

# Community REPORTER

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



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Community News • Pg 2
- Origin Stories • Pg 3
- Healthline • Pg 4
- Art Crawl • Pg 6
- Grand Hand Gallery • Pg 7
- Fort Road Cannabis • Pg 8
- In the Community • Pg 9
- Bulletin Board • Pg 10

VOL. 56 NO. 4

APRIL 2026

CIRCULATION 13,000

## DISTRICT PERSPECTIVES Setting the Stage for Bold Action at Ramsey County



RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5  
RAFAEL ORTEGA  
columnist

A new analysis of Ramsey County's fiscal health — recently presented to the County Board — sends a clear message: how we build our communities directly shapes our county's financial future.

Over the next two months, I will share a two-part series outlining

how Ramsey County is thinking about fiscal health and economic development. This first article focuses on what the data tells us about our tax base and why it matters for the future of our county.

The study shows that dense urban development — particularly in downtown St. Paul — generates significantly more tax value per acre than lower-density development. Downtown St. Paul generates about 8.3 times more taxable value than the share of land it occupies in the county. More broadly, the city of St. Paul produces almost twice as much taxable value than its share of land in Ramsey County.

At a time when counties across the country face growing fiscal pressure, the way we use land will determine whether we can sustain the services residents depend on.

As a county commissioner, I see this analysis as a critical foundation for Ramsey County's next economic development strategy. It helps guide decisions that strengthen our tax base, promote growth and ensure Ramsey County remains financially resilient.

Counties across Minnesota are facing increasing cost pressures as federal and state governments shift more responsibilities to local governments without fully funding them. Ramsey County's general fund budget totals about \$929 million, with property taxes providing roughly 46% of total revenue. That makes the property tax base the single most important source of funding for essential services such as public safety, public health, economic development and social services. Strengthening our tax base is therefore essential if we want to maintain services while keeping property taxes manageable.

At the same time, the study highlights a structural challenge. Across Ramsey County, only about 48% of land is taxable, with the remainder made up of tax-exempt property, public right-of-way and bodies of water. In downtown St. Paul, about one-third of land is tax-exempt due to government buildings, hospitals and nonprofit institutions.

The analysis also shows that not all development produces equal value. Multifamily housing and mixed-use buildings generate some of the highest value per acre, while large commercial sites such as malls or big-box retail often produce less tax value relative to the land they occupy, partly because they are often accompanied by large parking lots.

This fiscal health analysis is just the starting point. Ramsey County now has the data needed to make smarter decisions about economic development and land use.

Next month, I'll share how Ramsey County plans to turn these insights into action through a new economic development strategy to grow our economy, expand opportunity and strengthen our tax base.

## West 7th Selected for J Line Bus Rapid Transit

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

**A**fter decades of planning, false starts and shifting priorities, a new vision for transit along West 7th Street is beginning to take shape — this time as bus rapid transit.



The Metropolitan Council formally approved the METRO J Line, designating the West 7th corridor as one of the region's next arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) projects, on March 11. The line is expected to connect downtown St. Paul, Union Depot, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America, with service anticipated between 2030 and 2035.

The decision marks a significant milestone for a corridor that has seen more than two decades of study and repeated setbacks, most recently with the collapse of the long-planned Riverview Corridor and the scaling back of the city-led "New West 7th Corridor" concept.

"This is a great milestone," Metropolitan Council Chair Robin Hutcherson said during the March 11 meeting, emphasizing the years of technical analysis, committee review and public engagement behind the vote. "These bus rapid transit lines have gone through years of staff analysis and vetting."

### A pivot after years of uncertainty

The J Line represents a strategic pivot after the dissolution of the Riverview Corridor project in 2024, which had envisioned a modern streetcar or light rail line along West 7th. First studied in 1998, Riverview consumed more than \$11 million in planning funds but ultimately failed amid rising costs, shifting priorities and a lack of consensus among funding partners.



A rendering of ABRT service on West 7th from the Riverview Corridor planning process

Following that collapse, the City of St. Paul attempted to revive the effort through the "New West 7th Corridor" plan, a multimodal concept that paired street reconstruction with enhanced transit. But by fall 2025, that effort had also stalled when partners were unable to agree on a funding strategy.

Metropolitan Council Member Deb Barber said the inclusion of West 7th in the arterial BRT plan required a quick pivot by staff.

"Originally it had been Riverview Corridor, then it transferred over to being the West 7th concept plan," Barber said. "When all of those things were not coming together, the staff really came together and came up with a way to work in West 7th into the overall strategy."

The result is a scaled but more feasible approach: arterial BRT, which typically includes

frequent service, enhanced stations, off-board fare payment and transit signal priority — improvements designed to deliver faster, more reliable bus service without the cost of rail.

### Choosing from 17 corridors

The J Line emerged from a broader planning process led by Metro Transit in 2025 and early 2026. The agency began with 17 candidate corridors before narrowing the field through a four-step process that included screening, technical evaluation and prioritization.

According to Metro Transit, the West 7th corridor scored highly based on ridership potential, equity considerations and its fit within the growing METRO network. Roughly 35% to 40% of residents within a 10-minute walk of the

RAPID TRANSIT, PG 3

## International Festival of Minnesota Carries on Tradition

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

After a seven-year hiatus, a long-running cultural tradition in Minnesota returns this spring under a new name and structure.

The International Festival of Minnesota will take place April 10–11 at the St. Paul RiverCentre, bringing together more than 70 ethnic communities and nations to celebrate the cultural diversity of Minnesota through food, performances, exhibits and hands-on demonstrations.

Organizers expect about 20,000 people to attend the two-day event, including thousands of students participating in school field trips.

The event marks a new chapter for what many Minnesotans remember as the Festival of Nations, which was organized for decades by the International Institute of Minnesota before the last festival was held in 2019.

"We just felt an event that brought so many people together was gone," said Steve Heckler, who directed Festival of Nations for eight years and is now helping lead the new festival's revival.

A new organization and a new name. The new festival is organized by IFest-MN, a nonprofit formed specifically to bring the event back in a reimagined form.

Heckler said the planning effort began about a year and a half ago, when a small group of former organizers decided the festival should return. He reached out to people who had helped run the event during his tenure more than a decade earlier.

"There were a few of us that thought that the festival should come back," he said. "I reached out to the team who ran it with me back, you know, 12 years earlier, and nobody said no. They all joined in."

About 25 volunteers are now helping organize the event.

"That's what makes the whole thing happen," Heckler said. "This is not something one person can do."



Dancers performing at a previous Festival of Nations.



The organizers chose to give the festival a new name rather than revive the old one directly.

"We wanted to use the Festival of Nations as a model, but we didn't want to just copy it," Heckler said. "We wanted to move it to where cultures are now and how we can be representative."

### What to expect

The structure of the event will feel familiar to longtime attendees.

More than 70 cultural communities are

expected to participate, representing countries and cultural traditions from around the world.

The festival will feature more than 22 international food cafés serving dishes from across five continents, along with three stages of entertainment that will host dance and musical performances throughout the weekend.

"There's an opportunity to explore and learn and interact directly with different groups in our communities who live here," Heckler said.

In addition to performances and food, the event will include cultural exhibits, demonstration areas and an international bazaar featuring crafts and goods connected

FESTIVAL pg 9



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Third Suspect Charged in Fatal February Shooting

BY AEDEN EVENSON-MCDERMOTT

A planned robbery in the West 7th neighborhood on Feb. 2 left David Lee Turner III, 23, dead for the second murder of 2026 in the city.

Initially, two suspects, Antavarius Scott Baker and Ethan Armani Green were identified in the fatal shooting, according to court documents. Newly unsealed documents reveal a third suspect, Jaquon Nathaniel Williams, was also charged with two counts of second-degree murder in the case.

According to the criminal complaint, Baker drove Green's girlfriend's blue Ford Escape to the 100 block of Oneida St. on Feb. 2 to purchase marijuana from Turner. Within 30 seconds of Green getting into the Dodge Durango Turner was driving, multiple shots were fired from two separate guns. Turner was pronounced dead at the scene after being shot eight times.

Baker was initially booked into Hennepin County Jail on separate charges while all three men were charged in Ramsey County in connection to Turner's killing. Green

and Williams are being held in Ramsey County with Baker now in Ramsey County custody as of March 12.

Baker was charged with two counts of second-degree murder and Green was charged with second-degree murder and possession of a firearm by an ineligible person, according to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

Baker was apprehended Feb. 3 at a traffic stop near Logan Ave N in Minneapolis. This came after 15 discharged cartridge cases were found in a separate attempted robbery involving both Baker and Green on Feb. 1 near this location.

Green was booked into the Ramsey County Jail on Feb. 6.

Baker later admitted he lied to prosecutors about it being just him and Green in the Ford Escape. According to court documents, Williams stayed behind at the scene while Baker took Green to the hospital.

Investigators went through text exchanges between Baker and Green discussing plans for the robbery, where Williams was mentioned alongside Green as the two who

would carry out the robbery. Williams allegedly had a gun on him at the time of the robbery, according to court documents. After Baker and Green had left, Williams removed Turner's gun from the Durango at the scene, according to witnesses and video surveillance mentioned in Williams' criminal complaint.

In recent years, the state Legislature has altered the definition of aiding and abetting felony murder laws, significantly narrowing liability.

To be convicted of aiding and abetting murder, a person must be a "major participant" who acted with extreme indifference to human life, used a deadly weapon or intended to cause death, as opposed to merely being present under the previous law.

Williams has five prior felony convictions, including aggravated robbery in the first degree.

