

Community REPORTER

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



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VOL. 56 NO. 7

JULY 2026

CIRCULATION 14,000

DISTRICT PERSPECTIVES

Talking TIF 2026

BY TOM BASGEN, LEGISLATIVE AIDE, WARD 3

Tax Increment Financing is in the news again and, like clockwork, former elected officials and are having big opinions on something they don't seem to understand. Seems like time to do a quick TIF explainer.

I have put off writing about it because, frankly, it is books-level boring and normal people should not have to learn about it. But since some politics in our fair city seem to want to make it a bone of political contention I will attempt to edify in a way that keeps your interest.

Before we go one step further, you do not have to take my word for anything. There is a TIF Bible to read instead if you think I am a suspicious manipulator (which I am). You can read the source material written by the people who wrote the rules for TIF in the very first place. I have begged TIF haters to read it, they either haven't or failed to comprehend it. I cannot blame them: it is very boring. You can find the TIF Bible at this link: house.mn.gov/hrd/issinfo/tifmain.aspx

What Is TIF?

Great question! TIF is a state regulated finance tool for cities to encourage development by paying for public benefits like streets, sidewalks, sewers and water. It can also be used to encourage developers to construct buildings and other private improvements to land. What it really does is help bring banks to the table to loan money to developers by financializing increased projected taxes and projected property values to use today. Before 1986 we used to just do the loan ourselves via municipal bonds, but Ronald Reagan blew that whole system up. Now we have to do ricochet financing with TIF.

I Didn't Understand A Word Of That!

We're gonna use future taxes to invest in stuff we want to build right now which will create more future taxes.

I've Heard Some Wild Stuff About TIF, Disprove It!

You've probably heard it's a "give away to developers." It's not. In the Development Industry TIF is considered an administratively burdensome funding source. In layman's terms that means TIF is a pain in the ass, work wise. They don't like it and they whine about it.

You've probably heard that TIF is the reason the City has no money and why your dang property taxes are going up. It's not. The list of reasons we have no money has some infinitely more relevant items on it far above an obscure financing tool from the state. Think "the collapse of downtown property values from COVID and the work from home era," perhaps you've heard of Amazon and the destruction of local retail and small business, digitization of large parts of the economy, the abdication of responsibility and funding from both the federal and state government, inflation, take your pick.

I Need An Example!

You got it. I think about TIF in 5 different parts. 1. A Fence 2. A Photo 3. A Loan 4. A Building 5. A Payment Plan

Here's the example. Let's pretend we've got an old abandoned Burger King and we want to turn it into apartments.

A Fence

Simple enough, it's the border we draw around the parcel we want to develop, typically vacant land or a crummy property in need of improvement: our stinky old Burger King.

A Photo

We figure out what the property is worth and what the taxes are on it right now. Our old Burger King sucks, it pays \$1000 in taxes every year. The apartments we want to build

TIF, PG 6

How St. Paul Organizations Are Putting Commercial Corridor Dollars to Work

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

Drivers entering St. Paul on West 7th Street are now greeted by a colorful mural featuring some of the city's most recognizable landmarks.

Painted on the side of VanGo Auto near the western gateway to the city, the artwork incorporates the Schmidt Brewery complex, the Highland water tower, the High Bridge and even the iconic Highland Theater sign. Elements of Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night" swirl through the design — a fitting touch for a business named VanGo Auto.

"We never thought of the artist when we were picking a name, but everyone else thinks of him," said Crystal Frank-Shannon, who owns the business with her husband, Jordan Frank-Shannon.

The mural is one of dozens of projects funded through St. Paul's Commercial Corridor Program, a city initiative that is quietly reshaping business districts across southwest St. Paul.

Created as part of the city's 2025 budget, the program dedicated \$1.4 million in Economic Development STAR funds to 18 commercial corridors throughout the city. Rather than directing projects from City Hall, the city allocated funding to District Councils and business organizations already working within those neighborhoods.

The result has been a series of locally driven investments that reflect the unique character and needs of each corridor.

St. Paul's West End and its neighbors include five of the 18 designated commercial corridors; the east and west ends of West 7th, Highland Village (which includes portions of Snelling, Ford and Cleveland) and the eastern Grand Avenue and the Grand and Snelling nodes.

CORRIDOR pg 2



VanGo Auto used Commercial Corridor funding through the Highland District Council to have a new mural painted welcoming people to St. Paul.



The Macalester-Groveland Community Council celebrated the Grand opening of their on-street bike corrals on May 8, 2026.



The 620 Club took advantage of the West 7th VIBE program for their new mural.

Stop For Me Campaign Returns Amid Rise In Pedestrian Deaths

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

Community volunteers and St. Paul police officers gathered along West 7th on June 22 as part of the city's renewed Stop For Me pedestrian safety campaign, an effort aimed at improving driver compliance with Minnesota's crosswalk laws and reducing traffic crashes involving people walking.

The enforcement and education event took place at the marked crosswalk on West 7th in front of Day by Day Cafe near Goodrich Street. During the event, a plainclothes St. Paul police officer crossed the street with volunteers while monitoring driver behavior. Officers in marked squad cars stopped motorists who failed to yield the right-of-way and provided education about Minnesota's crosswalk laws.

Stop For Me is a partnership among the St. Paul Police Department, Sustain St. Paul, community organizations and residents. The volunteer-led initiative began in 2014 and has been led by the police department since 2015. In addition to enforcement, volunteers and officers collect observations that are shared with St. Paul Public Works to help identify potential street and crossing improvements.

Under Minnesota law, drivers must stop and yield to pedestrians crossing within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection where no crosswalk markings exist. Drivers must remain stopped until the pedestrian has safely passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped.

The June 22 event comes as city officials express growing concern over pedestrian safety. According to city crash data, St. Paul recorded 31 pedestrian crashes, 21 injuries and four pedestrian fatalities during the first three



Volunteers and the SPDD worked to educate drivers on June 22 as part of a Stop For Me event on West 7th.

months of 2026. Police officials say a pedestrian is struck by a vehicle in St. Paul roughly once every other day.

The campaign was revived this year following a series of fatal crashes. As of late May, five pedestrians had died in traffic crashes in St. Paul during 2026.

One of those deaths occurred May 26 on West 7th Street near Watson Avenue. According to St. Paul police, a man was struck and killed by a sport-utility vehicle while crossing the street. Preliminary information indicated the pedestrian was not in a crosswalk. The crash

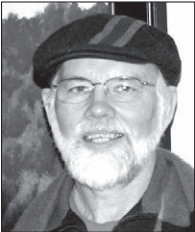
prompted renewed calls for safety improvements along the West 7th corridor.

City officials say enforcement alone will not solve the problem. Recent street redesigns, including traffic-calming measures, pedestrian refuge areas and improved crossings, are intended to reduce vehicle speeds and make streets safer. Organizers of Stop For Me hope the campaign's combination of education, enforcement and community involvement will encourage both drivers and pedestrians to remain alert and help prevent future tragedies.



