

TURF CLUB REVIVED

'We're in for some good times' said manager Nathan Kranz

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The front door of the Turf Club (1601 University Ave. W.) was still covered in plywood in late June, but it is finally off.

General manager Nathan Kranz, who manages the Turf Club as well as First Avenue in Minneapolis, said, "We announced 51 shows across our different Twin Cities venues last week, and a lot of them are going to be held right here. The plywood came down in plenty of time for Electric Six to open on July 7, followed by Dessa on July 8."

Kranz continued, "By the time we get to Labor Day, we expect to be back to normal – with an average of five shows per week. We're super excited to see this place come alive again."

The Turf Club is a historic landmark in the Midway neighborhood. It originally opened as a supper club and country music bar in the 1940s, when the land now occupied by Allianz Stadium was a horse track. The horses ran on turf, and the Turf Club drew in horse racing fans as they left the track.

Somehow the Turf Club managed to change with the times. Except for the pandemic, it has been in constant operation for nearly 80 years, and has stayed true to its commitment of supporting live, independent music.

Coming back better

When Kranz came down to view the damage on the morning of May 29, 2020, he said, "There was never a question that we would re-build after the Uprising. Fire damage was restricted to the wooden bar, and thankfully insurance covered the restoration. The bigger problem was that the bar fire set off the sprinkler system, and there was standing water in the basement six to eight feet deep.

"We ended up reengineering the building structurally, so it's actually better than it was before. We replaced the subfloors and hardwood floors.

"What surprised us was that the renovation took so long: permits were hard to come by, and supply chains for building materials were completely messed up.

"We're looking forward to receiving our Shuttered Venue Operating Grant, which will help us to move forward."

TURF CLUB >> 8

REBIRTH, HEALING, RECONCILIATION AND HOPE



Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter (center), husband Melvin Carter Junior (left) and son St. Paul mayor Melvin Carter III (right) commemorated their family's original Rondo home that was uprooted during the construction of I-94 by planting a tree during the Juneteenth Celebration at the Rondo Center of Diverse Expression at 315 Fisk St. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Saturday, June 19, 2021 was a day of healing, rebirth, reconciliation, and hope in St. Paul's historically Black Rondo neighborhood. The Juneteenth Celebration showcased the creation of a new community garden in front of the Rondo Center of Diverse Expression at 315 Fisk Street.

More than 100 people gathered to dedicate the community garden, as well as the planting of a honeysuckle with roots that reach back to Civil War-era Alabama.

Marvin Anderson, executive Director of the Rondo Center of Creative Expression, said, "After the year we've all been through, this is our moment to create a connection between the pain of our past and the hope of our future. This is a tranquil space again; the trees taking root here remind us of our long journey. The flowers that were planted over the last two days will grow and be another sign of our community's healing and reconciliation."

REBIRTH, HEALING >> 7



Fourteen months after arson destroyed the original Lloyd's Pharmacy building, it was expected to reopen the week of July 26. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

New building closely resembles original Lloyd's Pharmacy rebuilds

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Lloyd's Pharmacy has rebuilt at the corner of Snelling and Minnehaha and expects to reopen with free food, giveaways, and more on Monday, July 26 and Friday, July 30, 2021, providing they pass necessary inspections. (Details on page 20)

The 102-year-old pharmacy building was looted and then destroyed by fire during the civil unrest in the Midway area on Friday

morning, May 29, 2020 following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. Jim Stage has owned Lloyd's since 2014, and immediately pledged to rebuild.

The Menopause Center of Minnesota plans to return to the back section of the building with an entrance off Minnehaha Ave.

"This pharmacy is more than about us," observed Jim. "The LLOYD'S PHARMACY >> 6

Four sue after eviction from Midway Center

By JANE McCLURE

Customers have flocked to Peking Garden since spring, happy that the Midway Center mainstay has reopened at University and Western avenues. Owners the Lau family were pleased to find a new location.

But they and three other owners of former Midway Center businesses still question why they were evicted from Midway Center in July 2020, weeks after civil unrest, looting and fire damaged part of Midway Center. "We think we could have reopened at Midway Center," Lau said.

The owners of Golden Gate Café, Mimi's Beauty Salon, Sweet Cajun doing business as Thein's Cajun Boiling Seafood, and Hung Tu doing business as Peking Garden filed a civil lawsuit in Ramsey County District Court in June. Each business is seeking damages in excess of \$50,000. The businesses also want an injunction preventing the demolition of

the remaining east section of the shopping center.

The remaining section of the shopping center is currently in a city "remove or repair" legislative hearing process. Big Top Wine and Spirits' demolition was ordered in the spring.

Civil unrest in the wake of the killing of George Floyd roiled the Twin Cities in late May 2020. Midway Center had its Big Top and Foot Locker stores looted and set ablaze. Other stores near Foot Locker sustained smoke and water damage; some were also vandalized and looted. Stores in the center of the strip mall's east wing sustained the heaviest damage. Big Top was in a stand-alone building.

Businesses that escaped significant damage had hoped to reopen. But in July 2020, the shopping center ownership invoked a lease clause allowing them to evict tenants.

FOUR SUE >> 7



Students, Skyline Tower residents had a vision for a park

PAGE 2



REPLANT Minnehaha Ave. trees this year?

PAGE 10



Celebrate midsummer with the 2021 Chroma Zone 'Happening'

PAGE 14

Students, residents at Skyline Tower made their vision happen

Midway Peace Park officially opens

Located in the Midway Area, Midway Peace Park (416 N Griggs St.) is the newest completed component of the city of Saint Paul's vision to create vibrant outdoor gathering spaces that strengthen community connections along the Green Line.

With that goal in mind, the park was designed with multiple spaces for park visitors to connect, including an amphitheater, an open multi-purpose green space, and benches for sitting under the shade of over 70 newly planted trees. Additionally, a play area, walking loop, public art, and basketball court round out the amenities. Clean water projects in the park will collect and filter 1.5 million gallons of runoff each year to prevent pollution from reaching the Mississippi River.

"Our vision for the Midway Peace Park in our Midway neighborhood has been realized following several years of community engagement and planning," said Mayor Melvin Carter. "This incredible new park along the Green Line provides accessible green space for community gathering and connection to benefit our entire city."

After partnering with the Trust for Public Land to acquire the land for \$3 million in 2016, the area now boasts an additional \$2.3 million upgrade. Funding for the park came from private funds raised by the Trust for Public Land, the city's 8-80 Vitality Fund, and a federal grant. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and the Trust for Public Land shared leadership of the project on land acquisition and engagement, with the city overseeing design and construction.

"This Saint Paul neighbor-



Community members officially cut the ribbon to open Midway Peace Park on June 15, 2021. (Photo by Vanna Contreras)



Dancers perform on June 15, 2021. (Photo by Vanna Contreras)



The new playground is expansive. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

hood used to lack a park close to home, but now thanks to the efforts of engaged community leaders, incredibly generous do-

nors, and dedicated elected officials, Midway Peace Park celebrates its official opening," said Susan Schmidt, Minnesota state

director of The Trust for Public Land. "The Trust for Public Land has been proud to partner to bring the community's dream

park to life."

The creative community engagement approach focused
MIDWAY PEACE PARK >> 3



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Mayor of Falcon Heights Randy Gustafson speaks on behalf of the city. (Photo by Vanna Contreras)



Philando Castile's mother, Valerie Castile, helps unveil the sign at the garden entry located on Larpenteur Ave. and Fry St. (Photo by Vanna Contreras)



This honorary name change came as a result of a petition which gained over 20,400 signatures. (Photo by Vanna Contreras)

Section of street designated Philando Castile Memorial Ave.

The section of Larpenteur Avenue where Philando Castile was killed by a St. Anthony police officer just five years ago has been renamed. Signs marking Philando Castile Memorial Avenue were placed among the existing signs at the intersection of Larpenteur Avenue and Fry Street in Philando's memory on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

This honorary name change came as a result of a communi-

ty petition which gained over 20,400 signatures in support of Philando Castile Memorial Avenue. Results from an online survey performed by the Falcon Heights City Council and distributed to both residents and non-residents showed community support of the initiative.

Philando's mother Valerie Castile stated, "The community has worked so hard over the past five years to get a street sign and

I am so happy it is finally happening along with a lot of other blessings this year. I have prayed so hard to preserve my son's name and good work."

District 3 Ramsey County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo took immediate interest in memorializing the street and continuing the legacy of similar incidents throughout the county and metro. After learning that street naming is left up to the cit-

ies, commissioner MatasCastillo focused on advocating for this possibility with officials at the city of Falcon Heights and ensuring policies prohibiting the memorial name change would not be adopted.

Once commissioner MatasCastillo took up the issue, she made connections to clarify the process and express her support to other local officials. The process of surveying residents

and non-residents reflected the city of Falcon Heights' commitment to community engagement and inclusion, left her feeling very hopeful, she said.

Falcon Heights City Council member Melanie Leehy said, "The Philando Castile Peace Garden is a place where a life changed, and a community changed."

Learn more by visiting philandocastile-peacegarden.org

MIDWAY PEACE PARK >> from 2

on identifying the cultural and neighborhood values and desired park features to inform the design of the park. This included park designers collaborating with community representatives to arrange park components and vote

on the park's name. Other partners and stakeholders include Capitol Region Watershed District, Lexington-Hamline Community Council, Gordon Parks High School, Skyline Tower, Union Park District Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, CommonBond Communities,

and High School for the Recording Arts, among many others. Notably, a handful of community organizations came together in the engagement process and formalized during construction to become Friends of Midway Peace Park.

"After more than a decade

of multifaceted advocacy for the park concept, we are excited to see this space come to life," said Amy Gundermann, representative for Hamline-Lexington Community Council. "Our park story started with a vision for green space expressed by the students of Gordon Parks High

School and the residents of Skyline Tower. As a community, we rallied behind this vision. Now that the park is complete, we as 'Friends of Midway Peace Park' are committed to collectively empower community engagement, access, and use of this shared space into the future."

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READ IN COLOR: summer reading challenge

Summer reading can help to foster academic success and promote community building. Our nonprofit, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, is excited to announce our partnership with Little Free Library.

We are supporting the national Read in Color® initiative. Together, we are promoting literacy at the grassroots level. The program works in cooperation with key local partners to distribute diverse and culturally relevant books to Little Free Library book-sharing boxes in local communities. The initiative is committed to furthering diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This is critically important when less than 25% of children's books feature a character of color. With current trends, you are more likely to see a black bear or black dog on the cover of a book than a Black girl or Black boy.

Our nation has evolved into a rich multicultural tapestry. Books should reflect this great gift and treasure by serving as mirrors and windows for children. Diverse books inspire and enable children of color to see themselves represented in the lit-

Planting seeds

By DR. ARTIKA TYNER,
dr.artikatyner@gmail.com



erature. They learn how to unveil their limitless potential and discover the leader within. These are the mirrors where they can see themselves clearly as the leaders and change agents of the future.

Diverse books also serve as windows for all children as they learn about the cultural experiences of others. This may include learning about global citizenship by exploring a new language, food, or culture. Children can travel around the world through pages of a book. Reading diverse books supports and fosters leadership development. It provides youth with the tools needed to become inclusive leaders who take action for justice and equity.

The mission of the PPGJLI is to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach. Books and literacy are essential to ac-



Jules Porter, the founder of Seraph 7 studios, adds diverse books to a Read in Color Little Free Library and shares about their Youth STEAM program. Learn more at seraph7studios.com. (Photo submitted)

complish that goal. The Read in Color® initiative through the Little Free Library is an important resource for the community. It aids in teaching youth about

the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion, along with empathy and understanding. It equips our youth with critical leadership skills and tools.

Read in Color® provides depictions of our rich multicultural tapestry, offers new perspectives on racism and social justice, and celebrates marginalized voices.

