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The St. Paul Voice



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Volume 58 | Number 10

Your Community News & Information Source

October 2024

West Side Farmers Market holds annual Pumpkin Patch Bash

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

As summer draws to a close, large, orange gourds are being plucked from gnarly vines and made available for doorsteps across the land to celebrate fall and Halloween. Consider picking one up from the West Side Farmers Market during its fourth annual Pumpkin Patch Bash fundraiser, held noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, outside of Backstory Coffee Roasters, 432 Wabasha St. S. All proceeds support the market, and the free event will feature a slew of family-friendly activities, such as pumpkin bowling and pumpkin painting, a bounce house, foods from market vendors, coffee and cider, and more. Wabasha Brewing, located across the street, will also host two food trucks, games and activities during the event, and live music from 2-7 p.m.

For those unaware, the petite but powerful West Side Farmers Market operates Saturdays 9 a.m.-noon, June through October, in the parking lot of Icy Cup, 63 George St. W. Officially founded in 2011, it was entirely volunteer-run until obtaining non-profit status in 2020. Last year, its longtime leader and executive director stepped down and the fate of the market was in flux until produce vendor and then-board president Laura Fredrickson-Gosewisch decided to take on the role.

"We were faced with asking questions about shutting down the Farmers market / Page 5



Fall Fun and Frightful Festivities

Tim Spitzack
Editor

October brings warm days, cool nights and a whisper on the breeze reminding us that winter is looming ahead. With the heat of summer behind us, now is the perfect time to explore the great outdoors. This guide offers ample opportunities for nature lovers, as well as those who enjoy closing out the month with some spooky fun.

Leaf-peeping - With the Mississippi river in our backyard, it's not hard to find fall foliage bursting with color. The gorge between St. Paul and Minneapolis is particularly stunning this time of year and

features several overlooks for prime leaf viewing. Hike, bike or picnic at one of the many regional parks along the river or spend an afternoon driving the Great River Road as it winds through the Twin Cities and beyond.

To view the leaves from a different vantage point, book passage on one of the Padelford Riverboats' fall sightseeing tours. The narrated public excursions depart from Harriet Island in St. Paul and pass by the St. Paul High Bridge, Pig's Eye Cave, the Minnesota River mouth and Pike Island. Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$10.50 for ages 3-7. For more information, visit riverrides.com or call 651-369-6184.

Fresh apples - Nothing exemplifies autumn more than a

Fall Fun / Page 2

New West Side salon offers hair coaching

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

If your thick mane or avalanche of curls seems to have a mind of its own and the self-help tips you've tried just aren't working, it may be time to seek help from a professional tamer – in this case, a hair stylist and coach. One such option is Aubriana Jackson, who opened The Curl District hair salon at 674 Smith Ave. S. this summer and held a grand opening event in late August. She works with all hair textures and styles, and her mission is to educate customers of all races about their hair so they can keep it healthy and looking good.

"Oftentimes we don't talk about how the industry is still very segregated," said Jackson. "The mission statement for The Curl District is literally to desegregate the beauty industry by creating an inclusive space where people – regardless of race, gender or hair texture – can come in."

The Curl District offers a variety of services including aromatherapy and complimentary hair steaming. Jackson specializes in coloring, and her most popular services are blow-outs and silk presses. Much of her branding boasts a luxury experience for women, but she works with men, too – just about the only thing she won't do is clipper cuts, as she's not a barber.

She hopes to hire another stylist eventually but for now she's on her own. This winter she would also like to organize networking events for

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WSCO leaders resign at contentious meeting

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

At a board meeting in late July, members of the West Side Community Organization (WSCO) 13-member board of directors asked its president, vice president and treasurer to resign or face a vote that would force them out. They claimed the leaders were interfering with

day-to-day operations of the organization, primarily by attempting to disallow longtime executive director Monica Bravo from attending executive team meetings. A crowd of West Side residents attended the July meeting – some believing that the executive team had intentions to fire Bravo – and things got heated. Ultimately, board president Myisha Holley, vice president

GillEtté Kinnon-Williams, and treasurer William Johnson all resigned and left the meeting. Amanda Otis is now board president, Jessica Klimisch vice president and Sebastian Ellefson treasurer.

