly gained traction. Judge Edward Devitt, a regular parade marcher, joined the first organizing committee, noting St. Paul was a "natural center" for such a celebration because of



Collage of photos of the first St. Patrick's Association St. Patrick's Day parade in 1967.

its large Irish population.

That first modern parade came together in just two months but drew crowds six people deep along sidewalks. Led by Mayor Thomas Byrne carrying a shillelagh, marchers stepped off from the then-Hilton hotel at noon and reached the St. Paul Hotel about 40 minutes later.

From the start, organizers emphasized a family-friendly focus. Stewart Loper of the St. Patrick's Association described the event as "a baby buggy parade," reflecting the goal of keeping participation centered on families and children. Motorized vehicles have traditionally been kept to a minimum, a policy that continues today.

Traditions take hold

Several customs established in 1967 remain central to today's celebration.

The crowning of Ms. Shamrock — first awarded to Agnes Sullivan — continues as one of the parade's signature honors. The title of Mr. Pat, first given to William J. Hickey, recognizes a man of Irish descent who has contributed significantly to St. Paul's civic life.

Another enduring image is the stripe of emerald paint laid down the center of the parade route. Fundraising traditions also persist, including the annual "button blitz" conducted by the Miss Shamrocks and Blarney Brothers to support parade costs and charitable efforts.

Over time, the event has grown dramatically. Attendance reached about 100,000 spectators in

2007, according to historical summaries, cementing the parade's place among the city's largest annual gatherings.

A living community celebration

Today's parade, organized by the St. Patrick's Association, continues to emphasize the same core values outlined at its founding: honoring Irish heritage while keeping the event welcoming and community-focused.

The celebration also reflects St. Paul's broader Irish cultural landscape. The city hosts the large Irish Fair of Minnesota each summer, maintains numerous Irish pubs and businesses, and supports institutions such as the Celtic Junction Arts Center that promote Irish music, dance and history.

Organizers say that continuity — balancing tradition with community participation — is why the parade has endured.

"As we approach the 60th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2026, we honor the people, organizations and traditions that have shaped this celebration and kept it marching strong for nearly six decades," the St. Patrick's Association said of its history.

From a small gathering of 300 marchers in 1851 to a modern spectacle filling downtown streets with music and green each March, St. Paul's St. Patrick's Day parade remains both a tribute to the city's Irish past and a living expression of community pride.

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COMMUNITY TRADITIONS

Guide to St. Patrick's Day in St. Paul

Celebrate St. Paul's Irish heritage throughout the month of March at events all over town - capped off by one of the largest St. Patrick's Celebrations in the nation right in your own backyard. Whether you are a seasoned pro at the St. Paddy's party scene, looking for some traditional Irish arts or just some good old fashioned family fun, there is something for everyone this spring. Don your most festive Kelly Green and check out one of these great events.



PRE-ST. PATRICK'S EVENTS

Éigse: A Musical Gaela

Feb. 28, 6-10 p.m. St. Paul Event Center. \$125+. The Center for Irish Music annual gala with cocktail reception, live concert by CIM instructors, silent auction and fund-a-need program. Supports Minnesota's traditional Irish music school. centerforirishmusic.org/calendar.

Button Blitzing

Select date through March 13, various locations. Each \$5 button supports the parade and enters buyers into a \$1,500 drawing. Visit stpatismn.org

The Blarney-Stones: World's Worst Irish Tenor Contest

March 11, 7-10 p.m. Mancini's Char House. Test your vocal courage at lively audience-participation sing-along featuring The Blarney-Stones. Expect humorous performances, Irish and Celtic favorites. mancinis.com/events.

Miss Shamrock 2026 Coronation

Thu, March 12. Doors 5 p.m., program 6:30 p.m. Minnesota Music Cafe. Miss Shamrock 2026, the ceremonial queen of St. Paul's St. Patrick's Day Parade is crowned. Features pageantry and Irish pride. Info at stpatismn.org.