This summer, you can make a difference in your community by supporting your local little free library, signing the Read in Color Pledge, and adding new diverse books to your reading list

Suggested titles for your summer reading list:

- "Bee Love (Can Be Hard)" by Alan Page and Kamie Page
- "Black boy, Black boy" by Crown Shepherd)
- "Black is a Rainbow Color" by Angela Joy
- "Cameron Goes to School" by Sheletta Brundidge
- "Ghana: A Place I Call Home" by Monica Habia

*Note: Data on books by and about Black, Indigenous and People of Color published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Through her organization, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, Dr. Artika Tyner seeks to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach.

Why do we ignore 'smoke' and health risks from idling cars?

By CHRISTOPHER TYNDALL
Como Park resident

I had occasion recently to go to United Hospital in Saint Paul for a minor medical procedure. Entering the "tobacco-free campus," I passed three cars and one truck parked right by the entry doors with their engines idling.

Why do we worry about the health effects of smoke from a burning cigarette but ignore "smoke" from other sources?

The harmful health and environmental effects of the substances emitted by a vehicle's tailpipe have been very well documented. But just as an example, let us briefly consider one notorious culprit: nitrogen dioxide. This gas occurs in both cigarette smoke and car exhaust, but defenders of "tobacco-free" environments might be interested to learn that cars and trucks, rather than burning cigarettes, account for 35% of the total amount of this pollutant in our regional air (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website).

Short-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide can trigger asthma attacks but might also be associated with more systemic effects like reduced cardiovascular func-

tion.

However, researchers are more certain when it comes to long-term exposure, which is associated with a variety of pathological conditions: cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and overall increases in premature mortality. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website) All of the research carried out by government, academic and environmental defense institutions re-enforces the same point: vehicle exhaust is harmful to human health.

While it is true that innovations over the years have led to great reductions in the quantities of toxins released into the air by individual vehicles, the size of the vehicle fleet nationwide, and, indeed, in the world, has continued to grow, and the improvements simply can't keep pace with the huge increase in the number of offending sources. (Special Report 17 of the Health Effects Institute) And we haven't even considered the problem of carbon dioxide, which is released, unfiltered, by even the most advanced smog-control devices.

This takes us back to our

four vehicles parked with their engines running at the entrance to United Hospital. I believe it is time to initiate a public information campaign regarding the great waste and harm that is caused by the widespread habit of idling engines unnecessarily.

The U.S. Department of Energy has a report on its website that summarizes the situation without much room for objection or contradiction. In the U.S., "personal vehicle idling wastes about 3 billion gallons of fuel and generates around 30 million tons of CO2 annually." The site also reminds us that when its engine is idling, a vehicle's smog equipment is working in its least efficient state, and higher-than-normal levels of all pollutants are released into the air.

An Environmental Defense Fund study for New York City attempted to quantify the specific amounts of pollutants produced by idling. For example, they determined that, annually, public and private vehicles parked with their engines idling within the city limits produce 940 tons of nitrogen oxides.

They report that this is equivalent to the amount that

would be produced by 9 million trucks driving across the city from one end of the Bronx to the other end of Staten Island.

The report gives these same sorts of alarming details for all of the various harmful substances produced annually by idling vehicles within the city limits. When you look at the various government websites on this issue around the world, the "anti-idling" message is remarkably consistent, and the amount of CO2 and other harmful emissions that could potentially be kept out of the air is monumental high.

This campaign needs to be extended to all vehicles: private and public, whether stopped by the side of the road or even waiting in line at a "drive-thru" window. Recommendations for public and commercial vehicles need to be worked out, and there obviously could be exceptions, but the fact of the matter is that drivers of these sorts of vehicles park with their engines idling in a great number of situations where they have absolutely no reason to do so.

Although some metropolitan

regions across the country and around the world actively enforce ordinances against this practice with fines to drivers, I believe a public information campaign would be much more effective than punishment and alienate fewer drivers. After all, this is not a malicious act, and it most likely results from the great amount of time that people spend in their vehicles.

Driving in general is such a given part of our daily lives here that most of us don't give it a second thought except when there's heavy traffic, bad weather or road construction. But our transportation system based almost exclusively on private automobiles causes many problems that aren't always fully acknowledged or addressed.

Engine idling is not just the innocent, absent-minded habit of a few drivers stopped momentarily to pick up passengers or check their phones.

It is a very widespread practice with very measurable and harmful impacts on our health and the environment.

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Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the Monitor. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@monitorsaintpaul.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

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FINDING A JOB

If you've talked to anyone in a position to hire staff over the past few months, you've probably heard the complaint that it is very hard to find anyone. For a combination of reasons, employers have been struggling to find workers at record levels.

On June 29, Ramsey County and the Midway Chamber of Commerce hosted a job fair at Allianz Field. The fair had 25 employers representing 3,000 jobs and over 300 job seekers stopped by to learn more. The jobs represented a diverse range of skills, positions, and industries, with many located in or near the Midway.

One observation from the fair is the time is right for many

unemployed to get back to work. Most unemployment benefits will run out in September and those wishing to get a head start will start looking now. This also coincides with optimism about the economy as the pandemic nears its end, and companies are more apt to hire again. On July 2, the Department of Labor released official jobs numbers for June and the United States added 850,000 jobs, when the estimate was only 720,000. The unemployment rate also increased, meaning more people are seeking work.

The day after the job fair, Northland Staffing Solutions held an open house at their new location, 2506

Building a stronger Midway

By **CHAD KULAS**,
Midway Chamber
of Commerce Executive Director
chad@midwaychamber.com



University. Located just east of Highway 280, Northland's president Brian Thoemke believes the space is the perfect location in between the downtowns and at the center of the Twin Cities. They have filled temporary positions, direct hire, and trial-to-hire throughout the last year in many industries but are expecting to see more interest from job seekers over the coming months.

Are you looking for a new

job? According to Thoemke, applicants should have a concise resume listing what job/career you seek; call or email companies you want to work at; post your resume on several job boards; and if you find a job or company that interests you, do not wait to set up an interview. As the year goes on, some of the more desirable positions will fill up faster as more people return to the workforce.

Thoemke's other advice to job seekers: Those who wait too long to look for a job may be disappointed in what's left, as the workforce participation rates will continue to rise over the next few months. Currently, companies are offering more incentives and benefit packages for new hires, and employees can ask for pay increases because of the need to retain good employees. As the job openings go down, some of

these added benefits may also go away.

Companies have become more flexible and in tune with what employees want. The trend has shifted to more employees prioritizing a better work-life balance, and many companies are willing to accommodate schedules that need to work around tight time frames – often around the school day of their children.

As we consider permanent changes to our world post-pandemic, the relationships between employers and employees will surely look different. The hope is it will work better for all involved – company, worker, worker's family, and more. The important thing over the next few months will be getting more people back to work.

Letter

Thanks, Leslie Rolstad

As the school year comes to a close, I'm writing today to celebrate Leslie Rolstad. Leslie has dedicated the last four years to supporting our PreK students at Wilder Child Development Center.

As an AmeriCorps member with Minnesota Reading Corps, Leslie has focused on providing our students with practice and support to help build their skills and get ready for Kindergarten. Over the past four years, she has given a total of 5000 hours to help our students succeed!

Leslie works one-on-one and in small groups with students to help build their skills in literacy and math. Not only does she provide this much needed time with children, she does so in a way that is fun and exciting! With Leslie supplementing the excellent work our teachers are doing in their classrooms, we've seen wonderful growth.

The strong relationships Leslie has with the students she serves has been amazing to witness. Leslie has been an invaluable part of our Wilder community.

I couldn't let the school year end without acknowledging Leslie and all she has done to support our students. As Leslie moves on to her next adventure, we'll have big shoes to fill in the fall. If you're interested in joining our team at Wilder Child Development Center as a Reading Corps Tutor, please visit readingandmath.net.

Angela Clair
Center Director
Wilder Child Development Center

Krivit's promotion of the HENS ("rent stabilization") petition in the April Monitor.

In his column, Mr. Krivit mocks the very real possibility that the type of rent control being considered in St. Paul could actually make the affordable housing problem worse by compelling real estate investors to exit the St. Paul market.

The Brookings Institute, in a recent study, found that in some cities, rent control has resulted in an increase in gentrification and a reduction in affordable rental properties as the prospect of reduced rent has motivated property owners to convert their properties to condos (if in good condition) or tear them down and build anew (if not in good condition). A problem not addressed by Mr. Krivit is the likelihood that rental property owners who hang on will likely cut their maintenance budgets if forced with cope with reduced rents, and we know that renters bear the burden of that sort of disinvestment.

Finally, some of the numbers that Mr. Krivit uses to support his opinion are deceptive. He says that rents in Ramsey County increased 9% per year (2010-17), a presumed justification for rent control, while he ignores the fact that rents in the city of St. Paul went up an average of only 2% in roughly the same time period (about 3% more recently). While many people rightly support the funding and creation of more affordable housing in St. Paul (myself included), this HENS rent "stabilization" proposal, it seems, will not accomplish that, and it may make matters worse.

Full disclosure: I am not a real estate investor and I own no rental properties.

William Leslie
Como

Stand with Native communities and demand stop to Line 3

Over the last month, we have watched in horror as the unmarked graves of murdered Native American children have been discovered at former boarding school sites.

With each discovery we are reminded of the lives destroyed, the families torn apart and the systematic effort to wipe out Native American culture across North America. If anything, these discoveries will hopefully bring this horrific history back to the forefront so that we can teach our children an accurate picture of the history of this land. Without an honest understanding of history, we are destined to repeat the sins of our forefathers. As William Shakespeare once wrote, "What's past is prologue."

The unfortunate reality is this, while there are no more Native American boarding schools, we as a society continue to marginalize and set in motion the destruction of our Native American neighbors and their communities. In fact, by almost any measure (health, economic or educational) it is clear that our Native Americans neighbors continue to be systematically op-

pressed.

How is this currently happening? The examples are too long to list so let's focus on one current example.

A great deal of press and discussion has occurred recently about the ongoing effort to build Enbridge's Line 3. Most already know that Line 3 will transport Canadian oil through Minnesota to be sold across the globe to the benefit of the Enbridge corporation. What many don't know (or would rather pretend not to know) is this. Line 3 will literally barrel through sovereign Indigenous nations and in doing so will put those Native communities at risk.

Line 3 will and is already putting massive amounts of groundwater at risk and in doing so threatens the health and way of life for many Native American people.

Line 3 construction continues to spit in the face of Native American treaty rights and effectively reminds us all that our Native neighbors are still treated as second class citizens.

Line 3 construction shows that in spite of massive climate

damage the oil it carries will bring, nothing gets in the way of money.

So as elected officials from the governor on down to city council members shake their heads at the recent discoveries of Native American dead, they must be reminded that in a very real sense we continue our destruction of the Native American community. We may no longer have boarding schools, we may no longer openly take away a child's native language but we DO continue to make policy decisions that openly harm too many.

We must ALL understand our horrific history AND demand that we stop injuring our Native American neighbors.

If our elected leaders want to embrace our Native communities they can stand against Line 3. If we want to stand with our Native neighbors we can tell those leaders that we demand nothing less of them.

guest columnist

By **TOM LUCY**,
Como Park
resident



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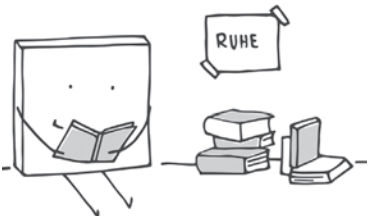
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Lloyd's Pharmacy rebuilds

>> from 1

community has been coming here for years and years. They wanted it here. They supported us. This is a tribute to them.

"This is a community pharmacy. We felt that through this process."

Family business

For the five Stage children who range in age from nine to 15, it has been a slow process although others have told them it has been fast. "It takes a long time to build," commented the youngest, nine-year-old Edmund.

"The family has been so supportive of me through this process," stated Jim. "Cally and the kids gave me space and time."

