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V Downtown St. Paul Voice



Sample St. Paul
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Your Community News & Information Source

September 2024

Lowertown resident forming grassroots effort to improve downtown living conditions

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

After multiple requests to her apartment building owner to address safety concerns and poor upkeep went unresolved, Lowertown resident Sara Davis decided to take matters into her own hands. She recently started recruiting her neighbors to form a tenants union to help bring about making much-needed improvements. She is also asking tenants in other buildings in Lowertown to let her know of any inadequate living conditions at their building, so they may band together to advocate for change. To get involved, contact her at 952-999-1082 or LowertownCallToAction@gmail.com.

"I think there's a lot of building owners and property managers that maybe aren't doing their part because they only care about the monetary aspect, and it's like, 'there's people dealing drugs right outside your front door. Why aren't you dealing with that?'" said Davis. "If building owners aren't taking care of what they're supposed to, you can call the city and if they get enough complaints, then they're going to hop on it. Same with being aware of your safety as a neighbor. If you see something going on that's not okay then you need to reach out to somebody because the more

Sara Davis / Page 3

Downtown bar opens without the booze



Co founders Alexandra Zauner and Christina Arnt

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

A new venue that aims to have the same atmosphere as a friendly neighborhood bar – but without the alcohol – opened recently at 24 7th St. W., in the Hamm building. Lucille's Bottle Shop and Tasting Room offers non-alcoholic beers, wines, spirits and mocktails and events such as mixology, and wine and cheese nights. The space can also be rented for private events.

Co-founder Alexandra Zauner has been alcohol free for 10 years. She quit drinking at age 24 with the help of her late grandmother Lucy, for whom the

business is named.

"I think what's so cool is that so many people are embracing sober curiosity because they feel like there's more for them out there and they're realizing that alcohol doesn't have to be a part of their story, whether they identify as sober or as an alcoholic," she said. "I think we're at a point now where we don't need to label it and people can just say, 'I don't drink, or I'm not drinking tonight' and it doesn't necessarily mean they have a problem.... At Lucille's we don't care if you're sober, sober curious, or you just saw that our event sounded fun and you wanted to come."

Lucille's / Page 3

Story Line Books rolls in to Union Depot

Tim Spitzack
Editor

After eight years toiling in a successful yet draining law career, Danielle Miller has jumped the tracks and is pursuing a private passion that melds two interests: literature and trains. In mid-September she will open Story Line Books at Union Depot. Its name is a play on both a story's plot and train track routes, like those running past the depot.

Miller loves both trains and historic places, so finding the last remaining retail space at Union Depot was a thrill and affirmed her decision to make a career move.

"When I started making the move to Minnesota, I began dreaming of a store in St. Paul because it's such a reader town," she said in a statement. "The first available spot for lease I found was this location. It felt like the universe was telling me to go for it. It's the right size, the right vibe and the right people. The management at Union Depot has been incredible to work with so far, and I feel like I'm joining a team, not voyaging into the great unknown all by myself."

The shop will be located in the Head House, between Choo Choo Bob's Train Store and 1881 by Lake Elmo Inn restaurant. It will be open daily offering many genres, including a wide selection of fiction and children's books, and gift and travel items. The store will also host author readings and signings, monthly book clubs and other events to help foster a sense of community among readers of all ages.

New skyway exhibit highlights Minnesota authors; history of book burning

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

"Words, Banning and Burning" will be unveiled September 1 in the Town Square skyway, 445 Minnesota St. The 5-week exhibit will highlight up to 20 Minnesota authors and a few from other states, as well as the history of book banning and burning in the United States. It's curated by local freelance writer Anthony Ea-

ton and will be displayed in the floor-to-ceiling windows of a vacant retail space.

"I think the exhibit is really going to give a good representation of all the different types of writing," said Eaton, noting that poets, playwrights and authors of a variety of genres may be included. "It will feature the cover of their book or maybe an excerpt of something they have written, along with their bio and

photo.... On the smaller side of windows, I want to do something that talks about the history of book banning and book burning in the United States."

This is the third installment in a series of temporary exhibits he's presented in the space. The rotating exhibit – dubbed, "Through the Window" – runs through December. The first exhibit began in June and featured a colorful array of papers

shedding light on prominent people who fought for LGBTQ+ rights, and most recently it housed the works of Jim Smola, a Minnesota potter, and stationery and stained-glass artist who passed away in 2022.

"I wanted to do something that would highlight my husband's [Jim Smola] work," said Eaton. "It was really a challenge to get some space in downtown. Finally, this space became available,

and they [the building's leasing company] offered it to me for six months, so I came up with a few other ideas and that's where the concept of a rotating exhibit came up.... I thought this was a good opportunity to really bring something creative to the public in the Skyway system and fill up some vacant space. People don't want to walk by empty retail spaces, they want to see something."

In years past, Eaton de-

signed window displays for retailers, and he and Smola had an artist studio at the Northwestern Building in Lowertown. All in all, he has an eye for curating and is single-handedly bringing the exhibits to life. Some of the cost to rent the discounted space is being covered by sponsorships from local businesses. Upcoming themes are a surprise.