Board secretary Laurie Sovell and two other elected members resigned in the following days, along with two staff members. Notably, all three members of the executive team who resigned

at the public meeting were Black. Both WSCO and the resigned executive team members have since issued statements defending their stances and acknowledging that things got out of hand at the meeting.

The former executive team members acknowledged that they told Bravo in early July she would only be able to attend future executive team meetings when invited. Al-

though, they denied that they discussed firing her in any conversations. They added that it's not uncommon for executive directors or other staff to attend executive team meetings but that they aren't entitled to it according to the organization's bylaws. The catalyst for their decision was the need for privacy to discuss an employment contract that a WSCO staff member

thought had already been approved by Bravo.

According to Bravo, after hearing about the restriction placed on her, board members requested an emergency meeting with the executive team to discuss the matter. That meeting took place two days before the public meeting. Both sides said the conversation stalled and issues weren't resolved.

WSCO / Page 4

Fall Fun

from page 1

fresh, juicy apple, and you don't have to go far to find one. Several varieties grown

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Dodge Nature Center

Immerse yourself in the great outdoors at Dodge Nature Center. Many events and guided activities are offered at the 110-acre property at 365 Marie Ave. W., West St. Paul. You'll also find several miles of hiking trails through prairies, woodlands and wetlands, and a working farm with animals, raptor mews (birdhouse) and bee apiary. Trails are free to explore daily, sunrise to sunset. Visit dodgenaturecenter.org

for the full schedule of events, and for more information on the following activities held at Dodge's Shepard Farm property at 8946 70th St. S., Cottage Grove.

Apple Pie Baking, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 28. You'll visit the on-site orchard to learn how apples grow, pick some fruit then step into the center's teaching kitchen to make homemade pie filling and dough, roll out and shape the crust, and bake a pie to take home. This is an adult-child program open to participants of all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$30.

Apple Pie Date Night, 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 3.

Guided by a naturalist, you'll stroll through the orchard to learn about apples, pick fruit, then make a pie and sample farm-fresh apple cider. \$60 for two people.

Halloween Extraganza, noon-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26. Trick-or-treat through the woods, ride on the hay wagon to look for ghosts and goblins and meet slithery creatures. Try your luck at field games to win extra treats, then settle in for some silly science skits that will educate and entertain. Food will be available for purchase. \$8 online before noon, October 25. \$10 at the gate. Ages 2 and under are free.

Locally Grown Theatre presents **"Frankenstein/**

Monster" 5:30-7:30 p.m., October 11-13. Seeking love and acceptance from his creator, Victor Frankenstein's nameless monster shines a light on Frankenstein's inability to see with his heart rather than his eyes. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Free, but tips and donations are accepted after the show. Bring a blanket or chair.

Booya

Looking for some good, stick-to-your bones stew? Find it at The Booya World Championship on October 5 during South St. Paul's On the Road Again festival. Serving begins at 11 a.m. and goes until the last ladle is dished out. Community chefs use secret recipes to prepare a combined 700-800 gallons of stew as they compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. Sample their concoctions then cast your vote. Judging begins at noon. The festival is held along Southview Boulevard and nearby side streets and features craft and food vendors, flea market, chalk art contest, pickle contest, inflatables, beer garden, duck races, live music and a raffle.

Ghost Tours

Gangster Ghost Tour, 6-9 p.m., Wed., Oct. 30 at Landmark Center, 75 5th St. W., St. Paul. One night a year, the rumors of Landmark Center's haunting come alive, and the building is filled with spirits of days gone by. Cross paths with the ghosts of gangsters, G-men and judges long since departed, and see Landmark Center through the eyes of St. Paul's most famous and infamous inhabitants. Ages 12 and older. Hour-long tours begin at 6 p.m. and depart every 15 minutes. The last tour is at 8:30 p.m. \$10. Tickets go on sale October 1 and must be purchased in advance at landmarkcenter.org or by calling 651-292-3063.

CynCity Tours offers several ways to explore St. Paul's dark side. Tours include Union Depot Ghost Tour, Ghosts and Gables Haunted Summit Avenue and Dayton's Bluff Ghost Trolley. For dates and tickets, visit cyncitytours.com or call 651-357-4053.