Williams had fled to Chicago following Turner's killing, according to the criminal complaint filed against him. A nationwide warrant went out for Williams the morning of Feb. 10 and he was booked later that afternoon.



A memorial to David Lee Turner III, who was killed on Feb. 2, near Oneida and Superior St.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Revitalize West 7th Spring Grant Round Opens

Small businesses and property owners in the West 7th corridor can now apply for up to \$10,000 in improvement funding as the West 7th/Fort Road Federation opens its Spring 2026 Revitalize West 7th grant round.

Applications opened March 1 for the Neighborhood STAR-funded program, which prioritizes exterior facade upgrades and public realm improvements designed to strengthen the commercial district.

Eligible projects include building repainting, masonry repair, new signage, accessibility upgrades, lighting improvements, patios and public art installations. All improvements must be permanently affixed and intended to last at least seven years.

Program organizers say priority will be given to businesses that have not previously received STAR funding and to projects that support job growth or help revitalize vacant spaces. Applicants must have site control through ownership or a lease of at least seven years.

The federation will review applications using a scoring system before forwarding recommendations to its board for final approval. Funding is first-come, first-served and not guaranteed.

The grant program is part of a broader strategy to boost economic vitality along West 7th by encouraging private investment and improving the visual quality of



Nine Lives Thrift was one of five initial grant recipients.

commercial buildings and public spaces.

Recent rounds of Revitalize West 7th funding have supported energy upgrades, facade improvements and accessibility projects at neighborhood businesses, including bars, restaurants and retail shops.

Applications are now being accepted. Learn more and

FOR MORE COMMUNITY NEWS, VISIT

COMMUNITYREPORTER.ORG/CATEGORY/NEIGHBORHOOD-NEWS

SHEPARD ROAD CLOSURE BEGINS FOR MAJOR I-35E BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Beginning April 20, Shepard Road will be closed between Lexington Parkway and Otto Avenue, including the southbound I-35E entrance ramp, as the Minnesota Department of Transportation begins work to replace the I-35E bridge spanning the roadway.

Transportation officials say the bridge replacement is necessary because the existing structure has reached the end of its service life. The project is scheduled to run through fall 2027. Learn more: dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35estpaul-lilydale/index.html

ST. PAUL OUTLINES 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES, INCLUDING WEST 7TH INVESTMENT

City leaders are seeking significant state support this year for a range of priorities, from revitalizing downtown assets to investing in the West 7th corridor.

The St. Paul City Council recently adopted its 2026 legislative agenda, which includes a major push to secure state funding for renovations to the Grand Casino Arena complex. The proposal, developed in partnership with the Minnesota Wild, outlines a \$600 million overhaul of the downtown venue and surrounding facilities.

The city is also advocating for multi-year investment in the West 7th corridor — a key commercial and

transit route — in partnership with Ramsey County, the Metropolitan Council and MnDOT. Proposed improvements aim to support small businesses, enhance infrastructure and strengthen one of St. Paul's most active neighborhood districts. More information: stpaul.gov.

FEDERATION LAUNCHES ANNUAL MERCH CONTEST

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation is inviting artists to help represent the neighborhood through its 4th Annual West 7th Community Merchandise Design Contest.

Open to artists of all ages and experience levels, the contest seeks original artwork that captures the history, diversity and "eclectic vibe" of the West 7th neighborhood. The winning design will appear on official West 7th merchandise, with proceeds supporting the federation's work to promote a welcoming and safe community.

Entries are due by 11:59 p.m. April 5, with finalists to be selected by the federation board. Community members will vote on the winner during the federation's annual meeting. Learn more: fortroadfed.org/west-7th-merch-contest.

Designs must include the phrase "West 7th," be submitted in PNG format and be suitable for printing on gray or black shirts. Submissions must be original and may not include copyrighted material, trademarks or profanity. The winning artist will receive a free shirt and recognition on the federation's website and social media channels.

**Join us**  
as we serve  
those in need of  
basic items in  
our community!

Joseph's Coat runs a free store, where **ALL ARE WELCOME** to shop in an environment of dignity and respect. We provide clothes for adults and children, linens, small house-hold items, and hygiene products.

**LAST YEAR, WE HAD OVER 10,000 SHOPPING VISITS IN OUR FREE STORE!** We are able to keep helping people in our community because of donors like you.

Please consider making a financial gift today which helps us purchase items that aren't often donated, like new underwear, socks, and hygiene products.

Learn more about Joseph's Coat at **JOSEPHSCOATMN.ORG**

Joseph's Coat has been serving people with dignity and respect since 1989!

life is better at

**EMERALD LOUNGE**

455 West 7th Street | emeraldstpaul.com

- Virus Removal
- Data Recovery
- Broken Laptop Repair
- Small Business IT

649 Smith Ave S, Unit 102 St. Paul  
651-414-0017 • HackerAttackers.com

**HackerAttackers**

Computer repair experts

**\$20 OFF** Any computer purchase  
Not valid with other offers. Expires 4/30/2026

**\$15 OFF** Any service over \$79.99  
(labor only - parts not included)  
Not valid with other offers. Expires 4/30/2026

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

## ORIGIN STORIES

## Part The Eleventh: Water Water Everywhere And A Dangerous Drop To Drink

By Joe Landsberger

The land of skyblue waters, Minnesota, did not provide clean drinking water for its growing population. In the West End, the glacial landscape created a series of river terraces with various small streams that drained its bluff-line wetlands. This urbanized watershed was in a pristine state before the industrial pressures of the 19th-century. During Minnesota's Territorial Period (1849-1858), rainfall or snowmelt moved over and through the ground, picking up pollutants from widespread, non-specific sources. Rivers were treated as convenient conduits for waste—human, agricultural, industrial and feral that introduced pollutants. Eventually commercial and residential infill would bury the streams into an underground storm sewer network—to the river.

The later 1800s led to severe water pollution that drove disease transmission, particularly the spread of waterborne diseases like typhoid, cholera and hepatitis.

**The Town Pump**

Before indoor plumbing, a “primitive” water source for a community was the town pump. In the summer of 1849 St. Paul's population grew to over a thousand and got its first post office (Henry Jackson, postmaster), first brick yard, first school board—and its first town pump.

The Minnesota Pioneer reported July 5, 1849 that “Within the present week the citizens of St. Paul have erected in the lower square a pump. Of course nothing could be more desirable, or to the city more appropriate. For what is a town without a ‘town pump?’ It is ‘a church without a bishop!’ How will a stranger know when he arrives in our steepleless city unless it has the centre marked with a pump! A town pump is useful on numerous accounts. It is the centre exchange, where merchants and financiers do the fiats of commerce. It is the place for placards of advertisement; a reference for details of information upon all



C.D. Gilfillan, 1890.

doubtful questions—as when we say, ‘inquire of the town pump.’ It might do for the stand of a temperance lecturer. It might answer as a whipping post for rogues of low degree; and might perhaps subserve a patriotic purpose as a ducking engine with which to quench the heat of over zealous office-seekers.”

August 29, 1850 reported an ordinance: “That here after it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to water horses or cattle of any kind at the town pump, under a penalty of five dollars for each offence to be collected as other penalties to the town.”

**The City Water System**

But a town pump was not the answer to a growing city. C.D. (Charles Duncan, 1831-1902) Gilfillan was born one year after his family emigrated to the US from Bannockburn, Scotland. His brother, Judge James Gilfillan (1829-1894) would become a respected Minnesota Supreme Court Justice.

They were orphaned in their teens. C.D. continued his education in New York



A town pump

culminating in law in 1853. In 1857 the brothers began a law partnership in Minnesota. They accumulated wealth when the government redirected Native payouts to white survivors of the Dakota uprising.

CD's legacy lay in facilitating and providing St. Paul with reliable, high-quality drinking water. In 1851, editor James M. Goodhue of the Minnesota Pioneer noted that wells were few, and water, when available, cost ten cents a barrel hauled to one's door. In 1856 the territorial legislature chartered a private water company followed by a survey for a source and multiple efforts at financing. In 1865 CD was named president of the St. Paul Water Company that planned and constructed its waterworks. By 1869, water began to flow from Lake Phalen but water distribution was limited, and residents still relied on private wells or water vendors. In the later 1870s Gilfillan purchased land in northern Ramsey County and its lakes to guarantee water supply to the system, including the Pleasant/Vadnais

Lake watershed. All stock, 2,500 shares, in the water company was held by the Gilfillan brothers (only 100 by James). On August 10, 1882 the city purchased all shares for a publicly owned company and assumed the company's indebtedness. In 1925 the Mississippi River was integrated into the system through a 60-inch conduit from Fridley to Charley Lake and the Vadnais Lake system.

C.D.'s first marriage in 1859 to Emma Waage ended with her death and he married her sister Fannie (1841-1918) in 1865 and had four children. In the 1880s C.D. quietly bought significant acreage that eventually became North Oaks, then sold them to his friend and railroad magnate J.J. Hill. In 1882 he built the Gilfillan Block, Fourth and Jackson Streets and was vice-president of the First National Bank.

In 1882 he retired to Redwood Falls. He accumulated 10,000 acres for his home, office, grain elevator, stockyards and tenant houses. A railroad spur from his home delivered stock to Chicago as well as his private car to St. Paul. The family made annual trips to Europe where their children were educated. C.D. thus was the founder of the St. Paul city water works, became a member of the Minnesota Valley and State historical societies, was co-founder of the anti-slavery Republican Party, and an innovative agriculturalist and cattle breeder in Redwood County, Minnesota. He died in 1902; the funeral was at 237 Exchange Street, home of Mrs. James Gilfillan, burial in Oakland Cemetery.