COMMUNITY VOICES

BUILDING COMMUNITY
Maintenance and Repair



TIM JOHNSON
columnist

After a reasonably long drive home, stopping at Cossetta for takeout lasagna sounded just right. Neither my wife nor I felt like preparing a meal. We headed down 7th Street relieved to see there was no long line snaking around the corner waiting to enter the restaurant parking lot. But then, of course, we encountered road construction with a no left turn sign on Chestnut. “No problem,” we thought, we will just drive down 7th Street, make a U-Turn and come back; except for continued road construction and another no U-Turn sign we encountered. Our next intended turn was also met with a similar prohibition. We eventually made it to Cosetta. We are in a season of repair and maintenance and as frustrating as this can be, we all know it needs to be done. We may question why it takes as long as it does with city streets torn up and work getting done at what feels like a snail’s

pace. But, few of us question the need for repair and maintenance. I once had the privilege, and to be honest, at times frustration, of serving on the City’s Capital Improvement Budget Committee, which makes recommendations to the City Council on funding for capital improvement projects. The projects are proposed by District Councils and by various entities under city jurisdictions from Recreation Centers to Fire Stations. Choices have to be made about what takes priority in terms of need. The problem we encountered is that the prior administration had sought to bolster the mayor’s fiscally conservative credentials by keeping taxes flat at the cost of ignoring basic things like leaky roofs and crumbling mortar. A backlog of repair and maintenance had gotten worse and more expensive because the needs had been ignored. Homeowners and renters know the consequence of ignoring fundamental issues of repair and maintenance. Ignored things only get worse. Perhaps the bigger challenge when it comes to maintenance and repair is not the leaky roof or the crumbling steps, where negligence becomes inescapable, but rather the maintenance and repair required for living in relationship and community. Happy

marriages never just happen by chance. They are the direct result of two people discovering shared interests, listening to one another, compromising, and being intentional about the future they are building together. Lasting relationships are built on simple maintenance tasks like taking on extra household chores when your partner is sick, having a cup of coffee ready after a morning shower, and saying the difficult words “I am sorry” when that healing salve is needed. Relationship maintenance also includes the joy of a night out at a concert, an evening at the theatre, or walking together through the park. What never works is pretending as if a happy marriage just happens without maintenance and care. The same is true for living in community. The healthiest community, the strongest communities are those where people step up, volunteer, find ways to contribute and make a difference, even if it is only picking up the litter in front of one’s residence. Community requires maintenance, attention and care if it is to be a place where people thrive. The Minneapolis City Council and the Mayor recently invested over a million dollars to help repair the broken relationships that had developed so they might more effectively carry on the business of the

City. If it helps improve their relationship and make them more effective, it is money well spent. But, they could have saved that investment if they had spent more time with intentional maintenance like the *Community Reporter* is presently doing by hosting community listening and sharing gatherings. In recent years there have been modest efforts to begin addressing historic harm done to Indigenous people and American descendants of slavery. It is called reparations, and is part of the same fabric of maintenance and repair required by our city infrastructure and our personal relationships. Under our present national leadership, with its denial of history and embrace of division as a source of power, we are further than ever from addressing this essential need for repair. But, a day will come when we grow weary of our crumbling national life and the desire will grow to see our common life made whole. In the meantime, we can attend to our city streets, our home lives and the community we cherish, doing the ongoing maintenance and repair that is always needed. It may take some effort, but from personal experience, I can attest it is well worth it, as was the lasagna from Cossetta we enjoyed after a long drive home.

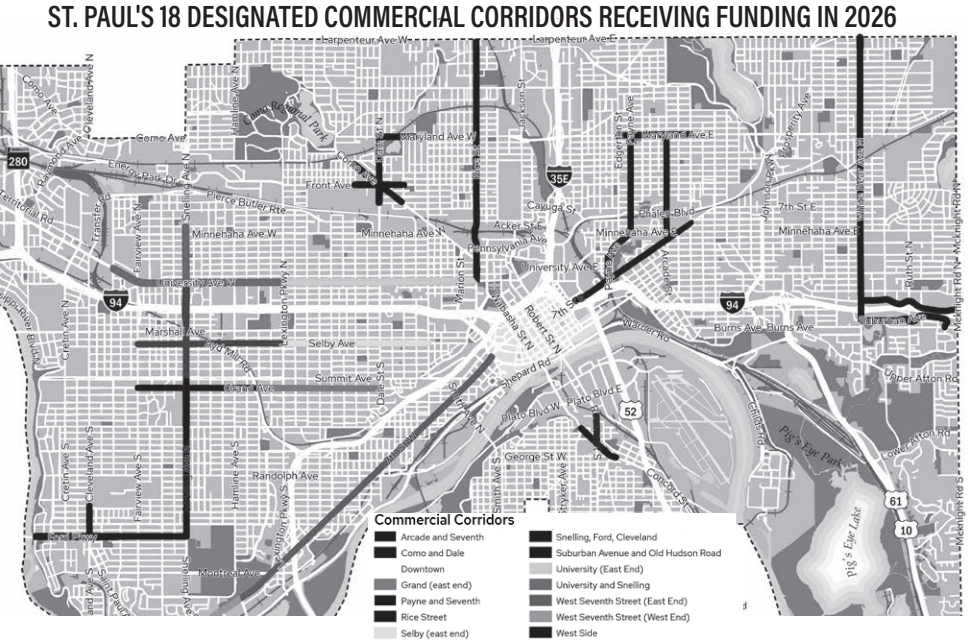
NOTEBOOK RECOLLECTIONS
50 Years in West 7th, the Conclusion



TIM RUMSEY
columnist

We last looked at the United Family Medicine Clinic history in the Feb ‘26 *Community Reporter*. A cherished CR reader stopped me in Day by Day last week. She asked me why it was taking 100 years to finish the 50 year history of UFP/HH? Fair enough. I said it’s been hard to read the daily news these days with your eyes closed. “All the bad news,” I offered. “Sure,” she said. “But you have good news, I should think.” Cool. “You’re right,” I said. So I launched into an eloquent, efficient snapshot. 1972 - Helping Hands starts next to Mancini’s in a former Hub Cap shop as a “Free Clinic.” 1974 - HH moves across West 7th into the former Little Bohemian Bakery, where I begin my medical career after completing my internship. HH was part of the nationwide Free Clinic movement already in motion. 1978 - HH moves once again, this time to the western end of Mancini’s Steak House. Literally, into a night club! HH back door opens into Mancini’s Fireside Room. 1980 - HH moves into the basement of the Ad Agency Building, across the alley from Mancini’s. 1984 - In the years that followed Doctors Ravi, Kally Macken, Brad Toso, Louise Mattsen, Katie Guthrie and Mike Mercer joined the practice. Also, during this time period we partnered with United Hospital and formed a brand new Family Practice Residency program. Many busy and productive years followed. 2004 - UFP Health Center becomes an independent community based clinic doing business as United Family Medicine. 2009 - UFM moves to their new location at the corner of West 7th St and Randolph Ave. This state-of-the-art, brand new building was made possible by a \$14 million capital campaign, funding by Peter J. King Foundation, McGough Construction, Allina Health and countless donations from the community. Public art funding to create outdoor sculptures was led by artist John Yust. 2012 - UFM was awarded federally qualified health care accreditation. By 2019 UFM was serving 15,000 patients per year! 2019 - December, our new CEO plans to rename the Clinic in 2020. 2020 - The world is challenged by the arrival of COVID. Among many changes implemented by the CEO, the Clinic Physicians are denied access to telemedicine visits with their patients during COVID. In August, the CEO sent a letter of intent to