The business is a family affair, pointed out Jim. He grew up in the Midway, and graduated from Concordia Academy in Roseville class of 2000. He interned at Lloyd's under then-owner Ron Johnson, later worked for Johnson's pharmacy in Rochester, and then returned in Lloyd's in 2011. The family now lives in Roseville.

They all take pride in the family pharmacy business, which also includes Setzer's at 1685 Rice St. The oldest, 15-year-old Gracen, has been working as a clerk at the temporary location, "mini Lloyd's," which has been operating down the street at 694 Snelling Ave. in rented space. They all plan to work at the pharmacy someday. Edmund and



The Stage family: (Back) Jim and Cally, (middle) Evelyn, Gracen, Elliot, (front) Lydia and Edmund. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

12-year-old Elliot dream of becoming pharmacists when they grow up and taking over the family business.

It was hard to reckon with knowing people broke into the pharmacy, looted it, and then set it on fire. The family decided right away they would focus on forgiveness. "It was good for us to do that as a family," said Jim.

With that, they decided to look for the blessings in the situation, to make lemonade out of lemons, pointed out mom Cally.

Ten-year-old Lydia observed that God knew they needed to fix up the aging building. They're all grateful for a new one that won't require constant fixing.

Thirteen-year-old Evelyn put her mark on building by carefully selecting all the paint colors. She opted for a shade of gray as a nice base color, with blues and

pinks as pops of color in individual rooms.

Modeled after old building with modern touches

The new building closely models the look and layout of the original, including the cantilevered window above the front door that gives it a distinctive look. The original window hung over the city sidewalk, which is no longer allowed under code. To keep the structure looking the same, the entire building was moved back a few inches so the window stays within Stage's property line. The crown molding on the top outside edge is also a feature of the new building. The old building has been added onto multiple times over the years and was a hodgepodge of levels. There was a small, partial basement under the front section.

While the new one is laid out in a way that the customer won't notice the difference, it is now all one level. Plus, the ceilings are higher at 10 feet, which make it feel more spacious. The basement also has 10 feet ceilings and stretches the entire length of the building. A vaccine room was added at the front.

The new building has ADA improvements, a plus for his customers, pointed out Stage.

A few additions will make things more efficient for staff and help them avoid frequent trips up and down the 22 steps between levels. There's a dumbwaiter that travels between the basement and the main floor. Another set of tubes moves medication quickly between the labs and compounding areas on the second level to the main level.

Originally a living space, the second level was extensively remodeled in 2018 to better house the pharmacy labs. Lloyd's serves about 8,000 people and about 15% of their work is compounding medications that aren't available many other places. One lab is set up with the necessary fans and safety precautions for handling medications deemed hazardous, with a pass-through window for observation and to move medications back and forth without having to suit back up.

Lloyd's also puts together "blister packs" for customers to help them manage multiple medications over a month. By organizing the medications into 28-day packs, it is easier for customers to track when and what they need to take each day.

Lloyd's offers delivery in St. Paul, and mails out orders across the state and into Wisconsin.

Hard but important lessons

General contractor Joe Beitler of Beitler Construction lived across the street from the state fairgrounds in the 1970s and 80s.

He met his wife while attending Bethel in the buildings that are now home to the Job Corps. "It was painful to go through but what he has now is such an improvement to what he had before," observed Beitler.

Jim observed that he learned many lessons over the last year, including that he wasn't in control. "It's been trying. It's been testing. It's been hopeful. It's been wonderful," said Jim.

"There's been a lot of growth. I've had to learn how to manage differently. It's taken me out of my comfort zone."

As with other affected businesses in the Twin Cities, insurance covered only the cost of the building as it was valued before it burned down not what it cost to rebuild. Some of the gap was covered by the GoFundMe donations.

Community, staff support

People sent donations and letters of support. Midway residents Maxine Curran and Robert Juneski brought homemade baked items – snickerdoodles and banana bread and pumpkin spiced cookies – to the 70 staff at Lloyd's and Setzer's every single Tuesday all year long.

"The employees returned," said Jim. During the chaos, "they stuck with us. They powered through it. They were asked to do things they wouldn't otherwise have done. They have been outstanding."

Lloyd's staff began working out of the Setzer's location immediately, working to fulfill orders before they were able to rebuild their computer system based on their long-time relationships with customers. Within a month, they had opened the temporary location down the block from the original one, and have operated from there since.

They're looking forward to getting back into a larger facility and working out of a new space.

St. Paul businesses and neighborhood associations partner with the Minneapolis Foundation to raise \$20 million to help small business owners and corridors impacted by civil unrest after Floyd's murder

INVESTING IN RESILIENCY

If you thought the 350 or so Minneapolis and St. Paul small business owners on Lake Street and West Broadway in Minneapolis, and University Avenue in St. Paul's Midway who watched their businesses get damaged or destroyed in the civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd one year ago were giving up on their dreams, you would be wrong.

What the civil unrest took away has made them stronger and even more determined than ever to rebuild their businesses and reimagine their futures and the futures of their communities.

"I will not quit until I know I can't go on anymore," said Wonneda Hing, owner of Universal Hair Design located in St. Paul's East Midway/West Frogtown neighborhood. "So, I will strive to find some funding, some loans, to help my dream."

Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine

It's this determination that's fueling a new fundraising effort supported by a coalition of businesses and nonprofits to help Minneapolis and St. Paul small businesses directly affected by

civil unrest to reconstruct their operations.

Formed by the Minneapolis Foundation, the community-based Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund (RRRFund.org) started with a challenge grant from the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation and received donations so far from Target Corporation, the Donaldson Foundation, and Mortenson. In creating the fund, the goal is to raise at least \$20 million within the next year.

"I am personally inspired by the determination of these small businesses to rebuild," said Rod Young, CEO and president of Delta Dental of Minnesota. "Because of their fighting spirit and the love for their communities, we've joined with other major businesses and neighborhood nonprofits to accelerate their rebuilding efforts. Through our Foundation, we want to build on their momentum."

These businesses are partnering with the Lake Street Council, the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, and the Midway Chamber of Commerce in St. Paul, and raised funds will be directed and distributed through the Minneapolis Foundation's

Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund. Complementing these efforts, Minneapolis-based Mortenson, one of Minnesota's largest construction companies, has been providing pro bono services and technical consultation to assist impacted businesses, and connecting affected business owners with local minority-owned contractors for services.

"The physical restoration of these main corridors in our community is vital," said Lynn Littlejohn, Vice President of Community Affairs and Development for Mortenson. "Much has been accomplished so far, but a significant amount of work remains. Time becomes a factor the longer we wait. That's why we need to act now and act decisively to restore these three key cultural and business corridors."

Mini-documentary

The world was shocked when images of burning buildings, smashed facades, and looted businesses flooded their screens one year ago.

Today, new images are emerging – of small business owners on Lake Street, West



"I'm staying for the community. I'm staying for the love of the people," said Gloria Wong, owner of Sunrise Plaza and Century Plaza in the Midway. (Photo submitted)

Broadway and University Avenue more determined than ever to reimagine their futures.

Their stories are captured in their own words in a new 12-minute mini-documentary called Corridors, which shares how businesses on Lake Street and West Broadway in Minneapolis, and on University Avenue in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood, were damaged or destroyed, how the community came together to help, and why owners are passionate about staying in their neighborhoods, rebuilding their businesses and reimaging their futures. The documentary is available to watch on RRRFund.org.

The mini-documentary was created in support of the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund and serves as a call-to-action to encourage further philanthropic investment in the vital Minneapolis and St. Paul communities affected by the civil unrest.

"These small business own-

ers are part of a long-standing legacy of immigrants who came to Minnesota to forge a new future for themselves and their adopted new home," said R.T. Rybak, President of the Minneapolis Foundation. "Many fled wars and strife in their homelands. There's no one who understands better what it means to rebuild than these business owners. That's why we're investing in them."

Reimagining the future

Donations to the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund will be used specifically to help small businesses impacted by the civil unrest re-construct their businesses. These efforts range from minor repairs to store facades to the complete reconstruction of buildings.

"We've learned in our community outreach efforts over the past year that many of these small businesses were underinsured," said Littlejohn. "The Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund will help fill that gap."

But what's very clear, according to the Corridors documentary, is the will of these small business owners to survive and thrive.

"I want to build a building. How realistic is that dream?" asked K.B. Brown, owner of Wolfpack Promotionals LLC on West Broadway in Minneapolis' Jordan neighborhood. "I'm an entrepreneur. I don't believe in failure. I'll make it happen."

INVESTING >> 7

Four sue after eviction from Midway Center

>> from 1

Court documents indicate that the four business owners believe their storefronts sustained little damage and could have reopened. They are claiming wrongful eviction and unlawful exclusion, breach of contract and breach of duty in good faith.

Defendants in the case are RK Midway Shopping Center, Snelling Midway Redevelopment LLC and RD Management. Attorney Timothy Kelly declined comment on behalf of his clients.

Peking Garden is now in a building that was built several years ago for Mai Village. The most recent occupant, the Tapestry restaurant, closed about two years ago.

Lau said that his family has spent about \$1 million in relocation costs and has about \$200,000 to \$300,000 in additional expenses pending for the new location's kitchen.

"We've had good traffic at the new location but as we get into working there, we find we need to make further changes," Lau said. Business owners at Midway Center were given \$10,000 by the owners, but Lau said that was not nearly enough for businesses wishing to relocate.

Peking Garden is one of two businesses that has reopened. Thein's has reopened as King Cajun, at 712 University Ave.

Golden Gate has permanently closed, and the restaurant website is gone. Mimi's voicemail indicates the salon is still temporarily closed. All four businesses are BIPOC-owned.

Lau said Peking Garden's Midway Center lease was to expire in 2028. That is the same year for the Cajun restaurant.

Mimi's Beauty Salon had a lease extending into 2024. Golden Gate's lease was to expire at the end of 2022. Golden Gate was owned by the Hui family for 40 years and was the longest-tenured shopping center tenant.

The restaurant had operated at Midway Center since 2005, moving there after its previous space near the University of Minnesota was taken to build a new football stadium.

The Laus had put more than \$350,000 into their Midway Center space just a few years before being forced out.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs contend that only about 10 percent of the shopping center sustained heavy damage. Other

areas, including their leased premises, sustained little to no damage and the city has not revoked any of their individual certificates of occupancy.

"If it were not for [Snelling-Midway Redevelopment's] closure of Midway Center, the plaintiffs individually and collectively would be able to continue their business operations," the lawsuit stated.

"We walked through each business with the fire marshal," Lau said. "We were not told we couldn't reopen."

Court documents spell out the former tenants' claim that their leases were terminated in a bid to speed up redevelopment of the Midway Center property around the Allianz Field soccer stadium. The property bounded by Pascal Street and St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues is under lease to Snelling Midway Redevelopment LLC. That entity is led by Bill McGuire, who is also lead owner for the Minnesota MLS soccer team.

A city-approved master plan for redevelopment was put into place for five years. It includes apartments, a hotel and commercial development. More than one year ago plans were unveiled to build two mixed-use buildings on the western part of the site, but those plans haven't materialized.

The business owners are represented by Christopher Knapp of the law firm Barnes and Thornburg of Minneapolis. Knapp declined comment.

Updates on businesses

The four Midway Center businesses involved in the lawsuit are just some impacted by the civil unrest and evictions. What has happened to the other businesses?

Chain businesses such as Family Dollar, Great Clips, Sally's Beauty Supply, H & R Block, Foot Locker and Rainbow clothing have other stores in the Twin Cities, and haven't opened new stores in Midway area.

To New York has a sister store in Brooklyn Center.

Bank of America opened a new branch at University and Fry Street. That building was in the works before the civil unrest.

MidPointe Event Center, which hosted an array of banquets, receptions, conference and meets, has closed permanently.

olis and Saint Paul is when we come together and help each other out," said Rybak. "There's a lot of momentum behind the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund and we invite everyone who cares deeply about these communities to consider giving."