Partially adapted from Merrill E. Jarcox “Like Father, Like Son: The Gilfillan Story, 1986 RCHS.

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, or order up a copy of your own at [fortroadfed.org](http://fortroadfed.org). Learn more about the book and find Joe's upcoming conversations about the history of West 7th at [josfland.com](http://josfland.com).

## Introducing Community Reporter Office Hours: Bringing our office to the community

This spring, we are partnering with local businesses and organizations along West 7th to bring our office out to the community. We want to hear from you and share some of what we are working on.

Community Reporter Office Hours are a chance to meet our Board and staff, connect with us and the community, support local businesses and talk about the issues you care most about in your neighborhood.

**Join us at an upcoming event**

- April 23, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Brake Bread
- May 12, 5-7 p.m. at Emerald Lounge

More dates coming soon.  
Keep an eye on this space, follow us on social media or check out [communityreporter.org](http://communityreporter.org) for more details and to know when we schedule future events.

We're excited to meet you!

- Damian Goebel, Editor, Community Reporter

**SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS**  
DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY REPORTER!  
[communityreporter.org/donate](http://communityreporter.org/donate)

**Community REPORTER**

**OFFICE HOURS**

WE'RE BRINGING OUR OFFICE OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

**JOIN US!**  
UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL 23 | 8-10 am**  
Brake Bread

**MAY 12 | 5-7 pm**  
Emerald Lounge

**MEET OUR BOARD AND STAFF**

**CONNECT WITH US**  
and the community

**SUPPORT BUSINESS**  
in West 7th

**SHARE ISSUES YOU CARE MOST ABOUT**  
in your neighborhood

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jonathan Dickman *Board Chair*  
Paul Bard *Secretary* Diane Gerth *Treasurer*  
Allie Deloia, Robin Gilmer, Damian Goebel, Julia McColley, Brian Singer, Eric Weispfening *members*

**EDITORIAL**

Damian Goebel, Editor  
612-986-8026 | [editor@communityreporter.org](mailto:editor@communityreporter.org)

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

Note: Editor reserves the right to edit submitted copy. Advertising design service are available or provide high-resolution PDF files.

**ADVERTISING** [info@communityreporter.org](mailto:info@communityreporter.org)

**LAYOUT/GRAPHIC DESIGN** In-Fin Tuan

**BOOKKEEPING** Allie Deloia; [adeloia.cr@gmail.com](mailto:adeloia.cr@gmail.com)

**STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** Elisha May Jacobsen  
[elishamayart@gmail.com](mailto:elishamayart@gmail.com)

**PRINTING** House of Print

**RAPID TRANSIT, PG 1**

corridor identify as people of color, and about 28% live in poverty — factors that weighed heavily in the evaluation.

The corridor was also added relatively late in the process after the collapse of the city's earlier plan, underscoring both its importance and the urgency to identify a viable path forward.

The Metropolitan Council's approval does not include funding but formally places the J Line into the region's arterial BRT program, allowing planning, environmental review and coordination with roadway projects to move forward.

**A “generational investment” in the corridor**

The transit project is unfolding alongside a broader effort to reconstruct West 7th Street itself. In January, the City of St. Paul, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Ramsey County announced what they described as a “generational investment” in the corridor.

Plans include rebuilding and repaving large segments of the roadway, updating utilities, improving pedestrian crossings and addressing long-standing safety concerns. While initial funding is in place for planning and design, officials say additional state and federal dollars will be needed to complete the work.

The timing of the roadway project — expected to begin construction later this decade — could be critical to the success of the J Line, as arterial BRT projects often rely on coordinated street design to incorporate stations and transit priority features.

**Lingering frustration, cautious optimism**

For many residents and business owners along West 7th, the announcement brings cautious optimism after years of delays that have left both infrastructure and redevelopment plans in limbo.

Previous proposals repeatedly pushed back basic maintenance, including a long-delayed mill-and-overlay project now expected to begin around 2028. Community members have voiced frustration that the lack of a clear plan has hindered investment and made the corridor less safe for pedestrians and transit riders.

“The roadway doesn't care if the agencies can't figure out a vision,” a Minnesota Department of Transportation official said during a 2025 community meeting, highlighting the deteriorating condition of the street.

At the same time, skepticism remains

**RAPID TRANSIT, PG 10**


**Community REPORTER**

265 Oneida St. St Paul, MN 55102

Copy Deadline: April 20, 2026

Ad Deadline: April 22, 2026

COMMUNITY NOURISHMENT



**Supporting W7th and Little Bohemia**  
**Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic**  
 MARIT LEE KUCERA  
 Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis-St. Paul  
 minneapolis@honorary.mzu.cz  
 mlkucera@outlook.com  
 385 Michigan St  
 Saint Paul, MN 55102



**Walking and Sitting**  
**Reasonable rates**  
 Call, text or email Nate  
 612.558.2027  
 pleasantdog@gmail.com

**ADVERTISE IN COMMUNITY REPORTER!**  
 EMAIL AD MANAGER  
 info@communityreporter.org

HEALTH LINE

Understanding Memory Loss: What's Normal and When to Seek Help

BY JOEL GIFFIN, DO

Some people are scared of getting cancer, some people worry about having a heart attack, but I personally don't want to get dementia. This must be a common fear, because probably once a day a patient will ask me "how do I know if I or my loved one has dementia?". Many people are alarmed by symptoms such as forgetting a name or misplacing your keys. The good news is that some changes in memory are a normal part of aging. At the same time, there are warning signs that should prompt a conversation with your doctor.

**What is normal memory loss?**

As we age, the brain processes information a little more slowly. Examples of normal age-related memory changes include occasionally forgetting a name but remembering it later, misplacing items like glasses or keys, or walking into a room and forgetting why you went there.

These changes can be frustrating, but they generally do not interfere with daily life. Most people can still manage their finances, medications, appointments, and household responsibilities. Many people find they rely more on reminders, notes, or phone calendars as they get older.

**What is dementia?**

Dementia is not a single disease. It is a diagnosis of memory loss and thinking problems that become severe enough to interfere with daily life.

People with dementia may struggle to remember recent conversations or events. They may have trouble managing medications, paying bills or following familiar directions. They may have difficulty finding the right words, or may repeat the same questions. Over time, symptoms usually worsen.

There are several causes of dementia. The most common is Alzheimer's disease. Others include vascular dementia, which is related to blood flow problems in the brain, and other less common conditions.

**How do I know if I or a loved one might have dementia?**

One of the most important clues is worsening symptoms over time. If memory problems are worsening and starting to affect



everyday activities, it is worth discussing with a doctor.

Some warning signs include getting lost in familiar places, or having difficulty managing finances or medications. Family members may also notice personality or behavior changes.

It is important to remember that not all memory problems are dementia. Many treatable medical conditions can affect memory, including depression, poor sleep, medication side effects, thyroid problems and vitamin deficiencies.

**What should I do if I'm concerned about memory problems?**

Start by talking with your primary care physician, NP or PA. Your doctor may ask questions about symptoms and daily functioning, review medications and might perform blood tests.

**What can I do to reduce my risk of dementia?**

There is no guaranteed way to prevent dementia, but research suggests several habits

may help protect brain health.

Exercise improves blood flow to the brain and supports overall health. Reading, doing puzzles, learning new skills and having social activities help keep the brain engaged.

Managing medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol is also important. Getting good sleep and not smoking also play a role in supporting brain health.

**The bottom line**

Some memory changes are a normal part of aging. However, memory loss that interferes with daily life should be evaluated.

If you are concerned about your own memory—or that of a loved one—don't hesitate to bring it up with your doctor. Early conversations can lead to answers, treatment when possible, and peace of mind.

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



919 RANDOLPH, ST. PAUL  
**651-291-0146**  
 SKINNERSMN.COM  
**STOP IN FOR THE BOMB**  
 ABOMB: \$4.75 TANQUERY  
 BOMB: \$3.75 PABST

*It's almost*  **GRADUATION TIME!**  
**USE SKINNER'S CATERING FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT 651-292-9228**  
 **TAKE THE SHUTTLE TO TWINS GAMES!**

**TEASE**  
 SALON  
 MAKING SAINT PAUL MORE BEAUTIFUL FOR OVER 20 YEARS  
**651-292-0029**  
 696 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET W  
 www.teasesalonmn.com

FILM REVIEW

Fennell's Unhinged "Wuthering Heights" A Divisive Visual Treat

BY ZACH MURPHY

"Wuthering Heights" is a classic tale that's been told many times. The latest adaptation of Emily Brontë's novel from 1847 comes from talented and provocative director Emerald Fennell. And while Fennell takes some audacious liberties with the source material, the film proves to be a lush, emotional and stunning experience.

Set in the Moors of Yorkshire, the story begins as a young Cathy and her family take in a lost boy who will become known as Heathcliff. Fast-forward to when Cathy and Heathcliff are adults (played by Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi), and we get the sense that there is unrequited love between them. But when Cathy decides to marry a wealthy textile merchant named Edgar (Shazad Latif), her feelings for Heathcliff still remain, and Heathcliff's obsession with her intensifies.

From the moment the film's eccentric opening title sequence flashes on the screen, you know you're in for a visual treat. The cinematography here is gorgeously rendered, and it flourishes and imposes with striking

image after striking image. Like the characters themselves, this is a film of contrasts—from windswept landscapes and bright florals, to claustrophobic fortresses and sprawling mansions. Fennell establishes a breathtaking aesthetic that is as Gothic as it is whimsical. All of this is bolstered by a Charli XCX-driven soundtrack, which adds a splash of modernity against the period piece backdrop.