From Thanksgiving to
Skyway art / Page 2

Skyway art

from page 1

Christmas, people may have the chance to enter the vacant retail space and meet Eaton, who will be operating a pop-up shop with art, books and other items displayed in the rotating exhibits. If the shop can't be inside the space, it will likely be in the skyway next to the exhibit. When this series is complete, Eaton hopes to find another place in the skyway or elsewhere to continue curating exhib-

its which have some level of social relevance.

"I'm getting really good foot traffic [in the skyway], so I'm very pleased with it," said Eaton. "My hope long term is that some other property owners will see the potential value in letting creative people use and fill some of this space.... I would love to be able to continue to do these types of exhibits. Also, I would really be interested in helping other artists se-

cure opportunities like the one I've got." He noted that Minneapolis recently made money available to artists for space on Nicollet Avenue and that he'd like to see St. Paul do something similar.

Eaton, a longtime human resources worker, grew up in St. Paul but moved out of state for about 25 years. He returned in 2022 after his husband passed away from cancer and now lives at the Lowry. Since becoming a freelance writer, he's worked on a few projects. One article that's been picked up by several publications is



The latest exhibit highlighted the art of Jim Smola.

titled "Reclaiming a symbol of hate," and illustrates how the LGBTQ+ community

has turned the pink triangle symbol, which was created by the Nazi party in Germany, into a symbol of pride. For more information, visit www.espressotalks.com

"It's [the skyway] one of the reasons that I chose to

buy a condo downtown," said Eaton. "It was the convenience. When I moved back here, I actually got rid of my vehicle.... I think that I've seen an improvement in safety downtown. I do give the city a lot of credit for the action that they've taken. I do think that having things in some of these spaces does help [with safety]."



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Lucille's

from page 1

Zauner began exploring sites for Lucille's last year after bringing her friend Christina Arnt on board. She's been alcohol-free for three years. After about six months of struggling to find a suitable location, the two began operating pop-up events at businesses throughout the Twin Cities. In January they launched a website and began shipping products nationwide. Finally, in March, they got their brick-and-mortar space through the Downtown Alliance's

Grow St. Paul program, which provides 6-month free leases. Licensing delays kept Lucille's from opening until July.

Zauner shared more about her journey to sobriety and creating an alcohol-free bar.

"I was kind of in this cycle of going out and maybe having too much to drink and then waking up the next morning and maybe not following through on things that I had committed to, and I just finally realized that even though drinking is

such an ingrained part of our culture, something had to change," she said. "Initially when I quit, I didn't necessarily want to because I was pretty young, and everyone around me was consuming alcohol... I did an AA program for a while up until the pandemic and then realized I was really just seeking connecting with people whether they were sober [alcohol-free] or not, in a place where alcohol wasn't at the root of the connection."

No major work was done to the approximately 1,000 square foot space although it was outfitted with a new bar top made of repurposed barn wood, and a custom-made

farm table that seats about a dozen. The shop is stocked with canned cocktails and non-alcoholic (NA) beers ranging from sours to IPAs to Belgian wheats, and more. It also has nonalcoholic spirits, some of which replicate the taste of traditional ones and some of which are created to have their own unique flavor; the same is true for its NA wines. The house-crafted mocktails are only offered at special events in the shop or at pop-up events throughout the city because of licensing issues due to the bar space having no plumbing. If Zauner and Arnt decide to stay long-term they'll make the investment

to install plumbing and obtain the proper licensing. Currently, people can only order drinks made at the bar 4-6 p.m. on Fridays, when free tastings are held. Folks are welcome to bring food in from anywhere if they purchase a drink.

"Growing up, my grandma told me I had what's called personality plus, and you'll notice it in our branding, we have plus symbols," said Zauner. "Personality plus is the unique things that make you who you are, and I feel like we all have them and don't require alcohol to tap into them.... You can find confidence within yourself, but it takes a willingness to

explore what you already have within you and realizing you don't need something outside of yourself to access it. For some people that resonates with them, but they also feel like alcohol will still remain in their life, and that's okay, too. I think it's recognizing everyone's journey doesn't have to be the same."

Lucille's is open Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m., Thursdays, 2-7 p.m., Fridays noon-7 p.m., and Saturdays 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. Hours may be expanded soon. For more information, call 651-214-1769 or visit lucillesbottleshop.com.

Sara Davis

from page 1

calls they get, hopefully the more they're going to actually be present down here."

A longtime Californian, Davis got her first taste of St. Paul when visiting her son a few years ago. She liked it so much that she moved here about four months later. Since then, the quaint beauty she originally experienced has slowly diminished in her eyes. A major reason is that some alleyways aren't regularly cleaned of trash and drug paraphernalia. She has also witnessed incidents of indecent exposure outside her building, even in broad daylight during the highly attended Twin Cities Jazz Fest.

A self-proclaimed progressive, she's conflicted about reporting some instances of crimes committed by homeless people. She would like to see building owners install

more safety measures such as lights and cameras, where needed, and take better care of their alleyways. She noted that her complaints to her building owners have prompted them to ask her three times to sign a mutual lease termination agreement.