Celtic Comedy Night

March 12-13. Laugh Camp Comedy Club at Camp Bar. \$12.95. Actors Theater of Minnesota presents an Irish-themed comedy showcase featuring improv, sketch and stand-up. Expect a lively variety show full of St. Patrick's spirit. Info/tickets at camp-bar.net/shows.

Seniors St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Mon, March 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. El Rio Vista Recreation Center. \$12-\$18. Adults ages 55 and older are invited to celebrate with games, crafts, music and light appetizers. Participants are encouraged to wear festive green attire. Advance registration, call 651-789-3692 for details.



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 17, noon. Downtown St. Paul. Free. Long-standing parade marks its 60th anniversary. Begins at Mears Park, travels along Fifth Street and concludes near Rice Park. Commemorative \$5 buttons help support the parade and local charities and include a chance to win \$1,500. Expect large crowds and early street closures downtown. Info at stpatismn.org.

Sundays at Landmark: Day of Irish Dance

March 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Landmark Center. \$7-9. Irish Arts Minnesota's dance showcase brings together performance and competition teams from across the state. Also features Decade of Dance Award honoring long-time dancers. Info/tickets at landmarkcenter.org.

St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration

March 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Landmark Center. \$7-9. Irish Arts Minnesota annual family celebration featuring music on four stages, traditional dance, an Irish marketplace,

food vendors and children's crafts. Proceeds support year-round arts and education programs. Tickets at landmarkcenter.org.

The Shamrock Express

March 14. Minnesota Transportation Museum. Free-\$40. All aboard this themed train ride. Interactive exhibits, festive activities, food and craft beverages. Tickets at trainride.org/shamrock-express.

Kickin' It Irish

March 6-8, 13, 15 and 17. Celtic Junction Arts Center. Free - \$30. A modern fusion of Irish dance and live music in this high-energy stage production celebrating contemporary Irish culture. Tickets at kickinitirish.com.

Cozy Cottage Irish Fare Cooking Class

March 14, 6-8:30 p.m. Cooks of Crocus Hill. \$110. Prepare classic Irish dishes. Concludes with a Jameson-ginger cocktail. Info/register, visit cooksofcrocushill.com.

ST. PATRICKS DAY, PG 7

WEST 7TH

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Sunday, March 29 20
26
9-a.m. - 1 p.m.

**\$10 Adult; \$6 child under 9;
\$30/family of 4**

Pancakes (all-you-can-eat), sausage, fruit cup, juice, and coffee.

Prepay and order koláč online by March 20 credit/debit card go to: www.sokolmn.org/cc/
\$2 each: Apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed, or raspberry koláč. Koláče also available to purchase day of breakfast.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

HEALTH LINE
ICE Out Anxiety

By Jonathon Dickman, MD, PhD

With Minnesota being the center of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations, many people are having increased anxiety. Sometimes this is a feeling that has been felt before or maybe it is completely new. This heightened concern for safety has been seen in the clinic as mood impacts every other aspect of health. Increased anxiety can worsen stomach problems, blood pressure and blood sugars. In between our efforts to care for neighbors and protests, we need to remember to find ways to care for ourselves to stay healthy.

Many will find it surprising that eating healthy and exercising will improve mood. Eating your fruits, veggies and foods high in fiber can reduce stomach discomfort, fatigue and other symptoms that can worsen anxiety. So put away the chips, soda and juice and fill your home with some fresh foods that can make both your body and mind feel healthier. In addition to eating better, exercise and moving your body not only helps you maintain strong muscles and a healthy weight, but is as good as a medication in improving mood. Try to be active at least 30 min daily. Combining healthy eating and exercise should be your base for improving your mental health and will help your mood.

Taking a moment for a mental break from the news and practicing mindfulness can also help with anxiety. Activities including meditation, yoga and tai chi can help teach your mind to slow down and pay attention to your breath. If you cannot find time to complete these activities, then try taking a couple of minutes to stop and pay attention to your surroundings and the sensations in your body. You can try box breathing as a

simple activity. Sit in a position where your back is straight, arms relaxed with your hands in your lap. Breathe in through your nose for four seconds, hold your breath for four seconds, breathe out through your mouth for four seconds and again hold your breath for another four seconds. Continue this sequence for several minutes until your body is calm.