The performances are great across the board. Jacob Elordi's Heathcliff is convincingly brooding, passionate and mercurial, while Margot Robbie's Cathy is teeming with longing, curiosity and impulsion. The leads are elevated by a strong supporting cast in Shazad Latif, Hong Chau and Alison Oliver, who are all equally impressive.

Emerald Fennell's unhinged version of "Wuthering Heights" is surely to be divisive. There's a reason why the film's poster displays the title in quotation marks. Those who are loyal to the novel might be jarred by the composition of this rendition, while casual movie watchers might be enthralled

REVIEW, PG 10



**St. Paul Automotive**  
*Committed to Excellence*  
**Foreign • Domestic**  
 AAA Approved "Top Shop"  
**Tune Ups • Brakes**  
**Oil & Lube • Tires**  
**Engine Diagnostics**  
**651-298-0956**  
 910 Randolph Ave • St. Paul  
 HOURS: MON-FRI 7AM-5PM

# WHAT IF *Assisted Living Felt More Like Community* THAN CARE?



Join us for a warm and welcoming afternoon to experience our beautiful community, connect with our team, and discover the comfort, connection, and care that make Bentson Assisted Living feel like home.

## *Why Seniors Choose Bentson Assisted Living*

- **Excellence in Care** – With a strong focus on holistic care, we offer a multi-discipline approach to meet both medical and life enrichment needs, all in an environment where you can feel connected, supported, and valued.
- **Peace of Mind for the Future** – Our nonprofit community participates in public assistance programs, helping residents remain at Sholom even if personal finances change over time.
- **Restaurant-Style Dining & Beautiful Community Spaces** – Enjoy daily delicious chef-prepared meals and inviting places to gather, relax, and connect.
- **Exceptional Life Enrichment-Chai Wellness** – Engaging resident-centered therapeutic recreation programs that nurture connection, purpose, and joy.
- **A Welcoming Community for All** – Spiritual care and programs that honor all faiths, traditions, and backgrounds.
- **Personalized Care & RN Oversight** – Individualized care plans designed to support your independence, dignity, and wellbeing.
- **On-site Rehabilitation & Aquatic Therapy** – Convenient access to therapy and wellness services right on campus.

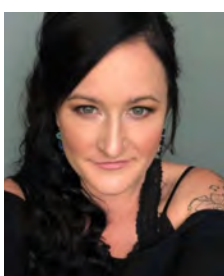
## *You're Invited To* **DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE AT OUR SPRING OPEN HOUSE & SOCIAL!**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**  
**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

Bentson Assisted Living  
730 Kay Avenue, St Paul, MN

Enjoy an afternoon of community and discovery featuring:

- Delicious **appetizers, refreshments, & desserts**
- **Live music** from Greta Gardiner
- **Prize drawings valued at over \$250**
- **Guided tours** of our spacious 1- & 2-bedroom assisted living apartments
- Learn about our **limited-time move-in specials**



### **LIVE MUSIC BY GRETA GARDINER:**

Enjoy live music from Greta Gardiner, a talented singer-songwriter who has performed across the country in rock, country, and jazz bands. Now new to Saint Paul, Greta brings a lively mix of original songs and beloved classics from artists like the Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Amy Winehouse, Johnny Cash, and more.



**REGISTER BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR CALLING 651.328.2258**

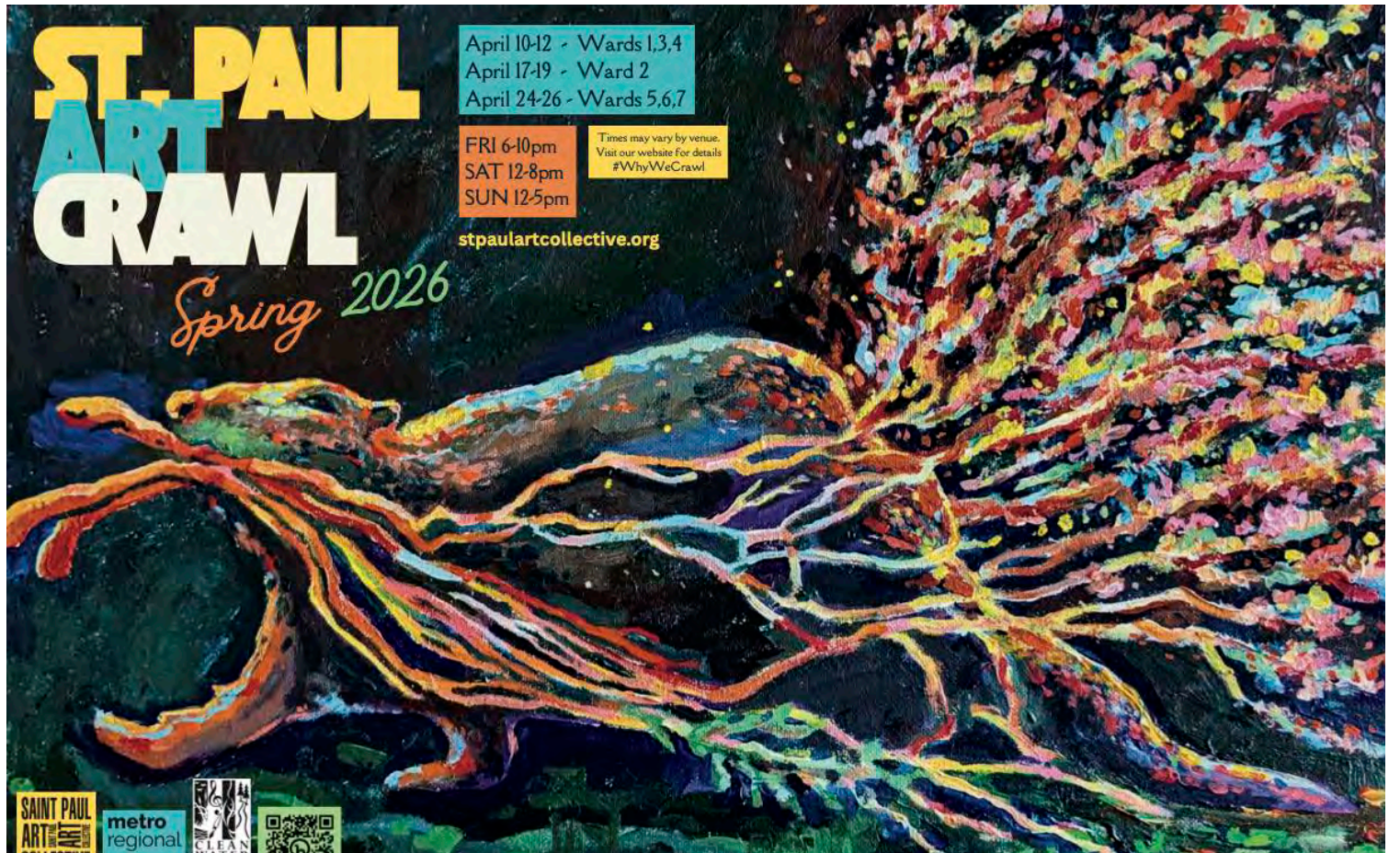
Bentson Assisted Living | 730 Kay Ave, St Paul, MN 55102 | [www.sholom.com](http://www.sholom.com)

Assisted Living • Memory Care • Respite Care • Transitional Care • Skilled Nursing • Home Care • Hospice



**ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT**

**Art Crawl Returns to St. Paul for Three Weekends in April**



**BY DAMIAN GOEBEL**

The Spring St. Paul Art Crawl returns this April, transforming neighborhoods across St. Paul into a citywide showcase of creativity, community and connection. Spanning three weekends — April 10–12, April 17–19 and April 24–26 — the free event will feature more than 35 participating venues, from artist lofts and galleries to historic landmarks and pop-up exhibition spaces.

Organized in partnership with the St. Paul Art Collective, the Spring Art Crawl has grown into one of Minnesota’s most accessible and expansive arts events, drawing thousands of visitors each year. This year’s crawl is structured by city council ward, encouraging

exploration across the city: Wards 1, 3 and 4, which encompasses most of the western half of the city, host the opening weekend, followed by Ward 2, which includes West 7th, downtown the West Side and parts of East Side, and concluding with Wards 5, 6 and 7 in the North End and greater East Side.

At its core, the Art Crawl offers a rare opportunity for the public to step inside working artist studios and engage directly with creators. Visitors can expect a wide range of artistic mediums, including painting, sculpture, photography, textiles, jewelry and mixed media. Many sites will feature live demonstrations, interactive artmaking, music performances and pop-up markets, creating an immersive experience that extends beyond traditional gallery viewing.

New this year is the launch of “Draw Together,” a community-driven coloring book project debuting during the crawl. Created by Minnesota artists and students, the book is designed to foster creativity and belonging among young people and families. Featuring artwork in multiple languages — including Oromo, Somali, Spanish, Hmong and Dakota — the project reflects the cultural diversity of the region. Organizers say the coloring book, which will be available as a free printable download, underscores the idea that art can be a shared language across communities.

The crawl’s venues are as varied as the artwork itself. In the Como Park area, sites like the historic Como Streetcar Station and the Como Pavilion will host artists alongside scenic park views, live music and food offerings. Elsewhere, visitors can explore converted warehouses filled with open studios, neighborhood galleries, churches turned exhibition spaces and creative pop-ups in unexpected locations.

One of the largest hubs during the second weekend is the Schmidt Artist Lofts, located at the historic Schmidt Brewery on West 7th

Street. The site will showcase the work of more than 80 local artists throughout its Brevhouse, with every hallway, gallery and studio activated for the event. Mediums range from printmaking and ceramics to furniture design and illustration, offering a comprehensive look at the region’s artistic talent.