Ultimately, Davis believes it will take teamwork from residents and city leaders to help rejuvenate downtown. One such effort is gaining steam. In July, the St. Paul City Council approved the expansion of the Downtown Improvement District to serve all of downtown - from the Xcel Energy Center to CHS Field, the Mississippi River to I-94 - and include both commercial and residential properties as a funding source. The district is funded through a self-imposed fee to property owners and supports enhanced ser-

vices such as safety and security, and street ambassadors who provide outreach and wellness checks, graffiti and trash removal, and more. The Improvement District has been in place downtown since 2021 and requires re-authorization every five years to keep operating.

Of course, the decision to expand the Improvement

District wasn't without some opposition. Some property owners said the city should already be addressing many of the issues that the street ambassadors report and work on, and that it's not fair to put more costs on property owners right now considering the many buildings and retail spaces that have become vacant downtown

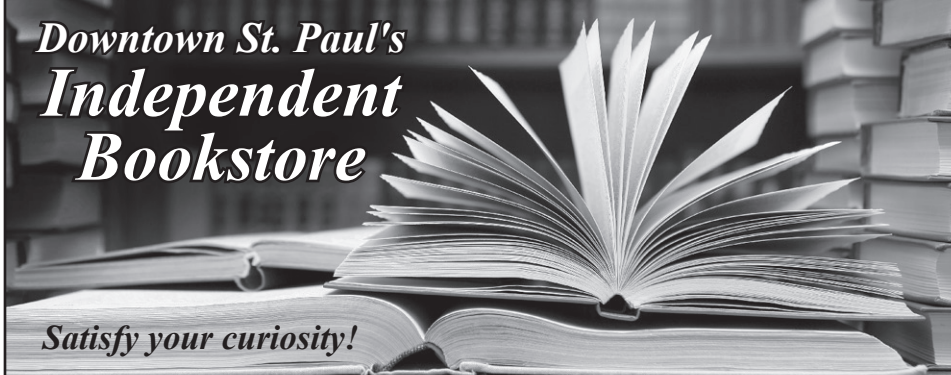
since 2020. Davis is reaching out to city leaders and business owners to determine the top issues they see affecting downtown's quality of life.

Davis is a full-time finance worker operating remotely and volunteers for the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, which is working to convert a warehouse in Minneapolis into affordable

housing and an indoor farm. She is also pursuing a degree in community advocacy and political leadership from Metro State University.

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Becker named county manager

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners recently named Ling Becker as the next county manager. She

succeeds Ryan O'Connor, who left that post in March to become the regional administrator at Metropolitan Council. O'Connor was Ramsey County's top official since 2018, a role that is responsible for implementing policy and overseeing daily operations of the county and its 4,000-plus employees.

Becker joined Ramsey County IN 2019 and most

recently was director of Ramsey County Workforce Solutions and executive director of the Workforce Investment Board. Prior to her work with the county she was executive director for the Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation and project administrator for the Metropolitan Council, Transportation and Transit Development office. She also

ran her own consulting company for more than a decade and has served on numerous community boards and commissions throughout the county. She holds a master of public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and a bachelor of arts from the University of Minnesota Morris.

Holiday tree needed

Union Depot is seeking an evergreen tree for the holiday season. The tree must be located in Ramsey County, 50- to 70-feet tall and in good condition for viewing from all sides. The tree will be illuminated with more than 15,000 energy-efficient LED lights and placed in the North Plaza of Union De-

pot. Those who would like to donate a tree should email their address and a photo of the tree to info@uniondepot.org or call 651-202-2700. The deadline is Friday, Sept. 20. Union Depot will pay to remove the tree and grind its stump, and the tree owner and their family will be invited to participate in the Holiday Tree Lighting celebration on December 7.

{ THE FULLER FILES } by Roger Fuller

Metro Transit has increased frequency of the Green Line light rail between downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis. Trains now run every 12 minutes rather than 15. Ridership has increased 17% from last year.

The St. Paul City Council approved the expansion of the **Downtown Improvement District** to serve all of downtown – from the Xcel Energy Center to CHS Field, the Mississippi River to I-94 – and include both commercial and residen-

tial properties as a funding source. The district is funded through a self-imposed fee to commercial property owners and supports enhanced services such as safety and security, outreach and wellness checks, graffiti and trash removal, and more.

Former Ward 5 St. Paul City Council member **Amy Brendmoen** and former chair of the Midway Chamber of Commerce **Courtney Henry** have been named to the St. Paul Port Authority board of commissioners. They succeed Nneka Con-

stantino and John Bennert, whose terms expired.

FlixBus, an intercity bus service, recently moved its Twin Cities operations to Union Depot. The new location will enable connections with Greyhound buses, providing travelers access to routes throughout the United States and Canada.

Lunds & Byerlys at 10th and Robert has cut its hours of operation from 7 a.m.-9 p.m., to 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The store will also no longer offer counter service for salads, meats and cheese.

Saint Dinette restaurant, 261 E. 5th St., will close next March due to high operating costs following the pandemic and the decreased number of people working downtown.

The new Amtrak Borealis train between St. Paul and Chicago had 18,500 riders during its first months of operation, about 300 riders daily in each direction. It departs St. Paul at 11:50 a.m. and arrives in Chicago at 7:15 p.m. The trip from Chicago arrives in St. Paul at 6:15 p.m.