Sometimes anxiety persists despite improving diet, physical activity and mindfulness. This does not mean that these healthy habits are ineffective, but rather that more help is needed in addition to these efforts. Talk to your doctor about next steps which could include therapy and/or medication. Many people think that therapy always includes laying on a couch and discussing every moment in your life. This, however, is often not the case as there are a variety of therapy techniques that can help people improve their anxiety without needing to rehash every previous trauma. In addition, you can talk to your doctor about medications that can help your anxiety. These medications can be very helpful in improving mood and can be used briefly or long term. Work closely with your doctor as there is not always one clear choice and sometimes a person has to try multiple medications and different therapy techniques to feel better.

During a time when the news is making everyone more anxious, it is important to stay healthy and be aware of what can help your mood. Healthy life habits, mindfulness and sometimes therapy or medication can all help you get through this moment. As we hope for ICE to stop terrorizing our community, take care of yourself so that you can support others during this difficult time.

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



Tens of thousands of people attended the Ice Out Of Minnesota rally, protesting the increased presence of Federal immigration agents in the Twin Cities and the killing of Renee Good, on January 23 in downtown Minneapolis.

FEDERATION UPDATE



FORT ROAD HAPPY HOUR MARCH 19

Enjoy a casual gathering with neighbors, business owners, and community members—no agenda, just great conversation. The Federation will provide appetizers, and beverages available for purchase.

SALT REDUCTION IN WEST 7TH

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation is partnering with the Capitol Region Watershed District to help reduce salt pollution and protect the Mississippi River. When excess salt washes into storm drains, it goes straight to our river—harming plants, wildlife and water quality. Join your neighbors by pledging to follow Salt Smart steps this winter.

JOIN OUR BOARD! We are seeking candidates for multiple board positions. Get involved with your community and make a difference.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting April 13 at Summit Brewing! Social hour begins at 6 p.m. Food provided! Beverages available for purchase.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Transportation & Land Use**, March 4, 6:30 pm
- **Board Mtg**, March 9, 7pm. Gatherings at Station 10
- **Engagement & Fundraising**, March 24, 6:30 pm

STAY IN TOUCH

"Like" us on Facebook. Subscribe to e-newsletter. More information at fortroadfederation.org

LIBRARY UPDATE

Help The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library buy more books

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, a nonprofit organization that raises money for our libraries, has launched Books for All St. Paul, a campaign for St. Paul Public Library to help offset rising costs and meet increasing demand for books, eBooks, movies, music, and more.

Every gift helps towards meeting their \$62,000 goal—\$30 buys a print book, \$70 buys an eBook, and \$150 helps fill a crate of books. Donors have the opportunity to create a digital dedication that will be displayed on a community dedication wall. Dedicate your gift to your favorite book, favorite genre, or favorite person!

Donate at thefriends.org/books

EVENTS AT WEST 7TH LIBRARY

- Find more events at spp.org/events.
- Playdate @ West 7th - Tue, 3-5 p.m.
 - Family Storytime - Wed, 10:30 a.m.
 - ECFE - March 9, 2-3 p.m.

INTRO TO TAROT CARDS

Mondays, March 23-April 14, 5:30 p.m.

March 23 Tarot Overview - Begin your own Tarot journey with Tarot history and background, the structure of Tarot decks, and suggestions for choosing a deck.

March 30 Tarot 365 - Explore using Tarot cards and images for personal uses in our daily lives through exercises and discussion.

April 6 - The Major Arcana - The Tarot cards referred to as the Major Arcana tell an archetypal story of a journey through life. We will walk through this cyclical journey and the lenses it can be viewed through.

April 13 - The Minor Arcana and Court cards

- These parts of the Tarot deck are seen as representing aspects of daily life and facets of personalities as they play out within each of us and the people we interact with. Numbers 1 through 10 and the four elements (fire, water, earth and air) are often used to describe the energies and meaning of these 56 cards. We'll examine how these aspects interact and create ways to interpret and understand these cards.