"I'm hoping that we can form alliances and people who do have the means can partner with those who don't. I hope we can have these partnerships," said Christina Le, who owns Lake Wine & Spirits with her husband, both immigrants from Vietnam. "It's hard to do something alone. We would like to stay here as long as possible, grow with the city, and reinvest our time and money into our neighborhood again. No guts, no glory!"



REBIRTH, HEALING, RECONCILIATION AND HOPE

>> from 1

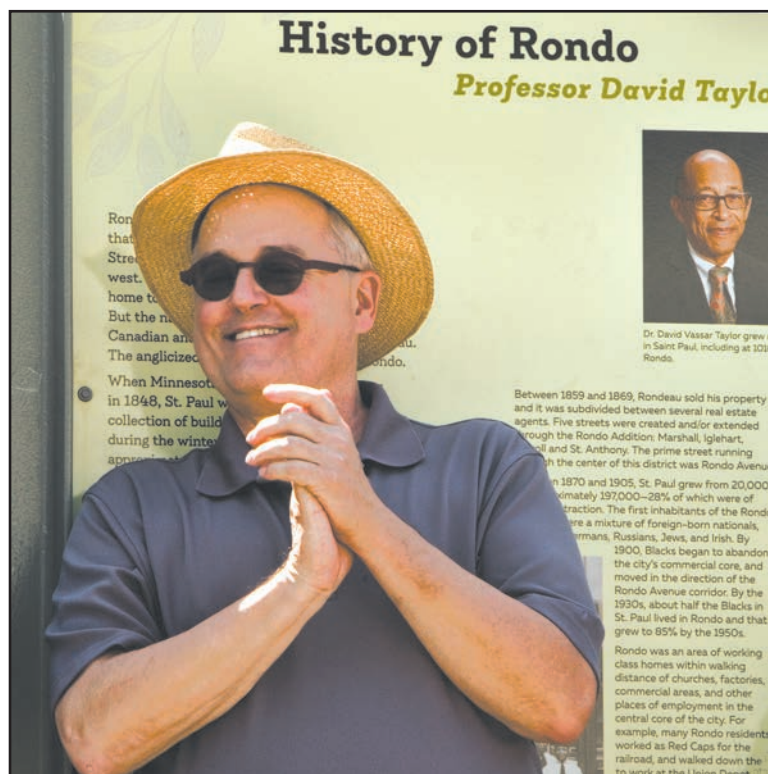
St. Paul mayor Melvin Carter III was present along with many dignitaries including Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum, St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, ReConnect Rondo Board Chair Marvin Anderson, Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners Toni Carter, City Councilmember Dai Thao, Minnesota Senator Sandra Pappas, Minnesota Senator Erin Murphy, Minnesota Representative Rena Moran, and St. Paul Police Commissioner Todd Axtell.

Among the first speakers at the podium was Rondo resident Pearl Mitchell Jackson.

Ms. Jackson's Uncle Jim was responsible for bringing a slip of the original honeysuckle to Minnesota 150+ years ago. He served in the Civil War as a Union soldier, and once the war ended – realized he could no longer continue living in the confederate state of Alabama. He made his way north to Minnesota, where the honeysuckle was planted in a Rondo yard. With the help of St. Paul arborist and University of Minnesota professor Chad Giblin, a portion of the honeysuckle lives on at the Rondo Center of Diverse Expression, adjacent to the Rondo Commemorative Plaza.

Mayor Carter opened his mid-afternoon remarks with a greeting of, "Good morning!" He continued, "I know it's 3:00 in the afternoon, but I'm still saying 'Good morning!' because a new day is here."

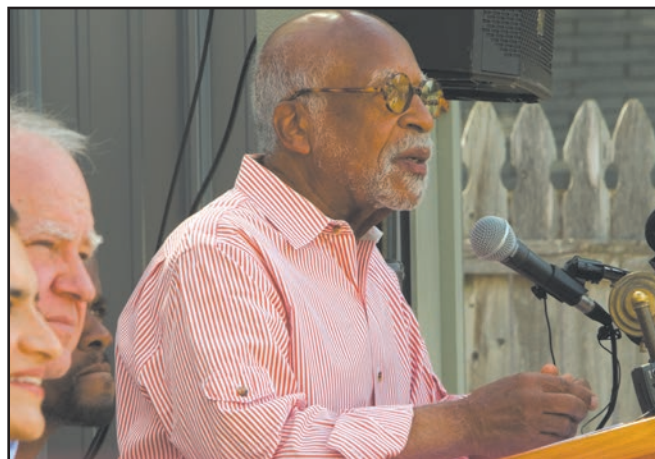
Sixty volunteers from Republic Services and community members had spent the two



Police Commissioner Todd Axtell stands in front of a History of Rondo panel. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

previous days digging, planting, mulching, and watering in hundreds of perennials that make up the new Rondo Community Garden. A \$150,000 grant from the Republic Services Charitable Foundation made possible the purchase of plant materials. The revitalized community space will be a place to gather, perform, recreate, and celebrate cultural heritage.

This honeysuckle was brought to Minnesota over 150 years ago by a Union soldier who left the confederate state of Alabama after the Civil War and settled in Rondo. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Rondo Center of Creative Expression Executive Director Marvin Anderson said, "The flowers that were planted over the last two days will grow and be another sign of our community's healing and reconciliation." At left are Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan and Governor Tim Walz. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



With the help of St. Paul Arborist and University of Minnesota professor Chad Giblin, a portion of a 150-year-old honeysuckle lives on at the Rondo Center of Diverse Expression (see photo above). (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

INVESTING >> from 6

Giving to the RRR Fund

Business and community leaders and individuals who want to help small businesses on Lake Street and West Broadway in Minneapolis and University Avenue in St. Paul rebuild, can give directly to the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund at RRR-Fund.org, by emailing rebuild@mplsfoundation.org, by calling 612-672-3867, or texting "RE-BUILD" to 243725. Donations of all sizes are being accepted. Donations will be administered to local businesses by the Minneapolis Foundation's Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund.

"The strength of Minneap-



Nathan Kranz, general manager of First Avenue and the Turf Club, said, "Welcome back!" (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

TURF CLUB REVIVED

>> from 1

Kranz added, "It was extremely hard to visit all of our venues while they were closed, but the Turf Club was the hardest because of the damage it sustained."

Now that the building has been restored, it's time to start hiring staff again. First Avenue had about 450 employees across their venues when the pandemic hit, and 430 of them had to be laid off. The organization tried to stay in touch with their staff while venues were shuttered. They sent out a weekly newsletter that identified how and where to get COVID-19 tests and eventually vaccines, highlighted where to go for mental health resources, and kept the channels of communication open.

History matters

Guitar bluesmaster Charlie Parr has a history of playing every Sunday in January at the Turf Club, and 2021 was no exception. This year, instead of packing the house, Parr offered his concerts virtually and charged no admission. Listeners made donations, and the residency (as Parr calls it) raised enough to cover the cost of producing and filming the concerts with a professional crew.

Kranz explained, saying, "History matters to our company, and we wanted to maintain at least some continuity during the pandemic. We were able to present Charlie's residency, and some of the other annual events we know



The interior, including the historic wooden bar at the Turf Club (at right) has been restored following fire damage in May 2020. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

our fans look forward to.

"For 40 years, local guitar legend Curtiss A has played a tribute to John Lennon on Dec. 8 (the night he was murdered). Curtiss A came down to First Avenue to record the show this year, and more than 1,000 people were able to watch it remotely. We really wanted to keep that streak going; 41 years is a long time.

"There were some things about the virtual events that surprised us. One advantage is that we could give access to well-known bands and well-loved annual events that sell out quickly. With live stream, there's no maximum audience capacity."

First Avenue may continue live streaming some events, but they aren't

About the Turf Club

The Turf Club is beloved for being both a neighborhood hangout and a destination for some of the top touring bands in the country. The live music venue with seating for 350 has a main stage and bar upstairs, and a smaller stage and bar downstairs in the Clown Lounge. It is ramping back up to featuring live music nearly every night of the week, after 16 months of being closed for the pandemic and renovation for water damage.

The Turf Club is owned and operated by First Avenue. Their other businesses include the Seventh Street Entry, the Depot Tavern, the Fine Line, the Fitzgerald Theater, First Avenue, and the Palace Theater.



sure yet how it will play out.

What to expect

The mask policy at the Turf Club moving into summer will continue to follow CDC guidelines. Kranz said, "We're not going to try and outsmart the scientists. We'll be asking unvaccinated patrons to mask up for the safety of everyone."

"We've worked hard to make this place look and feel the same as it did the last time customers were here. We love these old spaces, and the Turf Club is our most historic venue. We feel it's important to keep the vibe."

"I think we're in for some very good times once we get these doors back open."

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Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



International Institute of Minnesota expands Como Ave. headquarters

The International Institute of Minnesota is expanding its headquarters building at 1694 Como Ave. The expanded facility is part of a \$12.5 million project that will allow the organization to increase workforce training and other sought-after programs that will serve an additional 500 New Americans annually.

The project is being funded by a \$3 million state bonding appropriation, private and corporate foundations, and individual donors. The Otto Bremer Trust has awarded \$1 million to the project, including a \$750,000 program-related investment and a \$250,000 grant. Other major contributors include Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, Hardenbergh Foundation, HRK Foundation and Saint Paul Foundation.

"We are grateful for all of our supporters that have helped make this expansion possible," said International Institute of Minnesota Executive Director Jane Graupman. "Even before the pandemic, the Institute experienced a significant increase in demand for our services. For over 100 years, we have been working to make Minnesota a place where New Americans can find respect, support, and safety; and opportunities to achieve their fullest potential – which positively benefits them and our state."

The expansion includes a 16,000-square-foot wing containing six new classrooms, interactive training labs, a wel-

coming and functional lobby and gathering spaces for clients and their families. The current 18,000-square-foot building is being renovated to maximize space efficiency, ensure accessibility and create flexibility for the future.

The Institute achieved several milestones in 2020, surpassing 25,000 refugees resettled since 1974, and assisting in 15,000 citizenship applications being filed since 2001. As baby boomers age out of the workforce, immigrants and refugees represent a growing portion of the state's overall population, and these New Americans are essential to Minnesota's labor market and economic viability in the global marketplace.

"The International Institute of Minnesota has a tremendous track record of helping New Americans achieve stability and quickly become contributing members of the workforce, particularly in the much-needed healthcare professions," said Charlotte Johnson, Co-CEO and Trustee, Otto Bremer Trust. "By substantially increasing the Institute's facility, the organization will be able to double the number of workforce program participants annually."

Founded in 1919, the International Institute of Minnesota helps New Americans successfully transition to new lives, build self-sufficiency, and achieve economic independence. Today, the Institute is a recognized leader in programs and services for immigrants and refugees, providing workforce development; employment training,



On June 10, 2021, folks gathered to officially break ground for the new 16,000-square-foot wing containing six new classrooms, interactive training labs, and more at the International Institute of Minnesota. The existing 18,000-square-foot building is also being renovated. (Photos submitted)

including programs aimed at hospitality and medical careers; immigration and citizenship services; refugee resettlement; English language classes; and a college readiness academy. The Institute also sponsors the popular annual Festival of Nations.



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Community members unite to replace trees this year instead of in 2023

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Trudy Dunham and Miriam Friesen are on a mission: they want to replace the nearly 100 ash trees removed from the Hamline Midway neighborhood faster than city officials are proposing.

Last month, the city of Saint Paul cut down 69 mature ash trees on Minnehaha Avenue, 21 on Asbury Avenue, and six on Simpson Street – all between Snelling and Hamline avenues.

The city's timeline for dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in District 11 is to remove all the ash trees in 2021, to grind the stumps in 2022, and to plant new boulevard trees in 2023.

Dunham and Friesen, along with many community groups, business owners, and residents believe that this response is too slow.