The skyway walking

group meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays at US Bank, 101 5th St. E. The group travels a mile and a half through the skyways at a casual pace, and may walk outside during nice weather.

Subtext Books will feature William Kent Krueger at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4 and Paul Rousseau on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Camp Bar and Cabaret, 490 N. Robert St., is hosting the following comedians: Ali Sultan, September 6-7; J-L. Couvin, September 13-15; Brent Turhune, September 20-21.

Ramsey County Historical Society will feature

a discussion on Minneapolis singer and pianist Cornbread Harris, 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12 at Springboard for the Arts, 262 W. University Ave.

Books and Bars will feature a discussion of "Wellness" by Nathan Hill at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17 at Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St.

The St. Paul Saints will host its last home game on September 22, against Indianapolis. Promotions include Dog Days September 7, Bobblehead Day September 17 and Teacher Appreciation Day September 22.

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{ CALENDAR OF EVENTS }

TPAC

Unless noted, all activities take place at Thompson Park Activity Center, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul. Events are for ages 55 and older. To register, call 651-403-8300.

Mississippi Hot Club concert, 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25. \$10, includes dessert. Register by Sept. 18.

Democracy discussion, 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10. A captivating class with Richard Painter about the current state of our democracy. \$5. Register by Sept. 6.

Understanding Gender & Sexuality, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17. This class covers basic concepts such as gender identity, pronoun use, gender expression and sexual orientation. Registration required. \$3.

Explore Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake at Hocokata ii, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 19. This trip to the 3,800-square-foot exhibition in Prior Lake will deepen your understanding of Mdewakanton Dakota history and culture. \$24, includes transportation but not lunch. Register by Sept. 13.

Nature Preparations for Fall, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17. An exploratory hike on TPAC trails to see what's happening in nature on a mid-September day. \$10. Register by Sept. 12.

Creating your Retirement Income Blueprint, 10-11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 30. Explore how retirement income affects your Social Security, Medicare premiums, and taxes. Register in advance. \$3.

Sportswriter Jerry Zgo-

da, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 30. Go inside the locker room with Jerry Zgoda, who covered the Timberwolves, Twins, Vikings, Wild, Gophers, and the long-gone North Stars. Register by Sept 25. \$5.

Tai Chi Chih For Health, Sept. 4-Oct. 30. Tai Chi Chih is a moving meditation with 19 easy-to-learn movements. Register by Aug. 30. Free intro class 9:15-10 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4; 8-week session, Wednesdays, 9:15-10 a.m., Sept. 11-Oct. 30. \$49.

Hand & Foot card club, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Sept.-Dec. \$15.

Library

The following events are held at the George Latimer Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. When registration is required, call 651-266-7000. Visit spl.org/events for more information. The library will be closed September 1 and 2.

Headshot photography, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4. Learn what makes a great headshot and how to take one. Registration required.

PJ Storytime, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4. Wear your PJs, bring your favorite stuffed animal.

Learn 3D Printing, Fridays, 2-3 p.m. Learn the basics of operating the library's Ultimaker S3 and Lulzbot Mini 3D printers. Registration required.

Saturday Vibe Mid-Autumn Festival, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 7. Bilingual Vietnamese/English storytime, DIY lantern and mooncake crafts, and mooncake with tea treats.

Sewing with Susan, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 7 and 21. Learn how to sew from scratch or get help finishing a project you've started.

Learn Laser Engraving with Dennis, Saturdays, 2-4 p.m. Learn the basics of operating the library's Universal VLS 3.50 laser engraver/cutter. Registration required.

Game Night, 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 11. Enjoy card and board games in the Innovation Lab.

Historical Building Tour, 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14. Explore the downtown library built in the Italian Renaissance Revival style.

Make friends with the sewing machine, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14 and 28. Learn how to use a sewing machine; bring your own or use one of the library's.

Craft Circle, 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25. Bring a project to work on, or start a new one with supplies from the Library.

The following events are held at the Riverview Library, 1 E. George St. Visit spl.org/events for more information. The library will be closed September 1 and 2.

West Side Writers, Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. Writers of all experience levels bring in pieces of written work, offer each other feedback, and discuss the craft of writing.

Chess Club, Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Open to ages 8-18, from complete beginners to the more advanced.

Riverview Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 9. The title is "Lake of the Woods" by Tim O'Brien.

Robert Street reconstruction input

The West Side Community Organization's Land Use Action Circle is seeking community feedback regarding MNDOT's proposed reconstruction of Robert Street on the West Side. The project is scheduled to begin in 2027, with utility work starting in 2026.

Challenges abound in the corridor: shuttered businesses, a crumbling viaduct, and little attention to pedestrian or bicycle access. Below the surface, the sewer infrastructure is over 200 years old. The street is rated one of the most deteriorated roads in the metro area by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and is classified as a "high injury corridor" in the St. Paul Transportation Action Plan. Despite community support, federal grant funding was recently declined for repairs to the Robert Street viaduct, built in 1930 near Cesar Chavez Street.

"It's not right that one of St. Paul's most diverse neighborhoods continues to receive the least investment," said Monica Bravo, executive director of WSCO, in a statement. "It's time for us to come together to demand that all levels of government invest in the West Side."