CORRIDOR, PG 1 For VanGo Auto, the funding created an opportunity that otherwise would not have existed. “As the first business you see coming into St. Paul, we are always trying to beautify our property,” Crystal Frank-Shannon said. Jordan Frank-Shannon said the business would not have been able to complete the project without the grant funding. “It’s a nice little welcome to this part of St. Paul,” he said. The mural serves as a visible example of how the Highland District Council has approached the Commercial Corridor Program. The council administers funding for both the western section of West 7th Street, from Homer Street to Wheeler Street, and the Highland commercial district centered around Ford Parkway, Snelling Avenue and Cleveland Avenue. Rather than focusing primarily on large events, the organization has directed funding toward projects that improve the appearance and visibility of individual businesses while strengthening the broader corridor. Among the first grant recipients were Joan’s in the Park, Sew Inviting, Dancers Studio and VanGo Auto. Projects included storefront improvements, awnings, window displays, murals and marketing partnerships. The investments are designed to create a stronger first impression for visitors while helping existing businesses remain competitive. A different strategy has emerged on the eastern portion of West 7th Street. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation has used Commercial Corridor dollars to launch arts-focused programs intended to strengthen the neighborhood’s identity and attract visitors. Its VIBE program — Vibrant Initiatives for Businesses and Events Activation — funded murals, public art, sculptures, photography projects and community events throughout the corridor between downtown and Homer Street. Recipients included a mural at the historic 620 Club, a sculpture and trellis installation at Bad Weather Brewing Company, community arts projects, neighborhood history initiatives and small-scale events designed to bring people onto the corridor. The organization later expanded those efforts through a dedicated mural grant program supporting new public art projects along West 7th. While West 7th’s investments have often focused on public art and placemaking, Grand Avenue organizations have taken yet another approach. The avenue has faced years of economic pressure from construction projects, changing



retail patterns and rising operating costs. Leaders there saw Commercial Corridor funding as an opportunity to stabilize existing programming while continuing investments that help make Grand Avenue a destination. Kim O’Brien, executive director of the Grand Avenue Business Association, said the organization used the funding to support both events and beautification efforts. “GABA has used the Commercial Corridor Organization Assistance Program to further our mission to support Grand Avenue business success and promote our community as a unique destination experience,” O’Brien said. The association’s board prioritized maintaining long-standing community traditions, particularly Grand Old Day. Grand Old Day has lost money for the business association during the past three years, O’Brien said. Commercial Corridor funding has allowed the organization to continue the event without exposing the organization to financial risks it could not absorb on its own. “This fund enables us to do so without putting the business association at financial risk that it could not recover from,” O’Brien said. The funding has also supported initiatives designed to encourage people to spend more time along the corridor. Pianos, live music, flower baskets and holiday decorations have all received support through the program. “These are all initiatives that support the broader Grand Avenue business community,” O’Brien said. On the western section of Grand Avenue, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council has

emphasized direct business support to mitigate construction impacts, with about half the grants supporting operational expenses during the Grand Avenue reconstruction last summer, and corridor improvements. Victoria Miller, who manages the program for the MGCC, said the program has fundamentally changed how district councils can work with local businesses. “Being a financial partner to these businesses is something that, without the commercial corridor program grant, would have never been possible for a district council,” Miller said. Historically, district councils have served as advocates, conveners and neighborhood planners. The Commercial Corridor Program created an opportunity to become direct economic development partners, strengthening relationships between neighborhood organizations and business owners. “At the end of the day, we can provide meetings and we can change some things around from a city perspective,” Miller said. “But what the businesses need is money.” “I’ve learned so much about the businesses and know the owners because of this grant,” she added. That relationship-building becomes particularly valuable when businesses face challenges such as construction projects, infrastructure work or other disruptions. “When there is going to be something difficult ... we have a little bit of a relational equity built up with them,” Miller said. Although the projects vary widely, from murals and storefront improvements to

CORRIDOR, PG 6



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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

City of St. Paul Expands Public Access to Council Meetings Through YouTube

St. Paul residents now have another way to follow local government after the city launched live streaming of City Council meetings on YouTube.

The city announced that regular council meetings, committee meetings, Housing and Redevelopment Authority sessions and Library Board meetings are now available live through the city's official YouTube channel.

City officials said the move is designed to improve transparency and accessibility by allowing residents to watch meetings from any internet-connected device. Archived recordings also remain available for on-demand viewing.

Council President Rebecca Noecker called the expansion an important step in improving public access to city government. HRA Chair Cheniqua Johnson noted that many significant discussions about housing,

economic development and budgets occur during committee and HRA meetings.

The platform also provides automatic closed captioning and improved accessibility features for residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or use assistive technologies.

For residents who previously relied on cable television broadcasts or attending meetings in person, the new streaming option removes barriers to participation and civic engagement.

The change comes as local governments across Minnesota increasingly use digital platforms to broaden public access to meetings and decision-making processes.

Residents can watch live and archived meetings at youtube.com/stpaulgov. Meeting schedules are available at stpaul.gov.



EARLY VOTING FOR AUGUST PRIMARY NOW OPEN

Ramsey County voters are now able to cast ballots for Minnesota's Aug. 11 primary election.

County officials announced that three early voting locations will be available to residents from June 26 through Aug. 10, allowing voters to avoid lines on Election Day and cast ballots at whichever location is most convenient.

Voting sites include the Ramsey County Elections office in the Plato Building, Ramsey County Library in Roseville and Ramsey County Library in Shoreview.

Officials noted that voters are not required to use a polling location within their home city and may vote at any of the designated early voting sites.

Daily turnout information will be posted through Open Ramsey County, providing residents and election observers with regular updates on participation rates.

The primary election will determine party nominees for a range of federal, state and local offices appearing on the November ballot.

Election officials encourage voters to verify registration information and review ballot details before visiting a voting site.

Additional information is available through Ramsey County Elections at ramseycountymn.gov/residents/elections-voting.

LANDMARK CENTER OPENS REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER HISTORY TOURS

Landmark Center has opened registration for a series of free guided tours exploring St. Paul's architecture, geology and civic history throughout the summer.

The tours, offered on select Wednesdays through August, include three themed experiences: Rocky Roots, Rice Park and Uncle Sam Worked Here.

Rocky Roots examines the geological history and architectural significance of downtown St. Paul's stone buildings, while Rice Park tours explore the city's historic downtown park and surrounding cultural landmarks. Uncle Sam Worked Here focuses on Landmark Center's history as a federal government building and is part of programming tied to America's 250th anniversary.

Organizers said each tour lasts about an hour and requires advance registration due to limited space.