Organizations lending support include the Earthkeepers of Hamline United Methodist Church, the Hamline Midway Coalition, the city of Saint Paul Forestry Department, Hamline Midway Neighbors for Peace, Hamline Midway Progressive Women, Ginkgo Coffee Shop, Midway Animal Hospital, Friends of Horton Park, and Friends of Hamline Park.

Friesen explained, "Our goal is to streamline the whole process from three years to one. We want to see new boulevard trees in the ground this fall."

According to Dunham, Saint Paul's plan is to increase the city tree canopy from 32% to 40% by 2030. She said, "With that in mind, we really need to accelerate the process of replanting. Boulevard trees take a long time to mature."

She continued, "We are working with all of our partners to create a more climate resilient community and having a robust tree canopy is part of that. Trees help absorb air borne pollution; trees dissipate heavy rain and reduce the amount of rainwater that flushes into stormwater sewers; trees provide shade, which cuts down on the need for air condi-



One of the blocks along Minnehaha Avenue that lost multiple mature ash trees this summer. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Miriam Friesen (pictured left) and Trudy Dunham (pictured right), co-creators of Replant Minnehaha Trees. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

tioning; trees create beauty and a strong sense of neighborhood."

Structured removal of trees

Structured removal is the removal of blocks of infested ash trees throughout the city. Saint Paul's plan is that all stumps created from 2021 ash removals will be treated with an herbicide (Pathfinder II RTU) to prevent sprouting. The stumps will be ground out in 2022, at the earli-



est. Stump grinding usually starts in April, weather permitting.

The city of Saint Paul has indicated that they will work with Replant Minnehaha Trees to permit early stump grinding – if the

work is done by a city-approved landscape company.

In the past, the focus for structured removal was on areas that were planted in a monoculture of ash trees. Due to the con-

tinued spread of EAB infestation, structured removal is now used for all ash trees. Once an ash tree becomes infested, it takes 3-5 years for the tree to die. By removing trees before they die, the city's goal is to reduce the number of dead and potentially hazardous ash trees in the city.

The Forestry Department inoculates (rather than removes) a portion of high value ash trees on boulevards and in parks that meet the following criteria: trunks are between 10-20 feet, trees appear to be in good health, and there is no interference with utility wires, street lights, or roadway clearance. Given the city's budget constraints, and high levels of EAB infestation, no new trees will be added to this program.

Replant Minnehaha Trees has set a goal of raising \$12,000-\$15,000 to grind the stumps that were left behind from the recent structured removal in Hamline Midway. In addition, they've applied to Tree Trust for a Green Futures Grant for boulevard replacement trees. The grant is not an allocation of money, but an allocation of trees.

Dunham and Friesen hope they will receive 50-100 ready-to-plant boulevard trees in the fall. They will also need to recruit volunteers to help plant and maintain the trees, which will not be the city's responsibility.

Launch party July 15

A celebration will be held at Hamline Church Greenway on Thursday, July 15 from 3-6 p.m. with a program starting at 4 p.m. City of Saint Paul Chief Resilience Officer Russ Stark will speak at the event, in support of replanting Minnehaha Avenue's trees. The Hamline Church Greenway is located at 1524 Englewood Ave.

Representatives from the city's forestry department, tree specialists, and local organizations and businesses will be present. In addition to learning to better care for trees, the focus will be on climate resiliency and dealing with summer heat in the absence of trees. Learn more about the city's efforts to manage the EAB infestation, as well as their long-term plans to extend the tree cover city-wide. Get the latest information about what varieties of trees are being suggested for replanting in a changing climate.

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Women of mystery, power and honesty focus of 'The Witch of Eye'

Frog town author releases new book about witch trials, inquisitions during 1500s

By JAN WILLMS

Hags, crones, cunning women and witches – terms that have been used throughout the ages to describe women of power, of honesty and mystery.

Frog town author Kathryn Nuernberger, who teaches creative writing at the University of Minnesota, has recently written "The Witch of Eye," a book of essays focusing on the witch trials, inquisitions and torture of some of these women during the mid-1500s.

Meticulously researched, the book examines how the use of medicines and potions meant to heal were instead attributed to the power of evil, and the healers and midwives then accused of harming the members of the local communities.

"I have primarily been a poet for much of my life," said Nuernberger, who has written the poetry collections "Rue, The End of Pink" and "Rag & Bone" as well as an essay collection, "Brief Interviews with the Romantic Past."

In researching information about abortive plants for the poems that were the backbone of her book, "Rue," published in 2020, Nuernberger said she was having difficulty finding specifics about how plants were used in early birth control. "I was finding lots of euphemistic references, and I wanted the poems to be vivid and have precise imagery, and I also like historical accuracy," she said.

"I remembered reading that witches were often midwives, and I had this thought that I could go to the trial records and transcripts, and in the confessions I might learn how some of the plants were used." Nuernberger

er said she did not find any information in the trial records about how plants were used, but she did find through reading the transcripts this whole other world.

"It was fascinating to me in terms of power dynamics, defiance and resistance. I am interested in plants but I am definitely also interested in people who are defiant and people who push against oppressive power and oppressive regimes. So I just kept reading, and I wanted to write in that direction, as well," she said.

For a long time, Nuernberger said she did not really know if she was writing a book, so she is not sure how long she spent on research. "As I was reading about the trials, I thought they would be good poems. I wanted them to be like fairy tales with an historical touch to them. But they just kept getting longer and more complicated, and I was writing about real people who had suffered in really terrible and unjust ways. I wanted to be as faithful as I could to them. These torture-induced trial records have been totally shaped by propaganda, so I had to bring in lots of other contexts to try to bring as much as I could figure out about their lives on the page as possible."

So the fairy tale poetry became essays of what people experienced. Nuernberger's descriptive writing never loses its sense of poetry, however.

"The most interesting part of working on a book, to me, is the research," Nuernberger said. "That is also the most challenging part of the writing." She said she is interested in so much of the research, and when she first starts to write a book she is bor-



Frog town author Kathryn Nuernberger, who teaches creative writing at the University of Minnesota, has written a book that examines how the use of medicines and potions meant to heal were instead attributed to the power of evil, and the healers then accused of being "witches." The book is titled, "The Witch of Eye." (Photo submitted)

ing. "My first drafts tend to read like encyclopedia entries. I have these trusted readers I show the drafts to, and they tell me they are boring and I wonder how they can possibly say that."

Nuernberger said that as she does her research, she infuses it with experiences from her own life, finding parallels between what she is reading, her own life and what she sees in the day's headlines. She puts a lot of emotional energy into her research, but may not notice that other people are not bringing the same set of experiences to the research material. "It becomes this process of trying to figure out what I need to give the readers of my human experience in order for

them to see in my words what I think is a really intense or inspiring or provocative piece of an historical tidbit or factoid," she observed.

Considering herself a White woman with a certain amount of economic security in a way that the women she writes about were not, Nuernberger said her usual mode of writing a little bit of herself and a little bit of research felt problematic. She said she wanted to feel really alive and human to her readers, but also make the people she was researching come alive on the page.

Racism emerges

As she worked on "The

Witch of Eye," Nuernberger said she wondered what made it possible for the inquisitors in the witch trials to behave the way they did. Although she said she believes people are basically good, the actions of the inquisitors reflected the evil in the world.

"I was thinking a lot about what makes their kind of logic possible," she said, "and there are a number of answers. One is a lust for power, and people will believe whatever grants them a level of comfort and power."

Nuernberger said in her researching she found that in the medieval period, racism emerges, and this can be seen in the narrative of the trials. She cites narratives of anti-Black, anti-Asian and anti-Semitism in the records.

As she provides an in-depth look at the lives of the various accused witches, mostly women but an occasional man or child, Nuernberger intertwines some of her own experiences and some of the current events of the day. And she looks at the diminishing number of witch trials.

"Individuals start to realize that wealthy people, and not just marginalized people, can be witches," Nuernberger said. "And once they realize that they turn on each other."

"It was no longer just the people they were accustomed to scapegoating who were witches, but rather anybody could be a witch, and that opens a huge can of worms. Maybe there are no such thing as witches and maybe witch trials should not be held. And that seems to bring the trials to a close."

"The Witch of Eye" can be purchased at your favorite bookstore or on Amazon and eBay.

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Let's broaden our perspectives for fair and just state, country, world

"Dreams and expectations are two very different things. Dreams call for a leap of faith, trusting that Spirit is holding the net, so that you can continue in the re-creation of the world with your energy, soul, gifts, and vision. Expectations are the emotional investment the ego makes in a particular outcome: what needs to happen to make that dream come true... Living your life as a dreamer and not an 'expecter' is a personal declaration of independence. You are able to pursue happiness more directly when you don't get caught up in the delivery details. Dreaming, not expecting, allows Spirit to step in and surprise you with connection, completion, consummation, celebration." - Sarah Ban Breathnach, Simple Abundance

Happy July Monitor readers,

I hope you all are enjoying the summer and dreaming of better and brighter days. I'm also hoping that you are feeling the liberating energy of learning and accepting hard truths such as the meaning of Juneteenth or of the cover-up of the horrible 1921 Black Wall Street bombings and bloodbath of Tulsa's Black and

Brown citizens. Hearing and then accepting facts that we weren't taught can be hard and disconcerting, particularly, when we have been educated with false and omitted important historic information alongside truthful and prideful information and facts.

Yes, often new knowledge and uncovered documented evidence is difficult and challenging to swallow or just to hear, even when we see or feel the truth/reality. For instance, climate change, or the Jan. 6 attempted treason revolt on our National Capitol, or of the current Pipeline 3 ongoing slaughter of Mother Earth and the direct inhuman assault to our First Nation's mothers, fathers, and children. However, we can keep rising and let our Better Angels assist us to accept the Jubilation of undoing and dismantling the deceitfulness of our country and state's past and present wrongs and unjust actions and policies. For example, when we can acknowledge facts like the Dec. 26, 1862 largest mass hangings in USA history in our own Mankato, Minn. of 38 Dakota warriors

Peace bubbles

By MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com



or the June 15, 1920 mob lynching of three young Black men by the residents of Duluth, Minn., we release the shame and guilt that makes it hard to digest new information and truths and we receive renewed hope that we can handle reconciling and restoring harms and tragedies of our past and of our current time.

It was great to see so many people wanting to honor and celebrate the meaning of Juneteenth after decades of demands and petitions; now we just have to connect the dots of Juneteenth to the Voting Rights Act! Likewise, many people, in particularly, White people are just reading or learning about the most authentic 4th of July speech that Frederick Douglass delivered on July 5, 1852. Please look up "What to

the Slave is the Fourth of July?" I believe it will give extra background and context for accepting and acknowledging why 'Black Lives Matter' and why 'Pipeline 3' must end/stop! Here's a few lines of Mr. Douglass speech:

"I say it with a sad sense of the disparity between us. I am not included within the pale of glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought light and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn. To drag a man in fetters into the grand illuminated temple of liberty, and call upon him to join you in joyous anthems, were inhuman mockery and sacrilegious irony... I do not despair of this country. There are forces in operation, which must inevitably work the downfall of slavery. 'The arm of the Lord is not short-

ened,' and the doom of slavery is certain. I, therefore, leave off where I began, with hope. While drawing encouragement from the Declaration of Independence, the great principles it contains, and the genius of American institutions, my spirit is also cheered by the obvious tendencies of the age."

Let us also be cheered by the obvious tendencies of the age and of our time-period of old and new knowledge and facts coming to light, and of our ongoing mutual bending the arc towards justice. Together we can keep taking leaps of faith-ing and continue optimistically in the re-creation of our beautiful, just, and environmental-friendly world we want. Dream and believe!!!!!!