MnDOT is planning major road improvements that include Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), surface replacement,

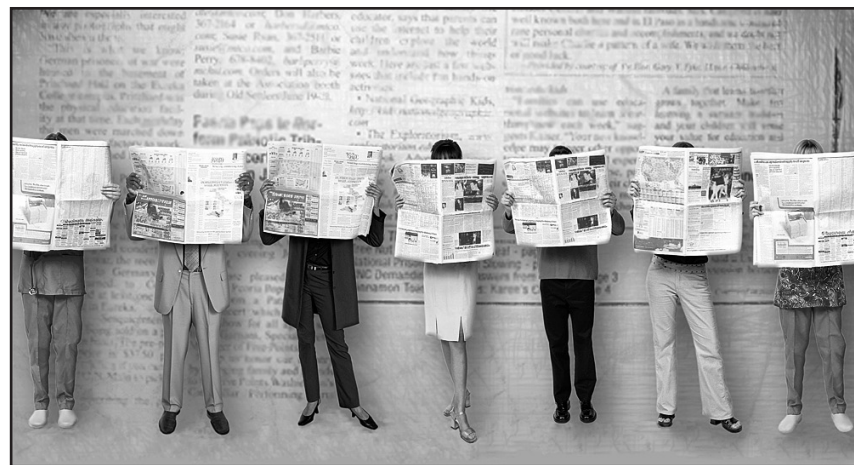
and sidewalk improvements. A second opportunity to apply for federal funding to repair the viaduct is coming up this fall. WSCO is working with the University of Minnesota's Design Center (MDC) to get more neighbors involved in a planning process they're calling Destination: Robert Street.

"Our partnership with MDC gives us an opportunity to bring ideas to MnDOT prior to the renovation project – to share our ideas and what Robert Street neighbors desire for the West Side," said Bob Craft, a member of the Land Use Action Circle.

Two opportunities to provide input will take place in September. On September 14, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., visit WSCO's booth at the West Side Boosters' Football Fiesta at Neighborhood House, 179 E. Robie St. Participants will be entered into a raffle drawing for a gift card from select District Del Sol businesses. Attend a community meeting hosted by WSCO's Land Use Circle, 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 209 Page St. W. RSVP at wsco.org/landusesept.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the planning process should contact Nancy at nancykafka@gmail.com or Caprice at capriceglaser1@gmail.com.

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Arts & Entertainment

Children's Museum

10 7th St. W.
St. Paul
651-225-6000
mcm.org

Monsters on Summer Vacation, through September 2. Monsters of all shapes and sizes are spending their summer vacation at the museum. Maneuver through the monster obstacle course, show off your best moves at the monster disco, feed the giant monster and more.

Exhibits and activities include "The Scramble," "The Studio," "Creativity Jam," "Sprouts," "Our World," "Forces at Play," "Shipwreck Adventures" and "Imaginopolis." Tickets are \$17 on weekdays and \$19 on weekends. Admission is free the first Sunday of each month; reservations are required, and tickets are

limited. The next free date is September 1.

History Center

345 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul
651-259-3000
mnhs.org

"Reframing our Stories" is featured through October 2025. The exhibit was created from a decades-old box of photographs simply labeled "Indians." Inside the box were dozens of pictures of Native community members, organizations, activities, and events that are relevant today.

"Our Home: Native Minnesota" features historic and contemporary photographs, maps, and artifacts that show how Minnesota's native communities have retained cultural practices, teachings and values.

Other exhibits include

"Minnesota's Greatest Generation," "Then Now Wow," "Grainland" and "Weather Permitting." Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and college students, and \$8 for children ages five to 17.

History Theatre

30 E. 10th St.
St. Paul
651-292-4323

Historytheatre.com

"Behind the Sun," September 21-October 13. Obie Kipper has finally found the house of his dreams, but there's one problem: it's 1956 and Obie's dream for the future of his family lies outside his redlined neighborhood, in an all-white neighborhood. With help from an old friend and co-worker, Obie puts in motion a sensational scheme to purchase the house. This may either land him in jail



Summer Nights in Rice, a free outdoor concert series, concludes Sept. 12 with a performance by the Everett Smithson Band, 5-7 p.m.

or help chart the future for his family and all of Minneapolis. Tickets start at \$25.

Landmark Center

75 5th St. W.
St. Paul
651-292-3225

landmarkcenter.org

Woodturning demonstration in the American Gallery of Wood Art, 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 15. Free.

Human/Nature: Photographs from Western National Parks & Monuments is on display in the North Gallery through September 3. It's a collection of black and white photographs made between 1992 and 2019 in western national parks and monuments that explore the conflict between preservation and development.

MN Museum of American Art

350 Robert St. N.
St. Paul
651-797-2571
mmaa.org

"Together," is a new exhibit on view through October 13. It consists of mixed media artwork created by 10 Minnesota artists with the help of their children.

"Hilo de la Sangre (Thread of the Blood),"

history theatre

Tickets on sale now!
historytheatre.com
Groups 10+ 651-292-4320



BEHIND THE SUN

By Stanley Kipper and Laura Drake
Directed by Richard D. Thompson
Sept 21-Oct 13



"entertainingly provocative and, well, delish."
- Star Tribune

I AM Betty

Book and additional lyrics by Cristina Luzarraga
Music and Lyrics by Denise Prosek
Directed by Maija Garcia
Nov 23-Dec 29

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

through December 1. Organized with Grupo Soap del Corazón, this exhibition brings together Latine visual artists to consider the significance of blood as the most essential component of life. The museum is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Admission is free.