Instructor - Nell Morningstar Ubbelohde

For Nell, tarot has been a doorway into Mystery. She grabbed hold of a deck at 11 years old and has never stopped exploring. She has been a professional reader and teacher in the Twin Cities since 1979, and co-owner of Evenstar Bookstore for almost 30 years, Nell now teaches and reads out of her own space Beltane Studio in St. Paul.



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HIGHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
For information, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/events

HOME IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOPS
March 7, 9 a.m. to noon, Cretin-Derham Hall. Topics: remodeling 101, financial planning, and green living. Full schedule at macgrove.org/hiw.

JOIN HDC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Information Sessions: March 23, 6:30 p.m. Highland Park Community Center and Zoom; March 25, 5:30 p.m. at Tiffanys. Submit your application by April 9 at 5 p.m. Info: highlanddistrictcouncil.org/2026election

UPCOMING COMMITTEES MEETINGS
1978 Ford Pkwy with a zoom option. Get Zoom link, meeting agendas at highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

- HDC board meeting - Thu, March 5, 7 p.m.
- Transportation - Tue, March 10, 7 p.m.
- Community Development - Tue, March 23, 6:30 p.m.
- Community Engagement - Mon, Feb 23, 7 p.m.

Keystone COMMUNITY SERVICES

WEST 7TH COMMUNITY CENTER
265 Oneida, St. Paul
651-298-5493
keystoneservices.org
Check the website for the latest information or call the Center.

Volunteer for Meals on Wheels

Through our partnership with Meals On Wheels, we service 10 different areas around the city of St. Paul! They include River, Summit, Winslow, Midway, Montreal, North, West Side, District 12, Highland, and Macalester Groveland.

The program is run through our West 7th Community Center, and it serves locally prepared meals that are delivered by a neighborhood volunteers Mondays through Fridays!

Many homebound elderly and adults with disabilities are fragile and vulnerable, and most struggle to prepare a nutritious meal on their own. Meals on Wheels can help! Locally prepared meals are delivered by a neighborhood volunteer. Keystone's Meals on Wheels program is all about choice and friendly service.

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.

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BULLETIN BOARD



HUNGRY LIKE THE WOLF

March 19-April 12. History Theatre. \$25-\$60. Playwright Sandra Struthers delivers a high-energy comedy inspired by the Willmar Eight bank strike and infused with '80s pop culture flair. The production blends history, humor and social commentary in a fast-paced theatrical experience. historytheatre.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP DAY

March 7, 9 a.m.-noon. Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul. Attend one-hour workshops on home improvement topics for homeowners and renters in Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland. Learn more at highlanddistrictcouncil.org.



sausage, fruit, juice and coffee, plus a koláče bake sale featuring apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed and raspberry varieties. Public welcome; no reservations required. sokolmn.org/all-events.

URBAN EXPEDITION: DAKOTA HOMETOWN

March 1, 1-3 p.m. Musser Cortile at Landmark Center, Downtown. Free. Program celebrates Dakota culture through music, food, dance, and crafts. Presented in collaboration with Blue Hummingbird Woman and Dakota community members. Attendees can collect a passport stamp toward prize drawings. landmarkcenter.org.

MINNESOTA BACH FESTIVAL: YOUR VOICE — A COMMUNITY SING-ALONG

March 29, 1:30 and 4 p.m. Ordway Concert Hall, Downtown. Free; registration required. A community sing-along featuring music by Vivaldi. Participants rehearse March 28 and perform alongside the ensemble March 29. Suggested \$30 donation.