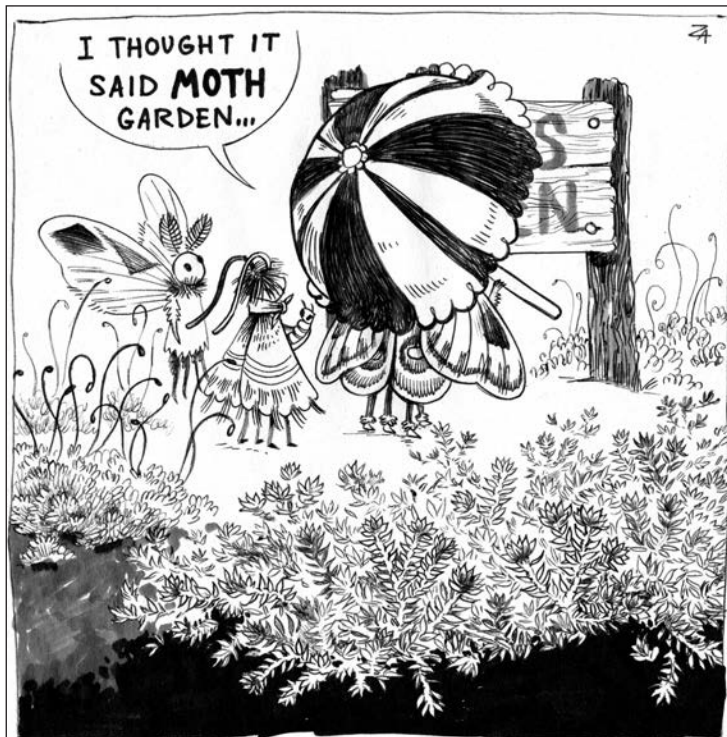
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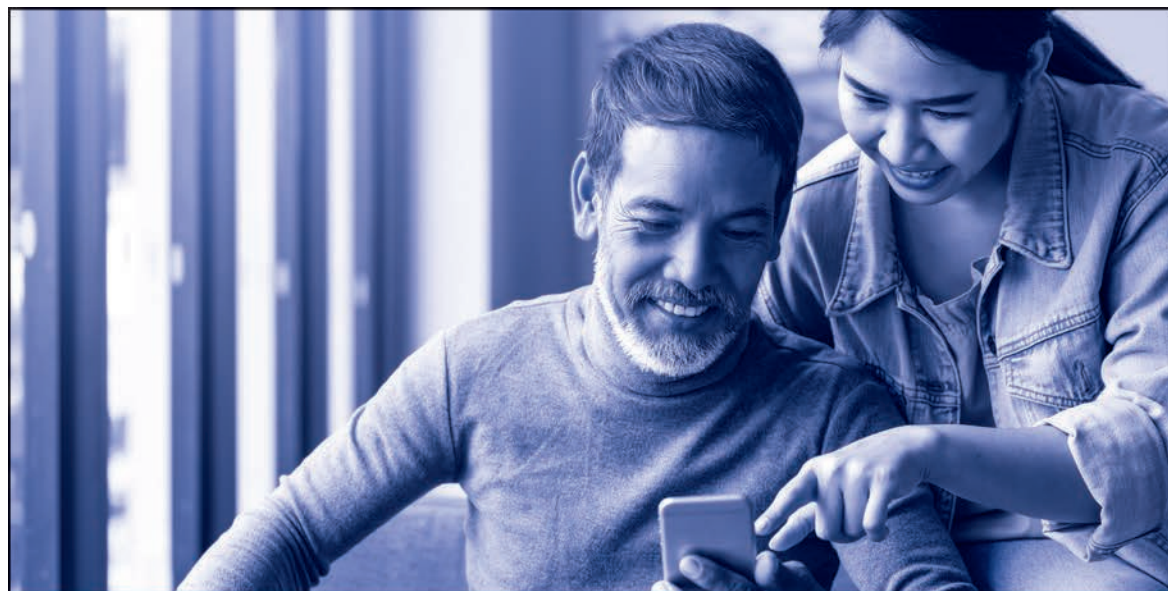
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PLAN AHEAD ▶

2021 CHROMA ZONE MIDSUMMER 'HAPPENING' EVENT



"Spirit of Misi-zibi" by Rock "Cyfi" Martinez is the first Chroma Zone mural completed. (Photo by Jon Reynolds of Venn Media & Design)



Five murals - one on each side of a pole barn at Bang Brewing - went up in May 2021 as part of this year's kick-off BANG IT! MURAL MEET. (Photo by Jon Reynolds of Venn Media & Design)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Discover the people, places, and murals near Raymond and University avenues at a free, outdoor event on July 24. This family-friendly midsummer "happening" will celebrate the 2021 Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot at 2417 University Ave.

New murals will be on view in the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) by three 2021 Chroma Zone artists. They include Thomasina Topbear, painting at 2299 W Territorial (south wall); Kao Lee Thao, painting at 2408 W Territorial Road (east wall); and Holly "Miskitoos" Henning Garcia, painting at 771 Raymond Ave (rear wall).

"In addition to debuting three new 2021 Chroma Zone murals, we are excited to introduce the artists, makers, performers, community partners and sponsors of the CEZ," said CEZ Executive Director Angela Caselton.

"Even more so, we look forward to coming together as creatives and as a community to



At left, kids paint a street mural using constarch paint during the May 22 kick off event. It will also be part of the July 24 event at 2417 University Avenue West. (Photo by Jon Reynolds of Venn Media & Design)

celebrate the power of public art (the murals) to promote, connect and engage the people and places of the CEZ. It is our mission and vision to attract and support our community to 'Make It Here,' to foster a greater sense of belonging and well-being, and to contribute to the long-term beauty, economic vitality, safety and walkability of our unique creative

district."

Stop by the CEZ booth to pick up a map to begin your adventure. Take a walking tour of the 10+ new murals in the Raymond-University area, or join a mural bike tour that leaves at 10 a.m. from 2417 University Ave. Register in advance or join the day of the event.

There will be art demos,

hands-on activities, and live performances throughout the day.

The performing arts and dance academy CAAM Chinese Dance Theater will perform at 10:30 a.m. The Smiling Drum Studio will perform at 12:30 p.m.

Art Buddies will be on hand with free art kits for kids to take home. Learn about this one-on-one mentorship program that

has been pairing creative adults with kids from the Twin Cities highest needs schools for 25 years.

Be part of making a mural yourself with Hands-on Street Mural Making.

Browse the wares of Mid-ModMen+Friends, Barely Brothers Records, Agharta Records, Shag Studio and other CEZ vintage and collectible shops.

Sip on coffee at Roundtable Coffee, Workhorse Coffee, and Dogwood Coffee. Have a meal at Foxy Falafel, Naughty Greek, Key's Cafe, Cafe Biaggio, The Dubliner and more. Enjoy a beer at Dual Citizen Brewing Company.

Special thanks to The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for their three-year support of Chroma Zone.

Rondo receives triflection of good news from state, federal and Met Council

Twelve years after the initial idea to physically reconnect the Rondo neighborhood took root, three milestones were met in July at the state, federal and regional levels that improve the initiative's likelihood of moving forward.

The Minnesota State Legislature approved, and the Governor signed into law through the Budget Bill, funds to start predevelopment activities including mas-

ter planning for the land bridge; Congresswoman Betty McCollum has sponsored and included funding specifically for Rondo as part of the INVEST In America Act within the Biden federal infrastructure process; and the Metropolitan Council has approved a \$150,000 allocation for ReConnect Rondo to create a specific plan to address potential negative impacts of development on

neighborhoods.

The \$6.2m state appropriation to create a master plan marks a significant turning point for the land bridge, say organizers. Now they are able to launch plans that address specific housing, jobs, health, and environmental measures that will assure that the development will ultimately benefit the residents and descendants of Rondo in the way

it was always intended.

Neighborhood concerns persist over gentrification, property taxes and other forces that are feared may accelerate resident displacement spawned by the establishment of an African American cultural enterprise district connected by a community land bridge. With community input, master planning will be key to developing safeguards through tactics such as creating a community reinvestment trust, cooper-

ative housing systems, and the securing of air rights for the new land being created as stated examples of the possible ways that residents will retain control over their collective destiny.

"Our years of persistence is beginning to really pay off," said Keith Baker, Executive Director for ReConnect Rondo. More at <https://reconnectrondo.com/engage/>

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Springboard for the Arts guarantees income for artists

25 Frogtown and Rondo artists get \$500 a month for 18 months

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Springboard for the Arts recently launched a new Guaranteed Income for Artists Program, for artists living in the Rondo and Frogtown neighborhoods of St. Paul. The pilot program provides \$500 of unrestricted support to 25 artists for 18 months, and is the first of its kind across the country.

The goal is to explore the impact of guaranteed income on artists at the neighborhood level, and to provide a national model for the inclusion of artists in policies that address economic equality. Guaranteed income is meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net. It can be a tool for racial and gender equity, while contributing to community stability.

Caroline Taiwo is Springboard's economic opportunity director. She said, "While Minnesota has a ton of funding for the arts, what isn't often talked about is how competitive that funding is. We see our program as an alternative: a way for artists at varying stages of their careers to have dependable income so they can better support themselves and their families."

Following city's lead

Taiwo continued, "COVID-19 laid bare so many inequities that artists face, particularly BIPOC artists. Springboard recognized that funding for artists is often based on prestige. We de-

Do art, get paid

Springboard for the Arts is seeking five artists to raise public awareness and support for their Guaranteed Income for Artists Pilot Program. Selected artists will create public art projects in the fall of 2021. Each artist will receive a \$5,000 stipend. The deadline for application is Friday, July 16, 11:59 p.m.

Visit www.springboardforthearts.org/artists-respond-people-place-and-prosperity for more information.

cided to create a sidecar to the city of Saint Paul's People's Prosperity Guaranteed Income Project, and used many of the same parameters for participation."

In both programs, participants are chosen at random. In Springboard's case, names were selected from a data base of artists who received support from their Artist Emergency Relief Fund last year.

That program gave \$500 micro grants to eligible artists with no strings attached. Through individual donations and foundation support, Springboard was able to disburse a total of \$1,500,000 to artists during the pandemic. Taiwo said, "It was a bright spot for our staff, and for grant recipients, during what was a really dark time."

Staff, board members, and supporters of Springboard believe that art makers and creativity will be the key to a just and equitable pandemic recovery. For that to happen, direct support to artists is needed.



Director of Economic Opportunity Caroline Taiwo said, "We are centering artists from Frogtown and Rondo as creative problem solvers and key economic drivers, because these neighborhoods have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and overlooked for decades." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

A new way of giving

Springboard considers the Guaranteed Income for Artists Program to be a better solution than the old model for distributing grants. According to Taiwo, "Historically, there's been a certain connotation, almost a stereotype, around who gives away money and who receives it."

"Ours is a small pilot; it's not a definitive study. We're simply curious about how this amount of money will impact the lives of participating artists over time. We are supplementing the artists' existing income. The artists are helping us better understand how to implement narrative change."

"Unlike most grant recipients, artists selected for the Guaranteed Income for Artists Program are not required to document their work, or to present a public performance or exhibit when the 18-month grant period has ended. Approximately 75% of recipients are Black, Native and/or People of Color."

Focus on the neighborhood

From the beginning, the pilot funding was going to be geared toward neighborhood artists. There were 130 neighborhood artists from Rondo and Frogtown who applied for Artist Emergency Relief Fund grants last year. From those names, 25 artists were randomly selected.

Taiwo explained, "Our organization is about place-based work. It was important for us to pull from the neighborhood, as opposed to from across the Twin Cities. The Guaranteed Income for Artists Pilot is part of our community building, and it's also a chance to support our neighborhood."

Springboard for the Arts is located in the Frogtown neighborhood at 262 University Avenue West. The pilot is funded with the support of the McKnight Foundation and the Bush Foundation.

Mt. Airy Boys and Girls Club renovation complete

A five-month renovation project of the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club was completed on June 14. The construction – undertaken in partnership with Minnesota United and Target and led by Mortenson – began in February 2021.