The Schmidt location will also feature the 45th Annual MN 4th Congressional District High School Art Competition, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum. The exhibition highlights emerging young artists from across the district, adding an educational dimension to the weekend’s programming.

Visitors to Schmidt can expect more than just art. Food trucks, coffee service and outdoor gathering spaces will create a festival-like atmosphere, while a popular tote bag promotion will reward early art buyers. Free parking and open access make the venue an easy entry point for first-time attendees.

Across all three weekends, organizers emphasize that each portion of the crawl offers a distinct experience. From the artist-heavy Lowertown district to neighborhood-based venues in Midway and Frogtown, no two stops are the same. That variety is part of what has made the Art Crawl a staple of St. Paul’s cultural calendar.

Equally important is the event’s accessibility. With no admission cost, the crawl invites a broad audience to engage with art in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Whether visitors are seasoned collectors or simply curious, the event encourages exploration, conversation and discovery.

As the Spring St. Paul Art Crawl continues to expand, its mission remains rooted in community. By pairing large-scale exhibitions with grassroots initiatives like “Draw Together,” organizers aim to demonstrate how art can bridge generations and neighborhoods.

**ART CRAWL, PG 10**

**NEIGHBORHOOD**  
*cleanup day*

**Saturday, April 25**

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meet at:  
Pleasant Place  
(Corner of Garfield & Harrison)

Beautify West 7th and connect  
with neighbors

**free snacks and beverages**  
for the volunteers!

WEST SEVENTH / FORT  
ROAD FEDERATION



**Claddagh**  
**Coffee**

459 West 7th Street  
612 Selby Ave



• specialty coffee • food •  
• house-baked goods •



CLADDAGH-COFFEE.COM

@CLADDAGHCOFFEE

@CLADDAGHCOFFEECAFE



**STORIES, SONGS AND LEGENDS OF NORTHWOODS LUMBERMEN**

April 24<sup>th</sup> - May 9<sup>th</sup>  
TEN PERFORMANCES

Art House North  
793 ARMSTRONG AVE.  
SAINT PAUL

TICKETS:  
\$20-\$50

A rollicking musical telling the story of northwoods lumbermen through traditional Irish and Minnesota lumber camp songs—featuring two storytellers, two musicians, a stack of songs, a heap of stories, a generous helping of beans, and a pile of timber that creatively transforms as the adventure unfolds.

Toe-tapping fun for  
lumberjacks-and-jills of all ages!

**BUCKETBRIGADETHEATER.COM**

A St. Paul Tradition Since 1948

**St. Paul's**  
**Historic Home**  
**for Steak,**  
**Seafood and**  
**Classic Cocktails.**

651-224-7345  
www.mancinis.com



Mancini's is proudly located in the heart of the capitol city's  
West Seventh Street neighborhood. | 531 West 7th Street | St. Paul, MN 55102

**ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT**

# Grand Hand Gallery Opens New Home On Grand Avenue, Continuing A Community Art Tradition

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

After more than two decades in one Grand Avenue storefront, a longtime St. Paul art destination has found a new home just a little farther up the street.

The Grand Hand Gallery officially reopened Feb. 27 in a new location at 1338 Grand Ave., where owners Rachel Hartzler and Jim Jacobson are continuing the gallery's mission of showcasing handmade art by regional artists while strengthening its ties to the neighborhood.

The husband-and-wife team took ownership of the gallery in September 2022, following founder Ann Ruhr Pifer and later owners Mary Whitney and Cathy Weyerhaeuser.

"This is a commercial art gallery, which means it's not necessarily a gallery where you have to go in and stroke an imaginary beard and just look at things on the wall," Jacobson said. "We do want you to buy things."

The gallery specializes in handmade art and craft from Minnesota and the broader Midwest, including pottery, paintings, prints, woodwork, glass art and functional items such as cutting boards and ceramics. Prices range widely — from small items around \$6 to larger pieces costing several thousand dollars — allowing visitors to engage with art at many price points.

"We specialize in local," Jacobson said. "Mostly Minnesota, but certainly Midwest handmade goods. Every piece is unique."

The move comes after the gallery spent about 21 years in its previous location near Grand and Dale. Hartzler and Jacobson had owned the business there for about three and a half years before relocating.

They closed the former space Jan. 10 and opened the new storefront at the end of the month after a fast-paced transition. Renovations had already begun in November after the pair signed a lease for the space previously occupied by Treadle Yard Goods at Grand and Hamline.

The new gallery is brighter and more open than the former fabric store, with large windows that bring in natural light and allow passersby to see artwork from the street.

"It just feels alive in here," Hartzler said.

Despite interest in moving the gallery, Hartzler and Jacobson were determined to stay on Grand Avenue, where the gallery has long been part of the retail corridor's identity.

"It does mean a lot to us to stay in this community and to stay on Grand Avenue," Jacobson said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

At the reopening event, St. Paul City Council Member Rebecca Noecker said small businesses like the gallery play an important role in the city's future.

"This sort of new beginning, this transition, this rebirth really gives me a lot of hope," Noecker said. "It gives our whole community a lot of hope."

Hartzler said one of the gallery's defining characteristics is the close relationship it maintains with artists whose work it sells.

"We develop a personal relationship with each artist," she said. "They're kind of part of the family. We care about their well-being and their success."

Unlike some galleries, Grand Hand does not require exclusive arrangements with artists. Instead, the owners encourage artists to exhibit their work elsewhere as well.

"If an artist gets an opportunity in another gallery, we are excited for them," Hartzler said.



After over 20 years at Grand and Dale, Grand Hand Gallery owners Rachel Hartzler and Jim Jacobson moved up the street to the former home of Treadle Yard Goods.

Much of the artwork in the gallery also reflects the natural landscapes and wildlife of the Midwest, with bright colors and contemporary styles. The owners intentionally avoid chasing short-lived art trends, focusing instead on work that reflects the artist's personal passion.

"We're most excited about art that excites the artist," Hartzler said.

Hartzler's personal connection to art started long before she became a gallery owner. She describes everyday objects in her home — especially handmade pottery — as small, meaningful connections to the artists who created them.

"Every morning I pick out a mug that I'm going to drink my coffee out of," she said. "It kind of sets the day. Every line in that mug ties back to the person who made it and what was going on in their life that day."

That philosophy extends to the gallery's emphasis on "functional art" — handmade pieces meant to be used in daily life rather than simply displayed.

"It's something you get to enjoy every time you use it," Hartzler said.

**Continuing old traditions in a new space**

One of the gallery's most popular annual events will also return this spring. Beginning March 20 and running through April, the gallery will host its resale event, where community members

can bring in artwork they no longer want. The gallery sells the pieces on consignment, splitting the proceeds with the seller.

The event often draws significant interest from collectors and casual buyers alike.

"It's wildly popular," Hartzler said. "People love it."

For sellers, the event offers a way to pass artwork along to new owners who will appreciate it, rather than trying to sell it online.

"For some people, they have more art than they have display space," Jacobson said. "For others they're downsizing, or their connection to a piece has changed. They like the peace of mind of knowing it's going to a good home."

The new location also carries pieces of neighborhood history. The building once housed a corner drugstore — one of many that dotted Grand Avenue in the early 20th century — and later a fabric store before becoming the gallery's new home.

The building itself holds artifacts of its previous lives, with leftover inscriptions in the basement from people who worked in the building in the past.

"It was a drugstore for a long time, and apparently it became tradition for employees

GALLERY pg 10

**WEST 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
 REPRESENTING WEST 7TH & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES SINCE 2001  
 BUYING • SELLING • INVESTING  
**COLDWELL BANKER**  
 REAL ESTATE EXPERT  
**JOHN GLADIS**  
 612-743-3024

**ESTABLISHED IN 1987**  
**ROOSTER'S**  
 BBQ-Deli  
**DAILY SPECIALS**  
 TUE 1/2 CHICKEN \$14  
 WED 12PC BUCKET W/FRIES \$27  
 THU 1/2 BBQ CHK DINNER \$15  
 FRI 3PC FISH DINNER \$12.25  
**EVERYDAY SPECIAL:**  
**BBQ SANDWICH W/FRIES \$13**  
 Best Fried Chicken 2011/Best Barbecue 2010  
 Mpls-St Paul Magazine  
 Open 11am-8pm • Closed Mondays  
**979 RANDOLPH**  
**651-222-0969**  
 www.roosterbbq.com

**ADVERTISE IN COMMUNITY REPORTER!**  
 EMAIL AD MANAGER  
 info@communityreporter.org

**West 7th Neighbor since 1887, C.S.P.S. Hall, an Historic Landmark, is home to**

- Kids Gymnastics & Folk Dance Classes
- Language & Cooking Classes
- Ethnic Dinners • Cultural Events
- Festival • Rental Venue

**BLAST FROM THE PAST DANCE PARTY**  
 LIVE MUSIC BY SLOVCECH  
**APRIL 18<sup>2026</sup> 7-11p.m.**  
 FOOD AND BEVERAGE AVAILABLE FOR SALE  
 \$15 pre-pay ticket at sokolmn.org by April 10, or \$20 at the door

**CZECH AND SLOVAK**  
 Sokol MINNESOTA

**HINDING COMPANY HEATING & AIR**  
 SINCE 1936  
 Your neighborhood heating and cooling specialists  
**Stay Comfortable All Year Round!**  
 We Service & Install:  
**Boilers • Furnaces • Central Air**

- ✓ Residential and Light Commercial
- ✓ Licensed, Bonded and Insured
- ✓ Fast, Friendly, Reliable Service

**651-228-1303**  
 915 7th St. W. St. Paul Mn. 55102  
 info@hindingheating.com

Call or Email Hinding Company Heating and Air today to schedule your service!

make **music** while making **friends!**

**SIGN UP FOR SUMMER @ LAUREL!**

**4 GREAT CAMPS:**  
 SUMMER MUSIC CAMP • PIANO CAMP • BAND CAMP • BRASS CAMP

**LAURELSCHOOLOFMUSIC.ORG/CAMPS**

**LAUREL SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

# Fort Road Cannabis Brings Boutique Approach To New Industry In West 7th

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

A century-old storefront near the corner of Randolph Avenue and West 7th is now home to one of the neighborhood's newest businesses — and one of Minnesota's newest types of retail.