HOUSE PLANT BINGO BAZAAR

March 8, 1-4 p.m. Harriet Island Pavilion. \$5. Get ready to shout BINGO at this foliage-filled community event hosted by St. Paul Parks and Recreation and the St. Paul Parks Conservancy. Participants can enjoy plant-themed bingo with chances to win prizes from local vendors. This is an 18+ event. Tickets are \$5 and space is limited. <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/c012fa?vid=100w4m>

FLAVORS OF SLOVAKIA DINNER

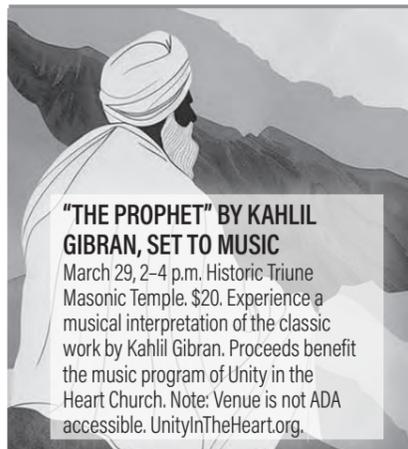
March 8. Doors noon, dinner 12:30 p.m. C.S.P.S. Hall, St. Paul. Traditional Slovak meal featuring bryndzové halušky, holubky, dessert, coffee. \$35/person, prepaid reservation required. Info sokolmn.org/all-events.

MN ROLLER DERBY

March 28, 6 p.m. Roy Wilkins Auditorium. \$24-\$26. Minnesota Roller Derby is back in the legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium for season 22! Get your tickets to see MNRD's home teams face off in two action-packed bouts! Doors are opening an hour earlier this year, at 5pm, with the first whistle at 6. Kids 9 and under free in General Admission area, ages 2 and under free in Reserved Seats. Must be 18 or older to sit Trackside. Info at MNrollerderby.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST, CRAFT, KOLÁČE BAKE SALE

March 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. C.S.P.S. Hall, West 7th. \$6-30. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with



FOR MORE CALENDAR EVENTS, VISIT COMMUNITYREPORTER.ORG/EVENTS

SALON, PG 1

partners along West 7th and the West Side. Additionally, Tease hosts its own Makers Market twice a year, featuring about a dozen local artists and vendors, along with a food truck. Grants from the Fort Road Federation have helped offset staff wages when the salon closes early for those events, allowing employees to participate without losing income.

Mann hopes to further strengthen connections among neighboring businesses by hosting informal gatherings to identify specific community needs.

Continuing education is also a priority. This month, most of the team will travel to Chicago for America's Beauty Show, combining

professional training with team building. On Fridays, it is common for staff to linger after closing, talking over a glass of wine.

"How many jobs do you know where, at the end of the week, they don't want to leave?" Mann said.

For her, the goal isn't awards or billboards — though she wouldn't mind a "Minnesota's Best" nod someday. It's simpler than that.

"I just want to exist happily with our incredible community," she said, "and keep supporting in all the ways that we can."

IF YOU GO:

Tease Salon, 696 West 7th; 651-292-0029 teasesalonmn.com. You can vote for Tease Salon at votemnbest.com now.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, PG 5

Irish of Minnesota Exhibit by Tom Dunn. Through March 20. Landmark Center. Free. Portraits highlight the stories and identities of Minnesotans with Irish heritage.

ST. PATRICK'S WEEKEND PARTIES

Burger Moe's Lucky Palooza 2026. Sat, March 14, 2-11 p.m. Free. Tent party with two DJs, drink specials and a full St. Patrick's celebration. Info at burgermoes.com

St. Paddy's Day on the Green. March 17, 4-10 p.m. Can Can Wonderland. Admission varies. Family-friendly fun - search for hidden leprechauns on the mini-golf course. A chance to win prizes. Info at cancanwonderland.com.

JR Mac's Saint Patrick's Day Tent Events. March 14, 4-10 p.m.; March 17, 4-10 p.m. JR Mac's parking lot. Learn more at jrmacs.com.

Lucky's St. Patrick's Day Crawl. March 14, 4-10 p.m. West 7th corridor. Multi-venue bar crawl featuring drink specials and waived covers at participating locations. Registration required at crawlwith.us.

St. Patrick's Day at MetroNOME Brewing. March 17, after the parade. Free. Green ales and traditional stouts for parade-goers. The Brian Boru Pipe Band. Info at metronomebrewery.com.