Landmark Center is also offering self-guided "Climb to the Top" experiences beginning July 1, providing visitors access to the building's North Tower and panoramic views of downtown Saint Paul.

The program highlights Landmark Center's role as one of the city's most significant historic buildings and provides opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about St. Paul's development through architecture and public spaces.

More information and reservations are available at: landmarkcenter.org/saint-paul-walking-tours.

CITY LAUNCHES DOWNTOWN VITALITY FUND TO SUPPORT HOUSING AND BUSINESS GROWTH

St. Paul is seeking interest from developers, businesses and nonprofit organizations for a new \$5 million Downtown Vitality Fund aimed at boosting investment and activity in the city's urban core.

The program dedicates \$3 million to housing projects and \$2 million to economic development initiatives within the Downtown Improvement District.

Eligible housing projects include affordable housing developments, redevelopment efforts and office-to-housing conversions. Economic development funding may support commercial building improvements, equipment purchases and public-facing enhancements such as outdoor seating, lighting and public art.

City officials say the initiative is designed to increase the number of downtown residents, activate vacant spaces

and strengthen the commercial environment as St. Paul continues efforts to revitalize its central business district.

Small businesses may be eligible for grants supporting capital improvements that enhance customer experiences or improve operations. Larger projects can receive forgivable loans tied to performance and reporting requirements.

Projects creating affordable housing and developments ready to move forward will receive priority consideration if funding demand exceeds available resources.

The program is part of broader efforts by city leaders, Ramsey County and downtown stakeholders to attract investment and increase activity in downtown St. Paul.

Interested organizations can begin the application process by submitting an online interest form.

More information is available at: stpaul.gov/departments/planning-and-economic-development/economic-development/downtown-vitality-fund.

TRIBAL INVESTMENT BACKS MAJOR GRAND AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT

A major redevelopment project on Grand Avenue has secured a significant new investment from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

Developers announced June 2 that the tribe will serve as a lead investor in The Grand Victoria, a mixed-use development planned for the former Victoria Crossing East Mall site at Grand and Victoria avenues.

The project will include 90 apartment units and more than 13,000 square feet of retail space. Construction is expected to begin this summer, with completion targeted for early 2028.

The development will replace a long-vacant site that once housed Billy's on Grand and other businesses. Plans call for boutique-style apartments, community amenities, underground parking and new retail tenants. Juut Salon is expected to return to the property after construction.

Mayor Kaohly Her said the project represents continued investment in one of St. Paul's most recognizable commercial corridors. The Grand Avenue corridor has experienced several redevelopment announcements in recent years as property owners and city officials seek to strengthen business activity and housing opportunities.

SMSC Chairman Cole Miller said the investment aligns with the tribe's long-term economic development strategy and commitment to supporting regional communities.

Afton Park Development is overseeing the project.

Supporters say the development will bring new residents, businesses and economic activity to the heart of Grand Avenue while helping revitalize a prominent site that has sat largely vacant for years.

More information is available at aftonpark.com and shakopeedakota.org.

NORTHERN COMMONS LAUNCHES SPEAKER SERIES

A new speaker series in Lowertown will invite residents to explore ideas about community, care and the future through conversations with writers, artists and scholars.

Northern Commons announced the launch of "Diverse Futures: Visions of Care in a Complex World," a five-month series beginning July 15 at 308 E. Prince St.

The opening event, titled "Who Broke the Future?," will feature author T. Aaron Cisco, an Afrofuturist writer whose work examines diversity, identity and speculative futures. Organizers said the presentation will combine storytelling, readings and audience discussion focused on creating more inclusive visions of the future.

Northern Commons describes itself as a community-centered gathering place dedicated to conversation, creativity and collaborative inquiry. The series is intended to encourage public dialogue around social change, belonging and community care.

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

Additional speakers scheduled include musician Scott Keever, educator Jennifer Luciani, Northern Commons co-founder Patrick Stein and writer Martin Law.

Organizers say the series comes at a time when many communities are grappling with questions about equity, sustainability and civic connection.

More information and registration details are available at northerncommons.space/projects/diverse-futures.html.

RAMSEY COUNTY CREATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Ramsey County has taken a significant step toward expanding economic development efforts after receiving approval from 18 participating municipalities, including the City of St. Paul, to establish a new Economic Development Authority.

County officials announced June 16 that the authority will begin operating in 2027, allowing Ramsey County to invest an estimated \$1.5 million to \$2 million annually in business-focused programs using existing Housing and Redevelopment Authority resources. The authority was authorized by the Minnesota Legislature in 2025 and does not create a new tax or add taxing authority.

For St. Paul, the move could bring additional support for commercial corridors, small businesses and entrepreneurship programs. Potential investments include technical assistance for business owners, workforce development initiatives, entrepreneur training cohorts, economic research and targeted corridor improvements.

County officials said the authority expands the use of existing HRA funding while preserving ongoing affordable housing and redevelopment programs.

Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong, chair of the county HRA, said the new authority creates opportunities for strategic investments that strengthen businesses and communities throughout Ramsey County.

The St. Paul City Council voted June 3 to participate in the authority, joining other municipalities across the county. During its inaugural meeting, commissioners elected Xiong as EDA chair and Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey as vice chair.

Supporters say the initiative gives Ramsey County a new tool to strengthen local business ecosystems and improve economic competitiveness without increasing taxes.

More information is available at ramseycounty.us.

PROPOSED XCEL GAS RATE SETTLEMENT WOULD REDUCE INCREASE, PROVIDE REFUNDS

A proposed settlement in Xcel Energy's natural gas rate case could lower rate increases for customers across Minnesota while providing refunds for charges already paid this year.

The settlement, filed by Xcel Energy, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota, the Suburban Rate Authority and the Laborers' International Union of North America, would reduce the utility's requested annual gas rate increase from 8.2% to 4.88%.

Residential customers would see an average increase of about 4.1%, according to the agreement.

Since January, customers have been paying an interim rate increase of 6.8% while the case moved through the regulatory process. If approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, customers would receive refunds with interest for the difference between the interim rates and the final approved amount.

The settlement also would reduce Xcel's expected return to shareholders. Consumer advocates noted the agreement lowers the utility's implied return on equity compared with the increase sought by the company.

Annie Levenson-Falk, executive director of the Citizens Utility Board, called the proposal a fair outcome, noting that customer contributions to shareholder profits would decline while refunds would be issued.

The Minnesota Office of the Attorney General did not join the settlement and plans to continue litigating issues in the case before the commission.

The Public Utilities Commission is expected to consider the settlement this fall. If approved, the final increase would affect natural gas customers throughout the Twin Cities.

Additional information is available at cubminnesota.org.



Supporting W7th and Little Bohemia

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3:02

St PL

Welcome to Downtown St Paul

Where history, culture, and community come together. Discover a city rich in tradition, shaped by its people, and full of experiences waiting for you.