Fort Road Cannabis, 899 Randolph Ave., opened in mid-November after a longer-than-expected startup process that included building renovations, city permitting and preparing for Minnesota's newly legalized cannabis market.

"We got our license on the ninth," co-owner Phil Springstead said. "Then we opened around the middle of November."

The shop is owned by brothers Phil and Ryan Springstead along with business partner Trevor Guest. The three have known each other for decades, first meeting while working together at a Jimmy John's sandwich shop on Grand Avenue in the early 2000s.

The idea for a cannabis business came years before legalization. The Springstead brothers purchased the Randolph Avenue property about seven years ago from a landlord they had worked for, initially without a specific plan.

"We were like, you know, Minnesota's probably going to legalize weed sooner than later," Phil Springstead said. "Maybe we should."

Minnesota legalized recreational cannabis use for adults 21 and older on Aug. 1, 2023. The legislation allows adults to possess and grow limited amounts of cannabis and created the state's Office of Cannabis Management to regulate cultivation, manufacturing and retail sales.

Commercial adult-use sales outside tribal jurisdictions began in September 2025 as the state's licensing and regulatory system gradually rolled out.



Fort Road Cannabis owners, from left, brothers Ryan and Phil Springstead and Trevor Guest want to create a comfortable community space rather than a strictly transactional retail environment.

Like many businesses entering the new industry, Fort Road Cannabis opened during a transitional period — the market is still developing and supply chains are forming for many of the products they sell and plan to offer.

Testing requirements and the rollout of licensed growers and distributors have created delays in some product categories, particularly traditional cannabis flower and vape cartridges, Phil Springstead said. For now, the store primarily sells THC-infused drinks and edibles, along with cannabis seeds and accessories.

"Slow motion is better than no motion," said co-owner Trevor Guest. "It could still be illegal everywhere."

Despite the delays, the owners said they

are able to keep a curated mix of products available while they await more traditional products.

"We try to be fairly selective," Phil Springstead said. "We get samples of them and decide what we actually like."

The owners say they try to carry mostly Minnesota-made products whenever possible.

Inside, the store reflects a carefully curated aesthetic meant to blend boutique retail with the historic character of the neighborhood.

The building itself dates back roughly a century. According to Ryan Springstead, a photo from 1925 shows the space operating as a butcher shop.

"The storefront has been here for a

hundred years," he said. "We kind of want to preserve that old St. Paul feel, but with a nice boutique style."

Many of the renovations were done by the owners themselves, including floors, drywall and paint. Custom wood shelving and trim were designed to match the building's historic details.

The shop also displays work by local artists, with many pieces available for purchase.

The goal, the owners say, is to create a comfortable community space rather than a strictly transactional retail environment.

"We want it to be more of a hospitality thing than just retail," Phil Springstead said. "We want to create a place people actually want to go to."

That approach extends to helping people navigate products that remain unfamiliar to many consumers.

Staff members frequently talk with first-time visitors about the differences between cannabinoids, dosage levels and effects, aiming to make the experience approachable for newcomers.

"We start with asking people what their level of familiarity is," Phil Springstead said. "What are you looking for?"

The owners say the neighborhood response has been overwhelmingly positive.

"A lot of people just come in because they drove by and didn't realize we were open," Ryan Springstead said. "Then they're like, 'Oh, this is a really cool store. I'll definitely be back.'"

IF YOU GO

Fort Road Cannabis is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. More information is available at [fortroadcannabis.com](http://fortroadcannabis.com).

**NOW OPEN!**  
**899 RANDOLPH ST. PAUL**  
 More information at [fortroadcannabis.com](http://fortroadcannabis.com)  
**(651) 352-2663**  
 OPEN  
 Tue-Thu 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
 Fri-Sat 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
 Sun 12 to 6 p.m.

Bring in this ad for  
**20% OFF**  
 any unregulated item  
 EXPIRES 4/30/26

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Tiffany's Sports Lounge offers classic comfort food and genuine hospitality

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](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/community-spotlight) to see more spotlights and to have your business or organization featured.

This month, we are featuring Tiffany Sports Lounge. Check out their menu & make reservations at [tiffanysportslounge.com](http://tiffanysportslounge.com).

From Blake Montpetit, Owner:

**Please describe your business/efforts in Highland Park.** Tiffany Sports Lounge AKA "Tiff's" has been in my family for 55 years. My dad Danny Montpetit started the business in 1971. I'm grateful to continue that legacy, and have learned the ins and outs of hospitality having worked every job in the building — from dishwasher to bartender to now owner. That lived experience shapes how we operate every day. As Highland Park has grown, we've grown with it — doubling our footprint, expanding our menu and evolving our space — all while staying rooted in the values of hard work, hospitality and community involvement that built Tiff's in the first place.

We offer a welcoming, come-as-you-are atmosphere with classic comfort food, game-



Blake Montpetit with wife Cait and kids Siena, Ava and Brent.

day energy and genuine hospitality. Whether it's Friday Fish Fry during Lent, cheering on St. Thomas, hosting Breakfast with Santa or supporting local teams and nonprofits through our Tiff's Gives program, our focus is always on bringing people together.

What sets us apart is our commitment to community. We actively partner with local schools, youth sports programs and small businesses, giving back in meaningful ways and reinvesting in the neighborhood that has supported us for generations.

The most important thing for our neighbors to know is that we're proud to be part of this neighborhood, and grateful for the support we've received for more than five decades. Our goal is simple: take care of our guests and give back to the community that's taken care of us.

**What was the inspiration for doing the work you do?** Our inspiration comes from the responsibility of carrying forward a family legacy that began in 1971. We're motivated by the idea that a neighborhood restaurant can be part of people's life moments — from little league celebrations to post-game dinners to holiday traditions. Honoring that history while continuing to evolve is what drives us every day.

**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.

**LIQUOR BARREL**  
 WEST 7th ST. PAUL

**OPEN MON-SAT 9AM-10PM SUN 11AM-6PM**

<b>MONTELOBOS ESPADIN MEZCAL</b> <b>\$34.97</b> <small>750ML</small>	<b>MODIST SUPRA LIGHT</b> <b>\$11.97</b> <small>12 OZ CANS</small>	<b>SEGURA VIUDAS TRADITIONAL CAVA</b> <b>\$7.97</b> <small>750ML</small>
--	--	--

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. EXPIRES 4-30-26. VALID AT LIQUOR BARREL, WEST 7TH, ST. PAUL ONLY.

**LIQUOR BARREL WEST 7TH - ST. PAUL 665 7TH STREET WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55102 651-222-6811 LIQUORBARREL.COM**

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### NOTEBOOK RECOLLECTIONS

## Tales From The Vault: "Stop And Smell The Pizza."



**TIM RUMSEY**  
columnist

**September 1998.**

I heard loud noises coming from the Clinic lab. Furniture tipping over, glass shattering. People shouting and crying. Dr. Ravi and I ran down the hall to the Lab waiting room.

A large print of Monet's "Lily Pads" hung crazily from the wall. Triangles

of glass stuck straight out from the frame. A wild looking young male patient hoisted a chair and flung into a corner. Then he bent over and started sailing glass shards into the Lab where 3 techs were crouched behind the counter. The remaining patients scattered out of the area.

We didn't recognize the fellow.

Ravi talked, calm and quiet. He asked the guy to sit down a sec.

He sat down.

We sat down on either side of him. He rubbed an index card sized piece of glass back and forth against his neck. He laughed. He yelled.

Ravi and I put a hand on each of his arms. He seemed to calm down. I motioned for the Lab people to ease away.

Dr. Brian rounded a corner, stopping suddenly when she saw us.

The guy jumped up, and sidearmed his shard of glass at her as hard as he could.

Missing her face, it smashed on the wall behind her.

Dr. Brian froze in place. Ravi and I stood up alongside the troubled young man. He gave Dr. Brian a desperate stare. He took fast, heaving breaths. As Dr. Brian started to back away, he suddenly lunged at her. I tackled low, Ravi tackled high. The guy spat, and snapped and flailed about. We finally were able to calm him down.

Dr. Brian called 911 from a wall phone, but help was already on the way. Four paramedics

charged into the Lab area from one entrance while three police entered from the opposite door. Dr. Brian gave a quick update to the police.

The paramedics helped him up and onto a stretcher. The scene changed to one of quiet and calm as they removed the young man from the building enroute to the Hospital Emergency Room.

After a few minutes to absorb all that had just occurred, Ravi said "Well, that wasn't exactly your ideal doctor-patient encounter."

In the midst of all this, pizza that the staff had ordered earlier for lunch had arrived. The pizza delivery guy threaded through a paramedic van and two cop cars and an unmarked squad. Our local, all-star cab driver, Tex, had also surveyed the scene.

Commenting on all the commotion that he had just observed, he wryly asked a nurse, "What kind of pizza was it?"