Black & Shamm's Pour. March 17, beginning at 3 p.m. St. Paul Brewing and Dark Horse Bar. Hamm's tribute beer paired 50/50 with Guinness creates the "Black & Shamm's." While supplies last. Visit stpaulbrewing.com.

Lucky Palooza & St. Patrick's Events. March 14, noon-midnight; Tue, March 17, noon-10 p.m. Patrick McGovern's Pub. Free. Amplified music and holiday festivities. Expect traditional pub fare, drinks. Info at patmcgoverns.com.

The Good, The Bad, The Irish Trolley Tour. March 15, 3-5 p.m. St. Paul Brewing. \$43. Tour explores colorful Irish-American history and Prohibition-era stories aboard a guided trolley ride. cyncitytours.com.

IRISH! Dinner & Show. March 17, 6-8 p.m. The St. Paul Hotel. \$125. Blends fine dining with Irish performance. Reservations required. saintpaulhotel.com/events/irish.

Shamrocks Irish Nook St. Patrick's Weekend. March 14, 5 p.m.-midnight; March 17, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Shamrocks Irish Nook. Free. crshamrocks.com.

St. Patrick's Day at Tiffany Sports Lounge. March 17. Live Irish acoustic music from Sean Joyce, an Irish-inspired brunch and traditional corned beef and cabbage. Drink specials. Info at tiffanysportslounge.com.

The New Havoline Supremes. March 17, 6 p.m. White Squirrel Bar. Visit whitesquirrelbar.com

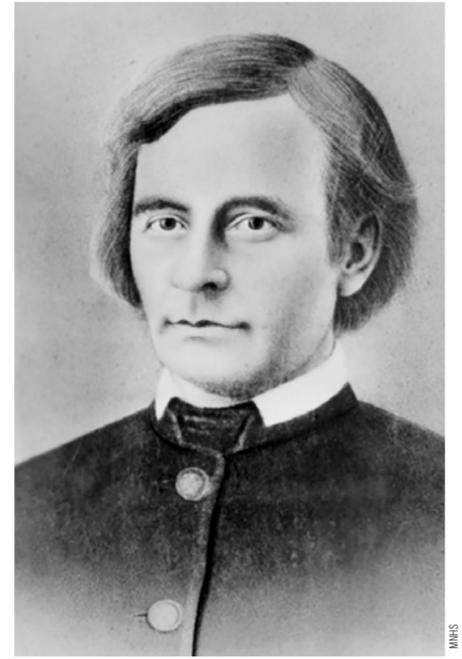
O'Waldmann Restaurant & Brewery for St. Patrick's Day. March 17, 3-9 p.m. Waldmann Brewery. Free. Performances: 3-4 p.m. The Center for Irish Music's Advance Youth Ensemble, 5-6:30 p.m. An Luan, CIM's adult ensemble, 7-9 p.m. The McNordiques (accordion, nyckelharpa & Uilleann pipes). Most importantly, the beer will NOT be green, but it will be good!!

CHURCH, PG 1

wish that the settlement should be known by no other name." When Vital and Adele Guerin were married, the official bans listed their residence as St. Paul. By 1854 residents were so numerous it was necessary to hold three services on Sunday—French, German, and English. Each group heard a sermon in its own language. When Henry Jackson's grocery opened in Lowertown, steamboats began to stop at the "St. Paul Landing". The church was deconstructed in 1855 due to development pressures of the surrounding midtown area.

After four years Galtier was transferred to Iowa but left shortly after in disagreement with Bishop Loras in Dubuque. In 1847 he joined the Diocese of Milwaukee and served at St. Gabriel's Parish in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. He remained there until his death in 1866.

Adapted from *The Tales and Times of Isaac Labissoniere, A Minnesota 19th Century Pioneer*, by Mark Labine, 2025.



Father Lucien Galtier, 1850



The Chapel of St. Paul. Image 1888 Alexis Jean Fournier.

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Irish Celebrations  at Landmark Center

In collaboration with 

Sunday, March 15
Day of Irish Dance
10am-5pm

Tuesday, March 17
St. Patrick's Day Celebration
9am-5pm

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