Highlights

Saint Paul

Downtown Alliance

St PL

COMMUNITY HISTORY

ORIGIN STORIES

German Immigration Part 2 : Taverns, Brewers and Maltsters

BY JOE LANDSBERGER

Back in early St. Paul “Tied Bars” served beer exclusively from one of its local German brewers. In the 1870s local Germans took out 121 of the 187 liquor licenses: In the late 1800s had twelve St. Paul breweries operating at one time. So there was tavern for every taste, and a thirst for each beer. In 1887, Minnesota, in spite of being the twentieth ranked state in the nation in terms of population, ranked fifth in terms of beer production, with 112 different breweries operating in the state.

With its large concentration of German immigrants, the related labor force included brewmasters, dreyemen who delivered locally, livery yards and stables, wagon makers, coopers (barrel and cask manufacture), bar and restaurant owners, even cave diggers and ice harvesters, architects and bankers. Midwest farmers provided hops and barley.

1848-1958: Yoerg’s Cave Aged Brewery
Bavarian Anthony Yoerg (1816-1896), was the first German commercial brewer. In 1837, he emigrated to the United States, ran a butcher shop on the West Side, then opened a small brewery at Seven Corners. His was a hearty, Bavarian-style beer. In 1871 he returned to the West Side and built a great stone brewery at the base of Ohio Street hill that featured a mile of underground cooling caves. In 1891 production was thirty-five thousand barrels. The Bavarian staff utilized a steam process, brewed at warm temperatures using lager yeasts. Yoerg married Governor Alexander Ramsey’s nanny (Elovina Seitzinger) and had seven children. The youngest, Louis, succeeded his father; the last two sons died 1950 and 1952, and in 1958 a fire erased the landmark.

1855-1901: Troyer’s Cave Brewery
Austrian Dominick Troyer (1820-1889) built a small 1-1/2-story stone and wood facility near Eagle and Exchange Streets near Yoerg’s. In 1860 he sold it to William Funk and Ullich Schweitzer, fellow Germans. In 1865 Funk sold City Brewery to Frederick Emmert (1831-1889). By 1878 it became St. Paul’s second-most productive brewery. In 1880 peak production reached 6,000 barrels.



Yoerg’s 19th Century Delivery Service



Banholzer Mansion and the river valley, taken from the Ayd Building, 1031-1035 West Seventh



Christ Stahlman seated center with child & brewery workers, 1870.



Family fun at the beer garden, ca 1880.

Emmert’s friends included Governor Ramsey; the two were members of the Athenaeum German Hall on Wilkin and Exchange and the Republican Party. When Emmert died, in 1889, his sons, Fred, William and Charles, continued to grow the operation, and in 1890 changed the name to the F. Emmert Brewing Company. They catered to the saloon district, Seven Corners to the Upper Landing. Charles owned the notorious “Bucket of Blood,” 301 Eagle/192 South Washington on the Upper Landing. Police Chief John J. O’Connor’s wife was its reputed madam. In the early Twentieth Century O’Connor instituted the infamous

“safe haven” system for notorious criminals. At the turn of the century Emmets was sold to Hamm’s Brewery who used it for storage.

1865-1901 Melchior Funk Brewery
Melchior Funk (1828-1893), an immigrant from Württemberg, started his brewery in 1865 at James and Cascade (Palace) near Stahlmann’s Cave Brewery. Funk’s stood above the Mississippi River alongside sandstone caves and above a deep well. A two-story complex contained the main brewery. Steam-driven machinery powered the company’s engine, boiler, air pump, feed pump, heater, etc. By 1879, the brewery produced over 1,700 barrels of beer yearly; this output made it the sixth-largest brewery in the city.

According to St. Paul Globe in 1880 Funk employed five to six men year-round and used an eight-horse power engine in stone buildings that were heated with wood and illumined by candles. He used a well and Cascade Creek that ran through his brewery for water. A large cellarage in sand rock stored 5-600 tons of ice. After Funk’s death March 6, 1893 his sons John and William continued operations until 1901.

1855-1876: Stahlmann’s Cave Brewery
Bavarian Christopher “Christ” Stahlmann emigrated in 1855 and opened his Cave Brewery on July 5, 1855, along Fort Road/ West 7th. It became the largest brewery in Minnesota, averaging more than 10,000 barrels of beer per year. His plant consisted of five three-story buildings on sixty lots (valued at \$150,000), two large steam engines, three boilers, a variety of small machinery and a work force of forty-seven men.

Stahlmann was prominent politically

ORIGIN STORIES, PG 7

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COMMUNITY NOURISHMENT

West 7th Neighbors Open Gardens, Celebrate Community

BY DAMIAN GOEBEL

Gardens, music and neighborhood pride were in full bloom June 20 as residents gathered for the 16th Annual West End Neighbors’ Garden Tour.

The free event drew visitors from across the community to explore seven featured gardens throughout the West 7th neighborhood while enjoying live music, family activities, local food and opportunities to connect with neighbors.

Tour headquarters at West 7th and Chatsworth Ave. served as a hub of activity throughout the day. Visitors picked up garden guides, listened to performances by Mary Cutruffello and Martin Devaney, participated in children’s activities, browsed local vendors and enjoyed food from Potter’s Pasties and more.

One of the highlights of this year’s event was the debut of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation’s new native garden installation at the Chatsworth Triangle, a small green space at the corner of Chatsworth and Rogers streets. The project transformed a previously

underutilized parcel into a vibrant pollinator-friendly landscape and marked the first phase of a larger vision for the site. Federation leaders hope to eventually add seating, public art and other community amenities to the space.

The featured gardens reflected the growing interest in urban agriculture, sustainability and native landscaping throughout the neighborhood. Stops on the tour included vegetable gardens, backyard orchards, pollinator habitats, prairie restorations, water features and the Sunflower Community Garden. Several gardeners showcased creative approaches to maximizing small urban lots while supporting bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

The annual tour began in 2008 as a way to celebrate the creativity of West 7th residents and strengthen neighborhood connections. Sixteen years later, the event continues to highlight the people who invest time and care into making the community greener and more vibrant.



This year’s West End Neighbor’s Garden Tour took place on June 20.

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
Experience Personalized Approach at VanGo Auto

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.

This month, we are featuring VanGo Auto. VanGo Auto is Highland Park’s go-to German and import auto repair shop. Learn more about what they have to offer at vangoautomotive.com.

From Crystal & Jordan Frank-Shannon, Owners

Please describe your business/efforts in Highland Park. Customers appreciate VanGo’s personalized approach and fair pricing they may not find at dealerships, the expertise of foreign car master technicians, and a convenient location that offers loaner cars.



The staff of VanGo

What was the inspiration for doing the work you do? The owners of VanGo Auto were motivated to establish an auto repair shop that offers a welcoming and non-intimidating environment for women and everyone in the community. In the mornings, customers are typically welcomed by female staff at the front desk, and often women explain car diagnostics over the phone.

Additionally, VanGo aims to create a trustworthy and approachable expert shop for German and foreign vehicles located right in

the neighborhood. The technicians at the shop are skilled car doctors who genuinely care about the owners of the vehicles they service and maintain. VanGo always says, “relationships first, car experts next”.