## FEDERATION UPDATE



### ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 13, 6-8 PM

Connect with neighbors, chat with local organizations and city departments, and learn about projects happening across the West 7th neighborhood. We're excited to welcome special guest speaker Mayor Her to our meeting this year. We'll share highlights from the past year and look ahead at what's next as we continue building community together. Our annual election will also take place at the meeting! Food provided. Beverages available for purchase.

### REVITALIZE WEST 7TH

Grants for small businesses up to \$10,000 for facade improvements available. Applications close April 17.

### DINE TO DONATE APRIL 22, 4-8 PM

Join us for community, celebration and great food at A-Side Public House. During the dine to donate a portion of sales will be donated to the West 7th/Fort Road Federation.

### SPRING CLEAN UP APRIL 25 11-1 PM

Join us at Pleasant Place (corner of Garfield & Harrison) for a family-friendly spring cleanup! We'll provide all the supplies you need to help freshen up our neighborhood. Enjoy some snacks and beverages as we celebrate Earth Day together! It's a great way to give back, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with neighbors. More info [fortroadfed.org](http://fortroadfed.org)

### UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Transportation & Land Use**, April 1, 6:30 pm
- **Engagement & Fundraising**, April 28, 6:30 pm

### 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

### LIBRARY UPDATE

## Learn Tarot for Free at Saint Paul Public Library

Have you ever been curious about tarot—the symbols, the books, the traditions behind them? This April, indulge in two evenings of Tarot exploration at West 7th Library. Whether you're new to tarot or dabbled into the cards before, these classes are designed for everyone. Learn from instructor Nell Morningstar Ubbelohde, who has been reading tarot cards for more than 50 years and teaching for several decades. These sessions are a part of an Intro to Tarot Cards series — and the best part? You can jump right in at any point! Bring your own cards or use one provided. Want to bring a deck home? Check one out for yourself [sppl.org/](http://sppl.org/)

**Intro to Tarot Cards - The Major Arcana**  
Monday, April 6, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Intro to Tarot Cards - The Minor Arcana and Court cards** Monday, April 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Registration required. Register for free at [sppl.org/](http://sppl.org/) events.

### Events at West 7th Library

Find more events at [sppl.org/events](http://sppl.org/events).  
Playdate @ West 7th – Tuesdays, 3–5 p.m.  
Family Storytime – Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.  
ECFE – Monday, April 13, 2 – 3 p.m.

### Chinese Calligraphy

April 27, 1 PM – 2:30PM Registration required.  
Register for free at [sppl.org/events](http://sppl.org/events).



### FESTIVAL pg 1

to participating cultures.

Heckler said the festival aims to balance traditional cultural expressions with contemporary ones.

"You need to find that correct balance," he said. "You want it to be where both are there."

### A focus on education

Education is a central part of the festival's programming.

The first day of the event will include school visits, continuing a longstanding tradition from the earlier festival. More than 5,000 students had already registered for field trips as of early March, according to organizers.

Heckler said the educational component is one of the core reasons the festival was revived.

"We wouldn't start this without a school day," he said.

The festival has also partnered with the Minnesota Humanities Center to develop educational materials for teachers and students to use before and after visiting the event.

### Roots dating back nearly a century

The International Festival of Minnesota builds on a cultural tradition that dates back more than 90 years.

The International Institute of Minnesota first organized a multicultural event called "Homelands Exhibits" in 1932 at the St. Paul YWCA. Fifteen nationality groups participated, and about 3,500 people attended, according to the Minnesota Historical Society.

By 1936 the event had evolved into the first

Festival of Nations, held at the St. Paul Civic Auditorium. Architect Dorothy Ingemann designed decorative facades forming a "world village," where cultural groups presented exhibits and food booths.

The festival continued to expand over the decades. It eventually became an annual event and moved to the St. Paul River Centre in 1998. In later years it featured more than 100 ethnic groups, international food cafés, dance and music performances, and a cultural bazaar.

The event also reflected changing immigration patterns in Minnesota, with new communities joining as the state's population diversified.

The most recent Festival of Nations was

**FESTIVAL pg 10**



## WELCOME TO KESSLER & MAGUIRE FUNERAL HOME

*We offer a gentle hand of support and guidance during one of life's most challenging times.*

*Our compassionate team understands the importance of celebrating and honoring the unique life of your loved one. We are committed to providing a tranquil and respectful setting where families can gather, reflect, and find solace.*

*Our dedication lies in helping you navigate through this period with grace and dignity, ensuring that every detail is handled with care and reverence.*

**KESSLER & MAGUIRE FUNERAL HOME**  
640 West 7th St, St. Paul MN 55102  
**651-224-2341**



### ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

April 16, 6:30 p.m. Summit Brewing. Gather with neighbors, learn about the latest in Highland and meet the candidates who'd like to represent you on our board. [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/2026election](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/2026election)

### JOIN HDC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Submit your application by April 9 at 5 p.m. Learn more and apply at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/2026election](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/2026election)

### SHEPARD ROAD CLOSURE BEGINS APRIL 20

Shepard is closed between Lexington Pkwy and Otto Ave (including the I-35E entrance ramp) as MNDOT works to replace the aging I-35E bridge over Shepard and make road repairs to the I-35E Mississippi River bridge. View full presentation at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/road-projects](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/road-projects). Project page: [dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35estpaul-lilydale](http://dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35estpaul-lilydale)

### PRESENTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER GORGE

April 21, 6:30pm. Highland Park Community Center, Auditorium, 1978 Ford Pkwy. "From Rapids to Reservoirs & Back Again? A presentation by John O. Anfinson, PhD. For the first time since the Twin Cities' founding, we have an opportunity to redefine the Mississippi River in the heart of the Twin Cities. In 2014, Congress directed the U.S Army Corps of Engineers to permanently close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock. This ended commercial barge traffic there and at the next two locks and dams downstream: the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. Now the Corps wants to leave all three. Learn more at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/)



**WEST 7TH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
265 Oneida, St. Paul  
651-298-5493  
[keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org)

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

## Register for Meals on Wheels

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. To learn more or to sign up to receive Meals on Wheels, call Metro Meals on Wheels at 612-623-3363 and they will find the provider in your neighborhood. For basic information,

## Get in Gear with 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



## MACALESTER-GROVELAND SPEAKER SERIES: MAYOR KAOHLY HER

April 8, 7 p.m. Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Free. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is hosting a Speaker Series event featuring St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her. Residents are invited to hear directly from the mayor on city priorities, community initiatives and issues affecting St. Paul neighborhoods. Open to all community members, the gathering provides a welcoming setting for discussion on the future of St. Paul and the role residents play in shaping it. Learn more at [macgrove.org](http://macgrove.org).

### COMMON CENT INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

April 8, 5:30–6:30 p.m. Online. Free. A long-term initiative funded by the city's 1% sales tax to improve streets, bridges, parks and recreation facilities over the next 20 years. The sessions will provide updates on the five-year capital improvement plan and outline upcoming construction projects across the city. Attendees will learn how projects are prioritized and have the opportunity to ask questions directly to Public Works staff. The virtual meetings offer the same presentation, making it accessible for residents to engage in planning efforts that will shape the city's infrastructure for decades to come. More info: [stpaul.gov/pw5yrplan](http://stpaul.gov/pw5yrplan)

### COOLEST PROJECTS USA (MINNESOTA)

April 11. Science Museum of Minnesota. Free to attend; registration required for participants. The Raspberry Pi Foundation hosts this national showcase for young creators using code and digital technology. Participants ages 18 and under can present projects ranging from apps and web design to hardware builds. Functions like a science fair for coding, offering personalized feedback, certificates, T-shirts and swag. Registration closes March 27. More info: [coolestprojects.org](http://coolestprojects.org)

### TOT TIME SPRING FLING

April 21, 9:30–10:30 a.m. Highland Park Community Center. Young children ages 5 and under and their caregivers are invited to this playful spring celebration featuring age-appropriate activities and social time. Adults must accompany children.

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT NOECKER WITH WARD 3 COUNCILMEMBER SAURA JOST

April 28, 4–5 p.m. Highland Park Library. Free. Residents are invited to an informal gathering for community members to share ideas, ask questions and discuss neighborhood concerns. Info: [stpaul.gov/department/city-council/ward-2](http://stpaul.gov/department/city-council/ward-2).

### DOWNTOWN ACTION SERIES

April 23, 4–6 p.m. Union Depot. Free. The series brings together residents, leaders, and organizations to explore ideas and initiatives shaping downtown St. Paul. More info: [stpaul.gov/department/city-council/ward-2](http://stpaul.gov/department/city-council/ward-2). April 23, June 18, August 27

### THE GALLERY POP-UP EXHIBITION

April 13–19 (hours vary). Wells Fargo Place Skyway Level. Free. Curator Anthony T. Eaton presents an exhibition featuring regional artists working across visual art, multimedia and immersive installations, creating a dynamic environment that connects art, business and the public. By activating underused spaces, THE GALLERY aims to increase access to the arts while supporting local creatives.

### OUTDOOR SPRING CLEAN-UP

April 25, 10–11 a.m. C.S.P.S. Hall grounds, West 7th. Free. Sokol Minnesota Youth Link teens invite families to help pick up litter around the hall grounds. Volunteers of all ages welcome; contact organizers to participate. [sokolmn.org/all-events](http://sokolmn.org/all-events).

### BLAST FROM THE PAST — GALA EDITION

April 18, 7–11 p.m. C.S.P.S. Hall, West 7th. \$15 prepaid; \$20 at the door. Dance the night away to live Slovczech brass band music. Enjoy drinks, goulash and festive company at this lively community gala. Prepayment recommended. [sokolmn.org/all-events](http://sokolmn.org/all-events).