Ordway Center

345 Washington St.
St. Paul
651-224-4222
ordway.org

"Listen!" 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 7. St. Paul Almanac and Walker|West Music Academy unite to present an evening of poetry and music. From \$39.

Samara Joy, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12. A live concert from the Grammy Award-winning jazz sensation. From \$45.

MN Opera GlamJam benefit concert, 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28. From \$75.

RiverCentre

175 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul
651-265-4800
rivercentre.org

Sturgill Simpson concert with special guest Johnny Blue Skies, 8 p.m., Wednes-

day, Sept. 25. Ticket prices unavailable at press time.

Science Museum of Minnesota

120 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul
651-221-9444
smm.org

"Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed" is on display through September 4. Presented in English and Spanish, it features more than 200 authentic artifacts, hands-on activities, lifelike simulations and more.

Virtual Reality Transporter - Use the VRT to hurtle through the cosmos at fantastic speeds, scuba dive into prehistoric seas, and join the astronauts of Apollo 11 as they moonwalk for the first time. \$9.95.

Omnitheater films: "Deep Sky," through October 31. Uncover the universe as never seen before through the awe-inspiring images of the James Webb Space Telescope.

"Ancient Caves," August 1-February 14, 2025. Join scientists and cave divers to explore vast underground worlds and elaborate rock foundations in search of geologic clues about the planet's

climate history. "Fungi Web of Life," 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. The film unravels how plants and animals would not exist without mushrooms, molds, yeasts and toadstools.

"Stellar Tours: A Star is Born," Wednesday-Sunday. Follow the life cycle of a star through this live digital telescope show.

Omnitheater tickets are \$9.95. Free for children ages 3 and under. Museum tickets are \$29.95 for adults and \$19.95 for ages 4-17.

Union Depot

214 4th St. E., St. Paul
uniondepot.org

Free yoga classes are offered 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, and 9-10 a.m., Saturdays.

Games galore, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. each Wednesday. Giant-size games are available or bring your own. Free. All ages.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 19.

Xcel Center

199 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul
651-726-8240
xcelenergycenter.com

Weezer with special guests The Flaming Lips and Dinosaur Jr., 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4. From \$39.

Outdoor events

Summer Nights in Rice are free concerts held 5-7 p.m. on select Thursdays in Rice Park, 109 W. 4th St. Performers are Turn, Turn, Turn on Aug. 29 and Everett Smithson Band on Sept. 12.

The City of Mendota Heights will present Teddy Bear Band and The Resistors 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4 at Market Square Park, 720 Main St. Free.

Patio Thursdays, noon-12:30 p.m., September 19 on Kellogg Mall Plaza by the Science Museum of Minnesota. A lunchtime talk about

the Mississippi River with a National Park Service ranger. Bring a picnic or shop the food cart. Free.

370 Sets, 4-6 p.m., Thurs-

day, Sept. 26. This free happy hour event on the patio at Osborn370 in downtown St. Paul will feature live music and complimentary drinks.

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Displaced square dance club finds new home on the West Side

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

Dakota Squares, a non-profit square dance club, has been forced to move its do-si-do-ing from West St. Paul to the West Side. For many years, the Club held its dances at Faith United Methodist Church in West St. Paul but had to move about a month ago after the church was sold to M/I Homes, which plans to demolish the building and create townhomes there. It now hosts its dances at The Recovery Church, 253 State St.

Now in its fifth year, Dakota Squares also offers free beginner square dancing lessons on select Mondays at Wentworth Library, 199 Wentworth Ave. E. in West St. Paul. The lessons usually draw about 20 people of varying experience levels, and it typically takes about four months for newcomers to learn all the terminology and the 68 moves of modern square dancing. Upon completion, they can join any square dance club and



Submitted photo

Members of Dakota Squares attend dances throughout the Twin Cities and the club hosts its own dances at The Recovery Church, 253 State St.

attend virtually any square dance event. The next lesson is 6:15-7:45 p.m., September 9.

“Square dancing is a lot of ‘Vitamin F,’ which is fun, fitness and fellowship,” said Dakota Squares vice president John Cook, who noted that each dance includes a potluck. “No matter where you go square dancing, the people are very friendly and more than willing to help new people learn.... We have people coming [for beginner lessons] from Hugo, White

Bear, Mound, Bloomington, you name it. Same with our membership, we have them from all over.”

Square dancing keeps you on your toes mentally as much as it does physically. “Callers” instruct dancers which maneuvers to perform on the fly, and it’s not uncommon for people to rack up 4,000-5,000 steps at a dance.

A “square” consists of eight dancers – four groups of two – and music can be classical, country, pop or

anything else. Two songs are considered a “tip,” and many Dakota Squares events feature line dancing lessons between tips. People of all ages are welcome to participate.