The project at the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club included renovating the club's gymnasium, adding new sports court floor-

ing, new equipment, and scoreboards, as well as turning an existing classroom into a STEAM Lab. The STEAM Lab will be designed for all students to have enhanced exposure and access to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) through hands-on learning, experimentation and varied educational teachings. STEAM education – often not accessible to all students –

integrates concepts that are usually taught as separate subjects in different classes and emphasizes the application of knowledge to real-life situations.

"Having a new STEAM lab for members of all ages gives us the ability to provide fun, educational, cutting-edge programming as well as offer valuable career exploration opportunities," said Boys & Girls Club Branch Director Andrew Jones.

The mission of BGCTC is to

enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Clubs provide a fun, safe and constructive environment for kids and teens during out-of-school hours. They offer programs and services to help young people succeed in school, develop leadership skills, maintain healthy lifestyles, and build career aspirations for the future. In nonpandemic times, BGCTC serves roughly

8,000 K-12 youth annually across 10 Twin Cities Club sites (five in Minneapolis, three in Saint Paul, two in Richfield) and Voyageur Environmental Learning Center.

"The Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club is a fantastic representation of the entire community: people of robust, diverse backgrounds working together to build a better future for each young person," said Minnesota United CEO Chris Wright.

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St. Paul wrestles with rental ordinance, rent control

By JANE McCLURE

St. Paul's S.A.F.E. ordinance and its tenant protections were repealed on a 4-3 city council vote June 23. Council members have said they'll start work immediately on a new tenants' protection ordinance. That doesn't mollify some housing advocates, who asked the city to continue a federal court fight centered on S.A.F.E.

The ordinance was passed last year, and was to take effect March 1. It was considered to be one of the most sweeping tenants' protections packages in the nation and was hailed by renters' rights and faith-based groups. But landlords and property management companies challenged the ordinance in federal court in February, claiming parts of it violated their constitutional rights.

U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson in mid-April ordered St. Paul to stop enforcing the ordinance. Magnuson said the ordinance provisions on tenant screening and lease renewals could be seen as unconstitutional, and that the city was likely to lose the case if it went to trial. The case wasn't scheduled for trial until October 2022. Ordinance enforcement could be delayed for more than a year, even if the city won the court case.

Council members met with the city attorney's office this summer to discuss options. More than four dozen people and organizations also weighed in, most asking that the ordinance not be re-

pealed and that the city continue with the federal court case.

A majority of council members said that by repealing the S.A.F.E. ordinance now, work can start immediately on a new tenant protections ordinance. Council President Amy Brendmoen and council members Rebecca Noecker, Jane Prince and Chris Tolbert voted for repeal; Mitra Jalali, Dai Thao and Nelsie Yang voted against.

S.A.F.E. stands for Stable, Affordable, Fair and Equitable housing. The ordinance placed limits on how landlords work with tenants. The most debated section of the ordinance was its "just cause" provision, which required landlords to explain why they weren't renewing leases.

The ordinance also limited how extensively landlords could use a tenants' criminal and credit histories for screening purposes. If a building considered to provide affordable rental housing was put up for sale, landlords had to give tenants 90 days' notice before a sale. Landlords had to pay tenant relocation costs if rents increased within three months of a sale.

"Whatever happens today, all of us are committed to getting strong tenant protections in place," said Prince. "Nothing that we do here today should suggest anything else."

Jalali expressed "strong disagreement" with a repeal, saying the city was shelving an ordinance that is a landmark in public pol-

icy. "I believe that our policy is worth fighting for." While saying she recognizes the potential cost and time issues with an ongoing court case, repeal sends the wrong message. "It undercuts the point of what we're trying to do."

Yang agreed, saying the city could still be sued by landlords if a new ordinance is brought forward.

Mayor Melvin Carter issued a statement after the vote saying he, too, is disappointed in the April court order that prompted the repeal vote. "Our SAFE Housing ordinance to address threats of displacement and discrimination in our thriving housing market. The tenant protections contained in the SAFE Housing ordinance were developed through extensive engagement with our community and remain as critical as ever. I join the city council and members of our community in disappointment over the court order which precipitated today's repeal vote. We remain steadfast in our commitment to continue working with our community to realize stable, accessible, fair and equitable housing for all who call our city home," said Carter.

Attorneys for the landlord and property owner plaintiffs have said they'll drop the litigation if the city repeals the ordinance.

But many people asked the city council to not repeal the ordinance, at least not until a new ordinance was drafted in its place.

Housing Justice Center attorneys asked the St. Paul City Council to consider the potential impact a repeal would have on a similar court fight in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis ordinance is at the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. A repeal in St. Paul could be seen as a potentially legally binding opinion admission that such ordinances are unconstitutional.

Rent control on ballot?

The fate of a proposed November ballot question on rent stabilization or rent control is now in the hands of Ramsey County elections officials. Members of the Housing Equity Now St. Paul (HENS) coalition June 15 brought boxes full of petition signatures to county officials. Their hope is to impose a 3 percent cap on future rent increases in St. Paul.

If approved, a citywide rent control policy would take effect May 1, 2022.

The group, working at times in what was record June heat, gathered more than 9,000 petition signatures. County officials have started the process of counting and verifying that the signatures are from city residents. More than 5,000 signatures are needed to place the measure on the ballot.

Tram Hoang, policy advocate for the Alliance, said the number of signatures gathered is almost double the needed. She said the signatures send a loud and clear message that "Renters belong in St. Paul."

St. Paul has become a majority renter city, said Monica Bravo, executive director of the West Side Community Organization. That is, more than half of the city's residents live in rental housing.

The St. Paul ordinance as proposed would place a 3 percent annual cap on residential rents. It also calls for city officials to set up a process for landlords who wish to receive an exemption from the cap. This might be for landlords who make investments in their properties, or who see higher property tax increases.

A key goal of the ballot initiative is to increase housing stability, said Hoang. "Rent control is just part of the solution to our affordable housing crisis, but it is a solution."

Landlords and industry groups are skeptical, if not opposed to the notion of a rent control requirement. Landlords cite issues including rising property taxes and higher insurance rates as driving the need for rents to be flexible.

The Minnesota Multi Housing Association contend that rent control could worsen the city's affordable housing shortage. "Should the rent control ordinance be on the ballot we are confident that the voters of St. Paul will reject this extreme measure. The proposal will only discourage investment in St. Paul, especially in housing, and make rental housing less accessible for new residents."

Citizens comment on future of Hamline Midway Library during CIB hearing

By JANE McCLURE

St. Paul could spent \$14.168 million in 2022-2023 on capital improvement projects if the city's proposed Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) wins mayoral and city council approval. Recommendations on \$8 million in federally-funded programs are also on the table. The CIB Committee June 21 approved its recommendations and sent them on to the mayor and council, one week after a public hearing.

This year's hearing was dominated by written and oral comments about the Hamline Midway Branch Library, and whether or not it should be renovated and expanded, or torn down. In recent weeks residents have called for study of a third option, that of co-locating a new library with a new or renovated Hancock Recreation Center. Several comments were also made, citing the lack of public involvement in the process and predetermined decisions made by library administration.

A petition calling for library administration to reconsider its approach, do more to seek input, and take care of the building instead of neglecting it drew more than 700 signatures. That group wants to save the building.

Others called for something new or extensive renovations. "I love our neighborhood Hamline Midway Library but we need a new or an extensively refurbished building. We need it because of mold, rainwater coming in during storms, an old roof needing repair or replacement,

inadequate ventilation, inefficient layout for staffing our wonderful library auditorium, and to improve our questionably having handicapped accessibility. While I love the charm of the wood framed and shelved library main room with its fireplace, it is inefficient for the many functions and clients the library now serves," said Hamline Midway resident Brian Berg.

Much criticism was leveled at the public input process. "The fact that we are discussing the monumental decision of what to do with the Hamline Midway Library with nearly non-existent outreach from St. Paul Public Library prior to SPPL putting forth a CIB proposal is a travesty," said Hamline-Midway resident Jonathan Oppenheimer.

Virtual hearing

For the second year in a row, the capital budget process was virtual. CIB Committee Chairman Darren Tobolt said the committee looks forward to in-person meetings and hearings again. He also said it's important to see more district council recommendations and community engagement next time around, although he admitted that has been challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"That community engagement piece is really important," he said. "We as a committee don't want to feel like we're just saying, here's the money, do something."

The CIB process has changed in recent years and Tobolt said

Complaints leveled at the public input process

that also has been an adjustment. The process for decades was a review and ranking of sometimes more than 100 projects of all sizes one year, with the second year focused on ongoing work. Three citizen task forces reviewed applications and made recommendations to the CIB Committee.

Now city departments bring in their projects one year, and community groups bring their projects in the next year. That is seen as allowing larger city-generated projects to move ahead while not shutting out smaller neighborhood projects.

2021 marked the second time around for city department projects, which are reviewed and recommended by a city staff-CIB Committee member group. The group looks at city departments' five-year capital plans.

Fifteen annual programs are recommended for funding, totaling \$3.916 million each for 2022 and 2023. The largest request moving forward is for citywide capital maintenance, at \$1.5 million per year. Another \$1 million is set aside for next year's community proposal process.

Other annual programs moving ahead include \$600,000 for citywide tree replacement, \$472,000 to rehabilitate deteriorated sports courts and \$450,000 for bicycle, pedestrian and traffic



The Hamline Midway Library project continues to move forward, with approval from the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee following a June 21 public hearing. Exactly what the project will be hasn't been determined. Some call for reonovating the existing building, others want to tear it down, and others call for co-locating a new library with a new or renovated Hancock Recreation Center. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

safety improvements. Each allocation covers 2022-2023.

Recommendations

Hamline Midway Branch Library, North End Community Center, Safe Routes to School for Bruce Vento Elementary and parks deferred maintenance work are recommended by the working group. The chosen four total \$14.168 million over 2022 and 2023. No police or fire projects were recommended. That raised questions for Tobolt, who noted that an East Side fire station that had funding and then lost it last year to cover pandemic-related expenses wasn't highly ranked for this round. Downtown's Pedro park, which also had its funding taken away, also didn't make the cut for 2022-2023.

For 2022-2023, \$7.084 million will be spent each year. of the projects, North End Community Center is the largest, at \$8 million.

The committee also recom-

mended approval of \$8 million in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Much of that covers city programs although some funding will be used to replace playgrounds in low-income neighborhoods. the largest CDBG recommendation is for \$1.6 million for a citywide home improvement program. Community development corporations can also request CDBG funding for programs.

No other area projects made the cut for 2022-2023. Those include Merriam Park skatepark and playground improvements, a sound wall for Interstate 94 between Prior and Fairview avenues in Merriam Park, a new sidewalk along Larpenteur Avenue, and a new Central District Police headquarters.

Mayor Melvin Carter in turn will present his capital spending plans during his budget address in August. The city council will act at year's end on the plans.

JROTC Academic Team heading to championships

The JROTC Academic Team composed of Jesiah Mason, Sophia Moore, Kimberly Sanchez-Mendez, and team captain Alex Le is heading to Washington, D.C. to compete in the JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) Championship.

The JLAB championship event, conducted by the College Options Foundation, will be held on the campus of The Catholic University of America from July 23-27.

Como's team earned top scores out of the 91 Marine Corps JROTC academic teams that competed from around the world in the first two rounds of competition. They are one of only eight teams that won an all-expense paid trip to our nation's capital for the finals.

The cadets are tested on their knowledge of core curriculum such as math, science, and language arts, as well as current events, citizenship, and leadership skills. JLAB promotes the values of education, service, and college opportunity while allowing students to demonstrate leadership and academic abilities.

The College Options Foun-

**Como
Park
Senior
High
School**



By **ERIC
ERICKSON**
Social studies teacher

dation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the academic development of high school students and assisting them in the preparation for higher education.