### SPRING CRAFT FAIR

April 18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Edgcombe Recreation Center. Shop handmade goods and local crafts at this community craft fair. Interested vendors should contact the recreation center at 651-695-3711 for booth information. [facebook.com/EdgcombeRec](https://facebook.com/EdgcombeRec).

### SHREDDING DAY

April 18, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. 1460 Grand Ave. Free. Protect yourself from identity theft by bringing up to five boxes of documents for secure onsite shredding. Hosted by The Odd Couple Team. [theoddcoupleteam.com/about/doing-good-in-the-neighborhood](http://theoddcoupleteam.com/about/doing-good-in-the-neighborhood).



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

## FESTIVAL, PG 9

held in 2019 before the event paused for several years.

### Looking ahead

For organizers, the return of the festival is both a revival and an opportunity to reshape the event for today's Minnesota.

Heckler said the goal is to create a space where people can connect directly with the cultural traditions represented across the state. "Without the community groups here in

the Twin Cities and Minnesota, there would be no festival," he said.

### If you go

The International Festival of Minnesota, April 10–11, St. Paul RiverCentre.

Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$10 for youth ages 8–14. Children 7 and younger are admitted free. Advance tickets carry a \$3 fee, while tickets purchased at the door do not include additional charges.

More information is available at [ifestmn.org](http://ifestmn.org).

## RAPID TRANSIT, PG 3

about whether the latest plan will deliver meaningful change or face the same challenges as its predecessors.

### Funding remains the biggest hurdle

The largest unresolved question is funding.

The collapse of the Riverview Corridor was largely driven by cost, with estimates reaching into the billions. That challenge resurfaced in 2025 when the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners reallocated nearly \$1 billion in transportation sales tax revenue — much of it previously earmarked for Riverview — to other projects, leaving West 7th without a dedicated funding source.

City leaders are now seeking renewed support through their 2026 legislative agenda, which calls for multi-year state investment in the West 7th corridor. The proposal positions the project as critical to economic development, transit access and overall corridor revitalization.

Without significant state and federal funding, however, both the roadway reconstruction and the J Line could face further delays or scaled-back ambitions.

### What comes next

With the corridor now officially designated

as the J Line, Metro Transit is expected to begin detailed planning and community engagement later this year. That process will refine station locations, service plans and design elements, while coordinating closely with roadway reconstruction efforts.

If funding can be secured and planning stays on schedule, construction could begin in the early 2030s, with service launching sometime between 2030 and 2035.

For a corridor that has spent decades in planning limbo, the timeline may still feel distant. But for the first time in years, officials say there is a clear — if incremental — path forward.

"This is a very important line for the East Metro," Barber said. "And I'm really, really happy and proud of all the work they did."

Whether the J Line ultimately delivers on long-promised improvements for West 7th may depend on something that has eluded the corridor for years: sustained funding, coordinated leadership and the ability of multiple agencies to finally move in the same direction.

**Read more:** [metrotransit.org/arterial-brt-plan](http://metrotransit.org/arterial-brt-plan).

## REVIEW pg 4

by the overall spectacle. What's certain is that this is a dark, tragic and overwhelming experience. Amidst the highly stylized presentation is a story of dangerous and toxic love that envelops everything around it. I found it haunting me for days after I saw it.

"Wuthering Heights" is available to rent or buy on all major streaming platforms.

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).

## ART CRAWL pg 6

This April, as studios open their doors and artists share their work, the message behind the crawl is clear: creativity is not just something to observe — it is something to experience together.

### LEARN MORE

- For dates, venues, and more: visit [stpaulartcollective.org/spac-spring-art-crawl-2026](http://stpaulartcollective.org/spac-spring-art-crawl-2026).
- Get a copy of the Draw Together coloring book at [stpaulartcollective.org/draw-together](http://stpaulartcollective.org/draw-together).
- Find out what is happening at the Schmidt Schmidartists.com

## GALLERY pg 7

to write in the basement on the wall when they quit," Jacobson said. "There are names and dates going back to the 30s."

"I know there's one, Ben-Hur 45 A.D., that I think might not be legit," he said.

Hartzler and Jacobson say preserving that sense of continuity is part of their goal.

"We just want to take good care of this place," Hartzler said. "It feels like something that's valuable to the community."

### IF YOU GO

Grand Hand Gallery is located at 1338 Grand Ave. in St. Paul. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Wednesday and Friday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and closed Monday.

More information is available at [thegrandhand.com](http://thegrandhand.com).

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

**ST PAUL TREE CARE** 651-401-7873. Services: Removal, Emergency Service. [stpaultreecare.com](http://stpaultreecare.com)

**PERSONAL SERVICES:** Reliable support for everyday tasks - cleaning, errands, pet care & more. Downtown St. Paul. Email: [aceoftradesllc8984@gmail.com](mailto:aceoftradesllc8984@gmail.com)

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

**TOP CASH PAID!** Older furniture — Beer items — Old clothing — Sports items — Advertising signs — MISCELLANEOUS. Wescott's Station, 226 W. 7th. 651-227-2469

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

**LEITNER'S**  
Great Prices • Local Delivery

**GARDEN CENTER**  
BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS & PLANTS  
945 Randolph Ave, St. Paul

**LANDSCAPE CENTER**  
ALL YOUR HARDSCAPE NEEDS  
630 Juno Ave, St. Paul

**651-291-2655**

**Lamp Repair**  
489 West Seventh  
**651-600-3470**  
[modilumi.com](http://modilumi.com)

**HANDY MR. LARRY FOR HIRE**

I do painting, repairs and cleaning of homes and apartments.

**651-399-4304**  
Insured • Gutter Cleaning & Repairs

**Toenail Clipping in your home**

RN and certified foot care nurse will clip your long, thick and troublesome toenails.

**612-293-5504 or 507-475-1434**  
[joyfulfeet@yahoo.com](mailto:joyfulfeet@yahoo.com)

SOCIETY OF  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**TWIN CITIES**  
*Hope in action.®*

**NOW OPEN!**  
Mon-Fri 9:30 am-4:30 pm  
Sat 9:30 am-3 pm

**DONATION HOURS\***  
Mon-Fri 10 am-4:30 pm

\*CALL FOR LIST OF ACCEPTABLE DONATION ITEMS

461 West 7th St • St. Paul  
**651-227-1332**

**Wills Trusts Probate**  
Guardianship Real Estate

**Melanie Liska**  
Attorney at Law  
651-699-5472  
[mliska@tl-attorneys.com](mailto:mliska@tl-attorneys.com)

**TARRANT & LISKA, P.L.L.C.**  
1570 Concordia Avenue Suite 200  
St. Paul MN 55104

**Keystone**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Keeping older adults active through fitness classes, wellness events and social activities.

Learn more about Active Seniors:  
[keystoneservices.org/activities](http://keystoneservices.org/activities)

# 60TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

**D**espite the blustery day and still digging out from the record storm that dumped over 10 inches of snow over the weekend, hundreds of people braved the chilly temperatures and came out in full force to celebrate the 60th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown St. Paul March 17. The festive atmosphere was electric, with parade-goers of all ages donning their best Kelly green and enjoying the day's festivities. To view more St. Patrick's Day Parade photos, visit [communityreporter.org](http://communityreporter.org). -- *Damian Goebel*




**moloney's**  
IRISH IMPORTS  
Bringing Irish Spirit to  
the Heart of St. Paul

Visit us at  
1124 Grand Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105  
[moloneysimports.com](http://moloneysimports.com)



**Spring Art Crawl**  
**Schmidt on W. 7th**  
**April 17-19, 2026**  
 Friday 6-9PM | Sat 12-7PM | Sun 12-5PM

Poster designed by Shannon Walbran

**Schmidt Artist Lofts**  
 900 7th St W, Saint Paul, MN 55102  
 Brewhouse Door 1

[www.schmidtartists.com](http://www.schmidtartists.com)  
[theschmidtartcrawl@gmail.com](mailto:theschmidtartcrawl@gmail.com)



**SAINT PAUL ART COLLECTIVE**



**EXPERIENCED**  
**ST. PAUL LAWYERS ON YOUR SIDE**

**INJURED?**  
 PERSONAL INJURY • MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS  
 MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE • ACCIDENTS  
**OVER \$200 MILLION RECOVERED FOR OUR CLIENTS.**  
 Free Case Evaluation.

**S&G**  
**SWOR & GATTO**  
 Minnesota Personal Injury Lawyers

**Marcus Gatto**  
 Swor & Gatto, P.A.  
 1177 West 7th Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55102  
 651-454-3600  
[marcusg@sworgatto.com](mailto:marcusg@sworgatto.com)  
 651-454-4827 (fax)

**SWOR & GATTO IS COMMITTED TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**  
 Advises students and administration at Mitchell Hamline Law School  
 Supports local Latino organizations  
 Committed to the revitalization of the West 7th corridor

**FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING DAY!**

Bring up to 5 boxes of papers to securely shred.  
 Hosted by The Odd Couple Team as part of our ongoing effort to give back to the community.

**April 18, 2026**  
**10am-1pm**  
**1460 Grand Avenue**

**THE ODD COUPLE TEAM**  
**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**

**TheOddCoupleTeam.com**  
**651-492-6423**



**WEST END GARAGE SALE**

**MAY 30-31**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WIDE GARAGE SALE WEEKEND!**

**MORE INFO:**  
**WWW.FORTROADFED.ORG**



**WEST SEVENTH / FORT ROAD FEDERATION** **RAMSEY COUNTY**  
 Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health