What’s your favorite thing about Highland Park? The community as a whole, the District Council and the great places to grab lunch. (I think Cecil’s has been here longer than we have!) I personally have been involved with the District Council for the majority of the last 18 years. It is a great way to be involved in our neighborhood and allows us an opportunity to have the voice of our community down here, heard up there. It has been a pleasure meeting many residents and business owners over the years and to work together with a common goal of keeping Highland Park a wonderful neighborhood to live and work in. One thing I learned early on is that Highland Park is a passionate community!

When did you first start your business/efforts in Highland Park? 2017

GRAND AVENUE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
Spectacle Shoppe: Care, Craftsmanship and Fashion



This month, we are featuring the Spectacle Shoppe. Learn more about what they have to offer at spectacleshoppe.com.

For nearly 50 years, Spectacle Shoppe has combined vision care, craftsmanship and fashion, building a reputation as one of Minnesota’s leading independent eyewear retailers. The family-owned business opened its Grand Avenue location in 2012, bringing a unique approach to eyewear that traces its roots back to founder David Ulrich.

Ulrich discovered his passion for optics while serving in the U.S. Army, where he manufactured lenses. After leaving the military, he continued working in the optical field and became known for pioneering one-hour eyewear service. He founded Spectacle Shoppe in New Brighton in 1977 with a commitment to quality service and innovation.

“The industry was really medically driven at the time,” said Vice President Logan Szalay. “We saw the need to incorporate fashion.”

That philosophy remains central to the business today. Spectacle Shoppe offers

comprehensive eye exams, contact lenses, a large selection of independent designer and vintage frames, and an in-house lens manufacturing lab. The company still produces lenses on-site, continuing a tradition that began with its founder decades ago.

Today, Spectacle Shoppe carries more than 40,000 frame options across its locations, specializing in rare, vintage and independent eyewear that customers may not find elsewhere in the Twin Cities. The personalized experience has helped the company earn recognition from customers, including being voted Minnesota’s Best Eyewear Shop by Star Tribune readers five consecutive years.

For Szalay, one of the most rewarding aspects of the business is the opportunity to build lasting relationships with customers and be part of the community.

“The people are definitely the best part of the Grand Avenue community,” he said. “It’s incredibly rewarding to help people find eyewear they love while building genuine, lasting relationships along the way.”

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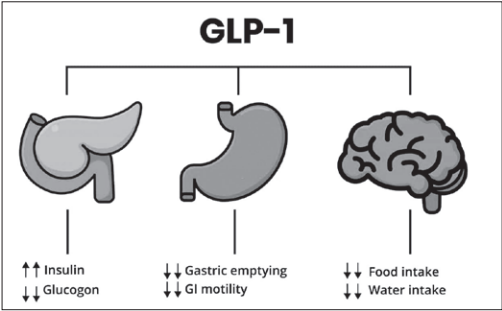
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IN THE COMMUNITY

WESTEND HEALTHLINE

GLP-1s. What should you know?

By Sana Zekri, MD
Today, advertisements for medications like tirzepatide (tradename Mounjaro/Zepbound) and semaglutide (tradename Ozempic/Wegovy) are everywhere. They seem to have suddenly appeared and taken the world by storm. Where did they come from, and what are the risks and benefits of using these medications?
Glucagon-like-peptide 1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) are medications that have been found to mimic a hormone in the body known as GLP-1 that is released when we eat food. GLP-1 has been found to help with regulation of blood sugar, feelings of fullness and how quickly foods move through the gut. A GLP-1 mimicker was found in the 1990s in the venom of the gila monster. Purification of that venom component was used to create the first GLP-1 RA drug, known as exenatide (tradename: Byetta). Using Byetta was annoying and expensive, though, so research was undertaken to find better GLP-1 RAs.
The next advance was in 2010 with the release of liraglutide (tradename: Victoza). Victoza was used as a treatment for diabetes, but reports of people losing significant weight also started to come in. Soon, liraglutide was also approved just for weight loss under the tradename Saxenda. Since then, semaglutide and tirzepatide have been approved for diabetes and weight loss.
As expected, these medications have been



extremely popular. Weight loss has been a fixture of American magazine advertisements since the early 1900s. Time and experience has shown; however, that most of these remedies were snake oil or had unacceptably high risks. How ironic that the first medicines that have shown strong success in weight loss with relative safety are based off of the venom of a lizard!
Still, every medicine has a balance of risks and benefits. So what are we looking at with these GLP-1 RAs?
Diabetes, especially when it is poorly controlled, increases risks of heart attacks and strokes. GLP-1 RAs, more than just controlling blood sugar, also seem to independently reduce the risks of heart attacks and strokes in people with diabetes. They also frequently help people reduce or eliminate doses of insulin.
What about people who are only taking these

medications for weight loss? Here the benefits are probably less. The best benefits are in people who have liver inflammation, high blood pressure and sleep apnea contributed to weight.
What about risks? First and foremost is the expected side-effect profile of GLP-1 RAs. They frequently cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and bowel issues. These tend to get better as the body adapts to the effect of the medicine, but can be very annoying, and may lead to unneeded workup. GLP1-RAs can rarely cause pancreas inflammation which can land a person in the hospital and can even lead to death. There is also a risk of cancer of the thyroid and pancreas - though only in people who have a strong family history of thyroid or pancreas cancer.
What gets less press, though, are the downsides of major weight loss. People who lose weight with GLP-1 RAs lose both fat and muscle. Heavier weight and more muscle, especially in the elderly, tends to help with bone strength. Losing weight may weaken the bones and increase risk of fractures.
So what can we take away from this? GLP-1 RAs can be very useful in the right circumstances. People with diabetes and people using them for weight loss with certain weight-induced medical problems benefit most. It can be attractive to use these medications to ‘shed some weight’, but we should keep in mind that it isn’t a risk-free endeavor, particularly as we age.
Dr. Zekri is a family physician at Allina Health United Family Physicians, 233 Grand Ave, St. Paul, MN 55102, 651-241-5200.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Summer Fun for All Ages at the West 7th Library



During July, the West 7th Library will highlight activities for kids, in conjunction with Summer Spark, Summer Break programming and Science Across America.
Train Tracks- June 29-July 2
Kick-off our Summer WOW program with

train tracks from Melon Seeds. Who can resist setting up an intricate course for their favorite engine? Put on your engineering cap and get busy! Drop-in program, no registration required.
Memoir Writing for Adults
Tuesdays, June 30 – July 28, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Registration required: sppl.org/events
Everyone has stories!
This stimulating and fun class will help you preserve your memories for family, friends or a larger community. This is a five-week, non-academic class; each class builds on the other, so attendance is important.
Guerilla Pastures- July 14, 3-5 p.m.
Guerilla Pastures joins the library for a couple of hours of fun, where you can feed animals

such as chickens and goats. See how bees work through an observation beehive. Join activities such as building bee boxes and painting bee boxes. Come learn and ask any questions about regenerative agriculture, harvesting honey, or raising animals!
Find more events at sppl.org/events.
Events at West 7th Library
Find more events at sppl.org/events.
Playdate @ West 7th – Tuesdays, 3–5 p.m.
Family Storytime – Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
ECFE – Monday, May 11, 2 – 3 p.m.