Her heritage

Como student Taylor Fairbanks produced an exceptionally well-researched History Day project involving her heritage. What she started in St. Paul ended up being showcased by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Taylor's exhibit involved the White Earth Land Settlement Agreement in 1985. It advanced through school, regional, and



Sophia Moore, Alex Le, Jesiah Mason, and Kimberly Sanchez-Mendez (left to right) qualified for the JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl Championship in Washington D.C.

state competitions to reach National History Day. From that elite group of national qualifiers, Taylor's project was selected to be Minnesota's representative in the Smithsonian Learning Lab, a virtual showcase of 51 premier exhibits reflecting this year's theme, Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.

In a press release, Smithso-

nian American History Museum Director Anthea M. Hartig said, "We are excited and grateful to recognize the impressive work of these young scholars, and share it across our national network. Their work helps tell the complicated, difficult, and beautiful stories of the United States."

Student-teacher team

Como student Sam Skinner began his summer by conducting historical research along with his mentor from middle school, Murray social studies teacher Courtney Major. They were one of 16 student-teacher teams throughout the U.S. who were chosen to participate in the second annual Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute in Hawaii.

The research began with Sam's project on a WWII veteran who served in the Pacific from Murray High School's class of 1941. Signalman Third Class Arthur Barnard Engebretson was one of the Silent Heroes who are the focus of the institute's historical inquiry and analysis.

Art on display

The work of several talented Como Art students is on display at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, downtown on the 4th Street Window Gallery until July 17. Featured artists include Paola Guerrero Abrego, Cerenity Khang, Audrey Power-Theisen, Kashia Vang, Abdulahi Maalim, Isadora McGinley-Myers, David Verela Ribero, and Hsay Nay Htoo Wah.

{ Monitor in a Minute }

By JANE McCLURE

Reparations committee formed

The St. Paul City Council June 16 appointed its Reparations Legislative Advisory Committee.

In January, the city Council issued an apology for its role in institutional racism and committed to racial healing through the exploration of reparations for American descendants of chattel slavery living in the city. The council cited several historic injustices when passing the resolution, and also called for the establishment of a committee to study reparations.

The appointments were announced to coincide with Juneteenth, a holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas in 1865.

More than 60 people applied to be on the committee, said Ward Seven Council Member Jane Prince. The group will discuss what kinds of reparations can be made. One goal is to push for reparations funding at the state and federal level. But Prince and other council members have said

they're looking at various ways to provide reparations.

The committee will study issues and prepare a report, which will focus on but not be limited to strategies to grow equity and generational wealth, close the gaps in home ownership, health care, education, employment and pay, and look at fairness within criminal justice among the American descendants of chattel slavery.

Trahern Crews, a St. Paul resident who has led calls for the reparations study, thanked the council. "This is not charity," he said. "This is justice. This is economic justice."

Committee conveners are Crews, Veronica Burt and Yohuru Williams. Committee members are Theresa Cunningham, Lynette Harris, Amber Jones, Benjamin Mchie, Nick Muhammad, Jessica Nickrand, Jose Perez, Khulia Pringle, Vic Rosenthal and Jerry Thomas.

The council also set a \$50 per meeting stipend for those on the committee. It can meet for up to one year, which is how long city legislative advisory committee are set. Its report to the City Council is due by June 15, 2022.

Help on the way for EAB

St. Paul's crisis situation with the destructive emerald ash borer has reached a turning point. The city council June 9 unveiled an agreement with the St. Paul Port Authority. It will issue \$18 million in bonds to help the city's forestry division and create a jobs program.

Approval will launch activities including equipment purchases as well as hiring, so that the stepped-up tree work can start in 2022. The agreement will allow St. Paul forestry staff to remove, stump and replant the city's remaining boulevard ash trees by the end of 2026. That's an improvement from a worst case scenario end date of 2034 or later.

The bond proceeds will also allow for forestry workers to catch up on a massive backlog of stumping, tree replanting and tree trimming needs unrelated to the spread of emerald ash borer. Tree trimming, which had been on a 15-year cycle, has been relegated to complaint or emergency status. The funds allow for the planting of an additional 2,000 trees per year.

The city will have to replace 13,000 boulevard ash trees.

Creation of a forestry jobs program is another outcome of the bond issue and city-Port Authority partnership. At past meetings, Port and city officials have said the funds will create a gateway for young people to get into forestry careers.

"This is a really big day," said Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hahm. "We certainly could not do this without the partnership of the St. Paul Port Authority and the Office of Financial Services." Bonds will be repaid through the Port Authority levy.

"It's (emerald ash borer) been taking over forestry's lives," he said.

St. Paul's situation with emerald ash borer is considered critical. The green iridescent beetles, which are native to Asia, have spread throughout the United States. The nation's first infestation was found in Michigan in 2002.

Minnesota's first infestation was found in 2009 in St. Paul's South St. Anthony Park neighborhood, although it's believed the pests were here as soon as 2004. The insects are now in every neighborhood of the city, and in cities and counties throughout the state.

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Briefs



Artist to exhibit at Hallberg Center

St. Paul artist Suyao Tian will have a solo exhibit on July 22 at the Hallberg Center for Arts (5521 East Viking Blvd., Wyoming). The opening reception from 4-8 pm. The title of the show is "Internal Nomad." Tian has a double BFA degree in fine art and music education, and MFA in design from Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Painting is her own language to connect to the world, and her way to find and connect the similarities in our soul that we all share.

She creates a unique style of watercolor painting, mainly using watercolor medium while also using mixed media with different pen marks to define the details of each painting to give the audience layers and depth of the painting. Her creative process is to extract the fragments of memory and separate, reorganize and integrate them. This process is her communication with them, and a process of self-release and expression. These peculiar images often appear in her memory, dreams and subconscious imaginations, so she uses abstraction to catch a moment, feeling, and unclear form when they appear in her mind.

"I create a peaceful and safe space that invites all people's

mind to wander and explore but is not an overtly symbolic object to suggest the direction," said Suyao Tian.

Como Zoo welcomes baby Kudu

Como Zoo has welcomed a female lesser kudu calf, born overnight on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The birth is the result of a recommendation from the Lesser Kudu Species Survival Plan (SSP), coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). SSPs provide breeding recommendations to maximize genetic diversity, with the goal of ensuring the long-term survival of the AZA population and the health of individual animals. Como Zoo is an accredited institution of the AZA.

The calf was born to five-year-old Fjorda and sired by seven-year-old Bond. She is the third offspring for Fjorda.

D10 Como Park seeking candidates for special election in July

The District 10 Board is holding a special election at the July 20 board meeting. They are seeking candidates to fill vacant seats of Vice-Chair and Sub-District 1 (West of Hamline and north of the BNSF Tracks). For information on becoming a candidate and voting in the special election, visit the D10 website: <http://district-10comopark.org/>.

Sara Hollie named Director of Public Health

Sara Hollie has been appointed Director of Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health. She has served as Racial and Health Equity Administrator for the county's Health and Wellness Service Team since April 2019. Hollie's 17-year career in state and local government, and at the community health services level as a public health practitioner and community advocate, spans work in maternal and child health, health

policy, chronic and infectious disease prevention, health promotion, health equity, community, and family health. She begins work as Public Health Director on July 26, 2021.

Road work this summer

Road projects have been starting up for the season across Ramsey County. In February, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved nearly \$30 million in road construction and maintenance projects for the 2021 season. Public Works will resurface about six miles of county roads in 2021; most resurfacing projects will begin later this summer.

The city of Roseville is replacing the water main on Cleveland Avenue between County Road C2 and County Road D.

Xcel Energy is continuing its Northeast Metro Natural Gas Project this summer. Construction began in May, and this year's work is focused on County Road B between Lexington Avenue and Rice Street in Maplewood, Little Canada and Roseville. There will be lane closures and shifts on County Road B throughout construction.

Dale Street reconstruction resumed June 14. This year's work will focus on the third and final phase of the project - reconstructing Dale Street between Iglehart and Concordia avenues. Beginning Monday, Dale Street will be closed between Iglehart and Concordia avenues. A signed detour will be in place using Lexington Parkway and University and Selby avenues. The project is expected to be fully complete by August 2021.

On June 7, a sinkhole due to a failing culvert developed on Larpenteur Avenue in Saint Paul and Maplewood near the railroad crossing east of Rice Street. Repairs involve two water mains.



Frogtown Radio moves

WFNU 94.1 Frogtown Radio moved into a bigger and more professional space in June in the Best Western Hotel next to the old Sears (161 St. Anthony Ave. Ste. 1002). The antennae remains in the same location so the coverage is the same. Above co-founders Philip Gracia and Katharine DeCelle do their show Funk2UrEars. "We're so excited," said DeCelle. "The space at the church was great, but we outgrew it and we wanted something more professional where we could also hold meetings and have potential finders visit." Gracia added, "The studio is busier than ever. New content is being created daily." (Photo submitted)

Plan It

Grooving in Garden returns

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's free concert series, "Groovin' In The Garden," returns featuring some of the Twin Cities' finest musicians, rain or shine. Pack a picnic and dancing shoes, spread out a blanket for free outdoor concerts and activities in front of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory every Wednesday, July 7 - July 28 from 6-8 p.m. Food, ice cream treats, beer and wine will be available to purchase.

Free lunch at the YMCA

The Midway YMCA is offering free lunches on Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. for anyone under 18.

'WE OUT: The Air We Breathe'

AOT continues their WE OUT series with the latest installment premiering July 22 addressing the environmental justice movement. The program begins by immersing the viewer in the expansive music and words of prolific composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate and three-time U.S. poet laureate Joy Harjo's 25-minute chamber piece Found Again. The piece is performed by local artists Victoria Vargas, Alex Nishibun, Corissa Bussian, Mark Billy, Rie Tanaka, and conducted by Kristina Boeger. This performance will be the first full professional recording of the piece since its composition in 2015. The event continues through Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m. at www.anoperatheatre.org and AOT's Facebook page.

Interact opens gallery

Interact Center for Visual and Performing Arts is pleased to present "BOOTY BODY," the inaugural exhibition at Interact Gallery's new space at 755 Prior Avenue North in Saint Paul. Named by artist Bonnie Thorne, "BOOTY BODY" is about patterns, the body, and the power of repeated marks and gestures over time. Twenty visual artists with disabilities will present work across fibers, bookmaking, drawing, painting, and ceramics. The exhibit is open July 12 to Aug. 18, 2021 by appointment Monday to Wednesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Artists in the exhibition include Garret Anderson, Katie

Bretzman, Katie Brinkman, Bill Crane, Vance Diamond, Janice Essick, Devra Goldstein, Peder Hagen, Kramer Hegenbarth, HML, Andie Kiley, Krystal Lewis, Lucy Picasso, Philip Price, Dan Schlag, Andrew Seymour, Briana Shelstad, Victor Van, Loni Joy Watts, and BDG Wolfe.

Emergence Festival at St. Paul's Como Lake July 24

Emerging from the COVID cocoons, what kind of world can be imagined? A world where racial and economic justice prevail, ecosystems are healed, and where systems and people have the resilience to face future challenges? This is a moment of opportunity!

Representatives from Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, The Bell Museum, Afya Sanaa, BrightSide Produce, Transition Twin Cities, Ramsey County Emergency Management, Victoria Theater Arts Center, and more will share how they are helping transform the future. The Emergence Festival at Como Lake on Saturday, July 24 from 2-6 p.m. is designed for visitors and organizations to connect for social justice, earth care, resilience, and joy.

Parking may be limited, so it is recommended to ride share, bike, or ride the bus, if possible. Volunteers to help with logistics at the site or other tasks should contact Communications@transitionASAP.org. For more information www.TransitionASAP.org

Rain date is July 31.

Night Out at Jehovah Lutheran

Jehovah Lutheran Church invites neighbors to its National Night Out celebration, with music, games, food and giveaways, in the church parking lot from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3. The church, at 1566 Thomas in St. Paul, will give away good-condition clothing and small household items. Anyone wishing to donate such items for giveaway can contact the church at jelcoffice@gmail.com or 651-644-1421.

Raffle prize giveaways throughout the event include packaged food and other items. Spirit Freed, the church praise band, will perform and church volunteers will host kids' games. It's all free.

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