“We have different themes for every dance and a lot of times we have different callers, too,” said club treasurer Rose Cook. “Some people follow different callers, so you get a fluctuation of who shows up at each dance.” Various callers prefer different genres of music and speeds of dancing, but most read the experience level of the people on the dance floor and adjust accordingly.

The August dance, which honored Veterans, celebrated the club’s fifth anniversary. The September dance will be held 3-5:30 p.m., September 22, and the theme is “School Starting.” Cost is \$8 and the caller will be Monte Guenzler. Upcoming themes include Autumn Fest, Giving Thanks, Holiday Dazzle and American Heart. New socks and underwear will be collected at the November dance and donated to The Drawer, an Eagan-based organization.

Dakota Squares has recently seen a surge in

membership. The club added 11 members in the past year, bringing the total to 43, which surpasses pre-COVID numbers. The youngest is 14 and the oldest 93. Members pay a combined \$19.50 in annual dues to the club and its parent organization Square Dance Minnesota, which oversees about 25 square dancing clubs. The club was founded in August 2019 by former members of Dakota Grand Squares, a different square dance club based in West St. Paul. They chose to break away and form a new group to become a nonprofit. As such, they’re able to accept donations for various causes and offer beginner lessons for free.

John and Rose Cook are among the founding members of Dakota Squares, and they help schedule performances throughout the year at nursing homes, fairs, parades and other events to help promote square dancing. Coming up August 30-September 2 they will dance at the Western Minnesota Steam Threshing Reunion in Rollag, Minn. For more information, visit dakotasquares.com.

bell
museum

Statewide Star Party

International Observe the Moon Night

September 12 – 14

Join thousands of star gazers across Minnesota and around the world in celebrating the Moon, our closest celestial neighbor!

Attend a star party event near you: z.umn.edu/swsp2024

Mendota Mdewakanton's 27th Traditional Wacipi (Pow Wow)

September 13th, 14th, 15th, 2024

St. Peter's Church Grounds: Mendota, MN, 1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy 55120

MC: Gary Charwood	Men's Head Dancer: George Green
Arena Director: Darwin Strong	Women's Head Dancer: Lisa Bellanger
Host Drum: Scotty Brown Eyes & Drum Group	Spiritual Advisor: Chris Mato Nunpa
Co-Host Drum: Hoka Hey	Mendota Princess: Ameyalli Anderson

Free admission! \$10.00 donation for buttons. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets, seating is limited

Friday, Sept 13th	9:30pm Closing Ceremony
5:05pm Lighting Sacred Fire. (Bob Brown passed at 5:05pm)	9:45pm Registered Dancers Payout
6:00pm Potluck (bring dish to share)	
Saturday, Sept 14th	Sunday, Sept 15th
11:00am Dancer Registration (registration ends: 12:45pm)	11:00am Dancer Registration
1:00pm Grand Entry / Honored Guards / Honoring Veterans	1:00pm Grand Entry
1:30pm Federal Recognition	1:00pm Dancing (Dancing from 1pm to 3pm)
2:00pm Dancing	1:30pm Dancing
4:30pm Honoring Digitizing Group	3:00pm Dancing
5:00pm Huitzillin Dancers	4:30pm Honoring Powwow / Wacipi Committee
5:30pm Dancing	5:00pm Closing Ceremony
6:00pm Dancer Registration	5:15pm Registered Dancers Payout
6:30pm Dancing	5:30pm Feast
7:00pm Grand Entry / Honored Guards	
8:30pm Dancing	

More TBA will be added later.

Thank you for coming to our 27th Wacipi!

NO DRUGS, ALCOHOL, FIREARMS, OR PETS ALLOWED
This is not a Competition Wacipi. Small payout for all Dancers.
Donations are needed & appreciated.
Please check the website and social media for changes and updates
www.MendotaDakota.com

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Worship Guide

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**Church of St. Louis,
King of France**
506 Cedar St.
651-224-3379
stlouiskingoffrance.org

**Church of the
Assumption**
51 W. Seventh St.
651-224-7536
assumptionsp.org

Central Presbyterian
500 Cedar St.
651-224-4728
centralforgood.org

First Baptist
499 Wacouta St.
651-222-0718
firstbaptiststpaul.org

Church of St. Mary
267 8th St. E., #100
651-222-2619
stmarystpaul.org

WEST SIDE

Cherokee Park United
371 Baker St. W.
651-227-4275
cherokeeparkunited.org

La Puerta Abierta UMC
690 Livingston Ave.
651-558-1896

Our Lady of Guadalupe
401 Concord St.
651-228-0506
www.olgcatholic.org

St. Elizabeth Orthodox
125 Congress St. E.
651-424-0814
seocc.org

St. Matthew Catholic
490 Hall Avenue
651-224-9793
st-matts.org

**St. Paul Mennonite
Fellowship**
371 Baker St. W.
saintpaulmennonite.org

WEST ST. PAUL

Augustana Lutheran
1400 Robert St. S.
651-457-3373
augustana.com

**Community Christ
the Redeemer**
110 Crusader Ave. W.
651-451-6123
ccredeemer.org

**Crown of Life Lutheran
Church & School**
115 Crusader Ave. W.
651-451-3832
colwsp.org

Faith United Methodist
1530 Oakdale Ave.
651-457-5686
faithumcmn.com

Mizpah River Ministries
1530 Oakdale Ave.
651-399-5783

Restoration Hope Church
121 Butler Ave. W.
(Heritage Middle School)
West St. Paul, 612-254-480
restorationhopechurch.com