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REUSE SWAP WASTE REDUCTION AND REUSE
Clothing - June 24, 4-6pm and June 27, 11-2pm. Items: Clothing, shirts, pants, dresses, belts, hats, shoes. Learn more at stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/garbage-and-recycling/waste-reduction-and-reuse.
Arts and Crafts Swap - July 22, 4-6pm; July 25, 11-2pm. Items: Art supplies, paints, fabric, craft supplies
VOLUNTEER FOR HISTORIC HILLS HOUSE TOUR
Help shape a neighborhood tradition, contribute to a good cause, and have fun along the way!
stpaulhistorichilltours.org/volunteer



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Visit macgrove.org/what-we-do/alley-garden-awards/. Judges needed contact mgcc@macgrove.org.
MUSIC ON THE LAWN EVENTS
Partnering with Macalester, GABA, Ambit Media, and Brain Wagner Realty. Bring your friends and family, grab takeout at a local restaurant, and enjoy free live music. Info: grandave.com/events.
UPCOMING MEETINGS
Community Building Team, July 14, 6:30 p.m., July 9, 6:30 p.m.; Transportation Committee Meeting, July 27, 6:30 p.m.; Housing and Land Use Meeting, July 22, 6:30 p.m. Edgcombe Recreation Center and are shown on Zoom. Visit macgrove.org/participate for more information.

CORRIDOR, PG 2

festivals and flower baskets, they all stem from the same underlying idea: local organizations are often best positioned to determine what their business districts need.
The city structured the Commercial Corridor Program around that principle, giving neighborhood organizations broad flexibility while requiring that projects demonstrate measurable economic development outcomes.
A year and a half after the program’s creation, the results are increasingly visible throughout St. Paul.
On Grand Avenue, they can be seen in community events, live music and streetscape improvements. With the Fort Road Federation, they appear in murals and public art projects.

TIF, PG 1

are going to kick ass and pay \$5000 in taxes every year. That’s a \$4000 increase.
A Loan
From there we take your photo and our dreams of what will be there in the future to the bank. They’re a little nervous about us and say, “This is a big project, we don’t think you can handle the payments on the loan you’ll need to build these apartments.”
Now the TIF comes in. We say, “Don’t worry, bank, if you help us build it the City will let us use the \$4000 increase in taxes to help pay off our loan. And that value we’re using would not exist BUT-FOR the completion of our project.” (The but-for thing is important but way in the weeds). Now the Bank will give us the loan we need to build our project.

A Building
We knock over our stupid old Burger King and put up a sparkly new apartment building and a bunch of nice people move in and now we’re making money. The community is far better served by these new apartments and neighbors than by the rats and possums living in an old Burger King.

A Payment Plan
We’re paying \$5000 in taxes every year. \$4000 of that is going to pay off the TIF portion of our loan from the Bank. \$1000 of that goes into city coffers just like if we hadn’t turned the old Burger King into kickass new apartments. After 10 years our TIF district has been paid out, the payment plan is closed, and now the city is getting 100% of that \$5000 in taxes we pay each year. A huge increase in tax revenue and relevance to the community from our dumb old Burger King.
We just made the future possible by betting on the future. It sounds silly when you say it like that, but it’s literally just the basic concept of financial investment in capitalism.
That Was Too Much. Gimme The Short Version!
We increase tax revenues by betting on increased tax revenues. Money isn’t real, it’s a shared hallucination and also a Catholic Sin. The private market lives and breathes this sort of stuff all the time and it gets very moody when the public realm plays with its toys.
I would not call myself a fan of TIF. It’s a tool to accomplish a goal. Generally speaking, people in our city want tax revenues to increase and for us to build out all the empty spaces in our shared home.



FEDERATION
UPDATE



DISCOVER WEST 7TH: SHOP SMALL ADVENTURE!
Adventure awaits! Grab your passport and embark on a West 7th small businesses journey for a chance to win gift cards to local businesses! The adventure runs through July 31. fortroadfed.org/shop-small-adventure
DOUSMAN FUNDRAISER
July 23, 5 pm-9:30 pm. Mancini’s Char House. Enjoy a full buffet dinner, live music from The Cellar Dwellers, and a vibrant atmosphere—while supporting a project that will create a lasting space for children and families to play, connect, and grow. More info: saintpaulparksconservancy.org/mancinis.
UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
• **Transportation & Land Use**, July 1, 6:30 p.m.
• **Board Meeting**, July 13, 7 p.m.
STAY IN TOUCH
"Like" us on Facebook. Subscribe to e-newsletter. More information at fortroadfederation.org
CONTACT
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Free Farmer Markets

We believe that all of our neighbors in need should have access to vital support to be self-sufficient, stable and successful. We know individuals and families in our community need access to healthy food resources. Everyone is welcome at our free Farmers Markets. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Roseville Covenant Church July 24, Rice and Arlington Field July 31 or Allianz Field July 10.



HIGHLAND
DISTRICT COUNCIL
For information, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org

OUTDOOR MOVIE AND PIZZA
July 9, 6 p.m. Sibley Manor Apartments. Outdoor games, free food and a movie ('Sing'). Presented by St. Paul Parks and Recreation and sponsored by VanGo Auto. Food and activities start around 6 p.m.
MUSIC AT THE BRIDGE
July 23, 4:30-8:30 p.m. Civic Plaza, Highland Bridge (directly north of the water feature). Food trucks, mask making, meet Neighborhood House reps and live music near Ford Parkway and Cretin Avenue. Sponsored by Marvella and VanGo Auto. 4:30 pm Zumba class with Life Time Highland Park. 6 p.m Dirty Shorts Brass Band.
UPCOMING MEETINGS
1978 Ford Pkwy; option to join online. Get the Zoom link, agendas at highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.
• **HDC Board** – Thu, July 16, 7 p.m.
• **Transportation** – Tue, July 14, 7 p.m.
• **Community Development** – Tue, July 21, 6:30 p.m.
• **Community Engagement** – Mon, July 27, 7 p.m.

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BULLETIN BOARD



ROLLER DISCO IN RICE PARK

Fridays. 5:30-9:30 pm. Rice Park. Free.
Lace up your skates and enjoy a summer of music, movement and community at Rice Park Roller Disco. Hosted by Twin Cities Skaters and supported by the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, the weekly event features live DJs, free skate rentals and an all-ages atmosphere in the heart of downtown St. Paul. Participants may bring their own skates or borrow a pair on site. July 10, 17, 24, 31; 5:30pm - 8:30pm. Info: downtownstpaul.com/do/roller-disco-in-rice-park

BALLROOM IN THE PARK

July 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:30am-10:30am; July 27, 7-8pm. Mears Park, Wacouta Commons and Kellogg Mall Park, Free. Learn ballroom dance in a welcoming outdoor setting with instructor Mariusz Kujawski. Open to all experience levels. No partner is required. Learn new skills and connect with fellow community members throughout the summer. Info: stpaulartcollective.org

RED, WHITE & BOOM! FIREWORKS RETURNS

July 4, 6-10:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Paul. Free. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. with food trucks along Dayton Avenue and a St. Paul Rotary merchandise tent selling commemorative T-shirts. Remarks from city leaders and organizers at 8 p.m., followed by acoustic music before the fireworks display at dusk. Info: stpaulrotary.org/event/red-white---boom.