Riverview Baptist
14 Moreland Ave. E.
651-457-3831
riverviewbaptist.net

Salem Lutheran
11 Bernard St.
651-457-6661
salemluth.org

**St. George Antiochian
Orthodox**
1250 Oakdale Ave.
651-457-0854
saintgeorge-church.org

St. James Lutheran
460 Annapolis St. W.
651-457-9232
saintjameslutheran.com

St. Joseph's Catholic
1154 Seminole Ave.
651-457-2781
churchofstjoseph.org

St. Stephen's Lutheran
1575 Charlton St.
651-457-6541
ststephenswsp.org

SOUTH ST. PAUL

Luther Memorial Church
315 15th Ave. N.
651-451-2400
luther-memorial.com

**St. Augustine's
Catholic Church**
408 3rd St. N.
651-455-1302
holyltrinitysspmn.org

First Presbyterian
535 20th Ave. N.
651-451-6223
fpcssp.org

**Woodbury Lutheran
Wakota Ridge Campus**
255 W. Douglas St.
651-739-5144
woodburylutheran.org

**South St. Paul Hispanic
Seventh-day Adventist**
140 6th Ave. N.
651-455-0777

Grace Lutheran Church
149 8th Ave. S.
651-451-1035
grace-ssp.org

**Holy Trinity
Catholic Church**
749 6th Ave. S.
651-455-1302
holyltrinitysspmn.org

**Clark Grace
United Church**
779 15th Ave. N.
651-451-7278
clarkgraceucc.org

**St. Sava Serbian
Orthodox church**
357 2nd Ave. S.
651-451-0775
stsavamn.org

**Saint John Vianney
Catholic Church**
789 17th Ave. N.
651-451-1863
info@sjvssp.org

**Sf. Stefan
Romanian
Orthodox Church**
350 5th Ave. N.
651-451-3462
sfantulstefan.org

**St Mary's Coptic
Orthodox Church**
501 6th Ave. S.
651-455-8947
stmarymn.org



{ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES }

Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for men, especially Latinos, to mentor boys ages 7-12 in St. Paul. To volunteer, call 651-789-2400 or visit www.bigstwincities.org.

Ramsey County Community Human Services has volunteer opportunities for people age 16 and older. For more information, contact 651-266-4090 or visit ramseycounty.us/your-government/volunteer.

Science Museum of Minnesota is seeking volunteers to assist with visitor services and exhibits. Apply at smm.org/volunteer or call 651-221-9453 for more information.

CommonBond Communities seeks volunteers to assist children and teens with their academic skills, homework and discovering post-secondary school and career opportunities. For more information, visit commonbond.org/volunteer or contact volunteerservices@commonbond.org or 651-291-1750.

Minnesota Reading, Math Corps is seeking tutors to serve in St. Paul public schools. For more information or to apply, visit readingandmath.org/locations/minnesota or contact 612-206-3030.

Rebuilding Together Twin Cities is looking for Safe at Home volunteers to provide home safety and accessibility modifications for low-income older adult or disabled homeowners in St. Paul and Dakota County. For more information,



call 651-776-4273, email volunteerservices@rebuildingtogether-twincities.org, or visit rtmn.org/get-involved/volunteers/.

Volunteers of America is looking for volunteers age 55 and over to assist children who are struggling with homework and reading. To volunteer or receive more information, contact 952-945-4400 or visit voamnwi.org.

Hospice of the Midwest is seeking caring, responsible volunteers to provide companionship visits to patients throughout the Twin Cities. Also seeking music providers, veterans, and pet therapy vol-

unteers. Hours are flexible and training is provided. Contact Jen for more information: jennifer.emerson@hospiceofthemidwest.com

Cerenity Senior Care-Humboldt is seeking volunteers to work with seniors in assisted living, memory care, transitional care, and nursing care. To volunteer, contact 651-220-1771, HumboldtVolunteer@bhshealth.org, or visit www.cerenityseniorcare.org/volunteer.

Neighborhood House in St. Paul is looking for volunteers to assist in

the food shelf, with tutoring, youth services and other areas. For more information, call 651-789-2524 or visit neighborhoodhousemn.org/volunteer/.

DARTS, a nonprofit organization serving seniors in Dakota County, offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. To volunteer, contact 651-234-2254, volunteer@darts1.org, or visit dartsconnects.org.

Dodge Nature Center, a nonprofit environmental education center in West St. Paul, is seeking volunteers to assist with community events, land management and environmental education. For more information, call 651-455-4531 or visit visitdodgenaturecenter.org.

Dakota County offers volunteer positions in community corrections, environmental resources, the Historical Society, library, parks, public health, the sheriff's office and social services. For more information, call 651-438-4435 or visit www.co.dakota.mn.us and search "volunteer."

Neighbors, Inc., a social service agency serving northern Dakota County, has a number of volunteer opportunities to assist local residents, including work with the food shelf and thrift store. For more information, call 651-455-5000 or visit neighborsmn.org.



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