ART AT ST. KATE'S

July 11, 10 am-5 pm. St. Catherine University. Free. One of Saint Paul's premier outdoor art fairs returns with more than 100 juried artists showcasing fine art and handmade crafts. Presented by Artists' Circle and Textile Center, the event features painting, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, glasswork, fiber art, photography and mixed media creations. Info: artistscircle.org.

CHICANO FEST

July 11, 3-9 p.m. St. Paul College, Free. Returns for its second year with a celebration of Mexican American culture featuring a car show, live entertainment, family activities and more than 100 vendors. Sample food, shop local makers and artists, enjoy cultural performances and VIP beer garden. Info: chicanofestmn.net

DIVERSE FUTURES: WHO BROKE THE FUTURE?

July 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Northern Commons, Free or donation-based. Five-part Diverse Futures speaker series with author T. Aaron Cisco. Through storytelling, readings and

speculative world-building, Cisco explores how visions of the future can be reimagined through the lenses of diversity, inclusion and care. Audience discussion and opportunities to reflect on what a more equitable future might look like. Presentations through November. Info: northerncommons.space/projects/diverse-futures.html

DEPOT DAYS OF SUMMER

June 17, July 22, Aug. 19, 10 am to noon. Union Depot. Free. Games, crafts, activities and themed entertainment geared toward children and families. Every month will feature a different theme, along with complimentary admission to Choo Choo Bob's Train Store. Info: uniondepot.org/event-calendar.

SAFE SUMMER NIGHTS AT PALACE REC CENTER

July 23, 5-7 p.m. Palace Recreation Center Free food, children's activities, community conversations and opportunities for residents to meet Saint Paul police officers outside of emergency situations. BearCat armored vehicle will be on site for children and families to explore. Info: stpaul.gov/departments/police/administration-office-chief/community-engagement-division/safe-summer-nights.

WEST 7TH COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER FOR DOUSMAN PARK PLAYGROUND

July 23, dinner 5 p.m.; music 7-9:30 p.m. Mancini's Char House, \$25-500. Support construction of a new playground at Dousman Park during this fundraiser featuring live music from The Cellar Dwellers. Info: saintpaulparksconservancy.org/mancinis/

MUSIC IN IRVINE PARK

July 26, Irvine Park. Free; donations encouraged. Features Laura Hugo, Ruby-Blu and Sunflower Fox and the Chicken Leg. Food trucks and more. Rain dates scheduled for August. Volunteers needed. Info: Historic Irvine Park District facebook.com/group

FILM REVIEW

Hamnet is a Beautiful, Tragic Tale

By Zach Murphy

If you're a fan of the world of Shakespeare, last year's eight-time Oscar-nominated "Hamnet" is a must-watch. Based on Maggie O'Farrell's novel of the same name (O'Farrell also co-wrote this screenplay), esteemed filmmaker Chloé Zhao brings this sorrowful tale to the screen, and the result is a deeply stirring piece of cinema that is both beautiful and tragic. I highly recommend having a box of tissues nearby.

Set in England during the 16th century, we're given an intimate glimpse into the lives of Agnes Hathaway (Jessie Buckley) and her husband William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal), as they navigate the devastation and heartbreak of losing Hamnet, one of their twin children, to an incurable plague. The narrative is heavily fictionalized, and it's less concerned with recreating long-debated historical facts. Instead, the drama takes center stage, and the death of Hamnet is portrayed as the inspiration behind Shakespeare's masterpiece, "Hamlet." The film explores this familial tragedy with immense sensitivity and carries it out with a captivating vision.

Chloé Zhao, whose filmography contains films known for their quiet realism (like 2017's "The Rider" and 2021's Best Picture winner "Nomadland"), takes a more sweeping and theatrical approach with "Hamnet," which definitely is fitting for a Shakespeare-themed film. The settings are lush, the costume design is meticulous, the musical score is ethereal, and the emotions are palpable throughout the film. Ultimately, this is a heartwrenching, yet hopeful examination of love, loss, grief, resilience and the act of pushing forward when things are the darkest.

While the nature of the story itself packs a poignant wallop, it's the ovation-worthy



performances that really take the film to prestigious heights. Jessie Buckley truly is the soul of this moving experience. Her performance is raw, vulnerable, and visceral, but she conveys such intense and complex feelings with so much skill that it all comes across as astonishingly natural. It's an impressive thing to behold, and it's no surprise that she took home the Oscar for this role. Paul Mescal, who had a major breakout in 2022's "Aftersun," continues to impress with his range and his commanding screen presence, giving a passionate yet commendably grounded performance.

In the end, "Hamnet" puts forth the powerful theme that, for some, creating art is the only way to process an insurmountable loss. And while certain wounds are impossible to ever heal, we can only do our best to stitch our hearts back together.

"Hamlet" is available to rent or buy on all major streaming platforms, and available to stream with your Peacock subscription.

UFM, PG 2

separate from Allina Health (this includes the Physicians and Residency program) within 6 months.

In September, Allina and UFM agreed to mutual separation of the Residency program from the UFM clinic.

Subsequently, 99% of the physicians and the residency program moved to the Allina Grand Ave. location next to United Hospital.

The former UFM clinic located at Randolph and West 7th was renamed "Riverland Health."

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ORIGIN STORIES, PG 4

but died in his home at 855 Fort Street at the height of his career of tuberculosis on December 3, 1883. His funeral was one of the largest in St. Paul. After his death, his two sons, Christopher, Jr. and Bernard, succeeded him but died soon after of the same disease. Without the Stahlmann family, the business went to bankruptcy, eventually sold to the Jacob Schmidt Company.

1870s: Stahlmann's Horse Stables

Stahlman's Horse Stables, across from the Schmidt Brewery, is located at Webster Street at Jefferson. They were built in the 1870s and later used for Schmidt's storage. The roughly coursed stone is limestone from a local riverbank quarry. Note the second story hay loft. Image 1940 MNHS

1871-1904: Frederick and William Banholzer

The Banholzers, Frederick (1823-1903) and son William (1849 - 1897), bought the North Mississippi Brewery. By the 1880s William turned a 1,000 into a 12,000 barrel-a-year operation, one of the five most popular brews in the city. The operation included nine buildings,

a one-half-mile deep, multi-chambered cave under the river bank at Shepard Road to Butternut street. Its old stone archway at the lower entrance is a lasting reminder.

William died at his mansion at 689 Stewart Ave, and the brewery went out of business in 1904. His house is now Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation's outpatient addiction treatment facility.

In the 1800s it seemed there were bakeries, shoe stores, grocers, confectioners and taverns not only along its arteries, but also on residential street corners of our neighborhoods. Bandhozers and Shades beer gardens were also cultural magnets for parades, dancing, singing, Turner and Sokol gymnastic demonstrations, even balloon rides along the Mississippi River. It was a different time.

To be continued...

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. Learn more and find Joe's upcoming conversations about the history of West 7th at josfland.com.

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