Halloween events

Mystery on the Mississippi - Fearless Comedy Productions presents "Monsters of the Mississippi: Monsters and Myths of the Mighty

River," 5:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27, and 2:30-5:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 12 at Crosby Farm Regional Park in St. Paul. Learn about mythical monsters on and near the Mississippi and a cold case murder believed to have been committed by local legend Catfish McGee. Was the victim killed by a giant walking catfish or is the culprit a little less sensational? The mystery will unfold as you walk through Crosby Farm and help figure out who was responsible. \$35.

Barktober, 9-11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 5 at Mendota Heights Dog Park, 1360 Acacia Blvd., Mendota Heights. The event will feature a pup costume contest, photo booth, puppy playtime and business booths. For more information, visit MendotaHeightsMN.gov/barktober. Free.

Trick-or-Teeing, 4-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19 at Par 3 golf course, 1695 Dodd Rd., Mendota Heights. Come in costume and sink your putt for treats and prizes. This is a family friendly event. For more information, visit MendotaHeightsMN.gov/Trick-or-Teeing.

Spooky Sampler, 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24 at Harmon Park, 230 Bernard St. W., West St. Paul. Ages 8-12 are invited to enjoy fall-themed crafts inspired by the spookiest time of the year. \$20.

Great Pumpkin Halloween celebration, 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 27 at Landmark Center, 75 5th St. W., St. Paul. Enjoy crafts, treats, a costume parade and other Halloween festivities. Free.

Boonion Depot, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 27 at Union Depot, 214 4th St. E., St. Paul. This free event features crafts, a DJ and dance zone with prizes, Halloween-themed entertainment, face painting, a balloon artist, hero and Disney characters, and more. Halloween costumes encouraged.

Halloween at Harmon Park, 5:30-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 31 at Harmon Park, 230 Bernard St. W., West St. Paul. Stop by for a treat, photos with a themed backdrop and a bonfire.

The Great Halloween Get Together, 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 31 on Marie Avenue between 4th and 7th avenues in South St. Paul. There will be music, fun activities, and lots of treats provided by local businesses and organizations.

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Pitching in to improve the community

Tim Spitzack
Editor

The West St. Paul City Council takes a few moments during each meeting to recognize individuals and businesses for their donations to the city. In the past 12 months (through September), the city received about \$58,000 in funds and equipment. The majority was used for community events, including Explore West St. Paul Days and Winterfest. The police department received a big chunk for its K9 program and community outreach efforts, and one family donated \$20,000 for general purposes. Below are the donors who have helped make the community a better place.

Community events

- South Robert Street Business Association, \$5,000 to Explore West St. Paul Days and \$15,000 for Winterfest
- MSP Plumbing Heating Air, \$1,500 to Explore West

St. Paul Days

- Atlas Staffing, \$750 to Explore West St. Paul Days
- Commercial Club of West St. Paul, \$750 to Explore West St. Paul Days
- The Stremski State Farm Agency, \$750 to Explore West St. Paul Days
- Dominion/Legacy Commons, \$750 to Explore West St. Paul Days
- Window Concepts of Minnesota Inc., \$750 to Explore West St. Paul Days
- St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, \$750 for Explore West St. Paul Days
- Sonja Lhotka State Farm Insurance, \$650 for Movies in the Parks

Police department

- AMVETS POST 1, \$5,000 to the Citizens Academy and Heroes and Helpers outreach programs
- South Robert Street Business Association, \$1,625 for the K9 program
- West St. Paul Warriors Youth Hockey, \$1,000 for community outreach
- LTS Therapy Systems, \$1,000 for the department's

school supply drive

- Kwik Trip, Inc., \$500 for community outreach, specifically for C.O.P.S. in the Parks (Community Outreach with Public Safety)
- Dakota Electric Association, \$500 for safety camps
- Target Corporation, \$500 for community outreach
- St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$375 for the department's school supply drive
- Linda Swanson, \$500 for the K9 program
- Arthur Olson, Jr., \$100 for special police programs
- Walmart, a Samsung 55" TV/monitor

Other

- James and Jamie Coss on behalf of Virginia C. Coss, \$20,000 for general purpose
- Steve and Joanna Mead donated a \$20 gift card and several anonymous individuals donated a total of \$230 in gift cards to be used to purchase food for city employees.

Curl District

from page 1

salons and barbershops to discuss strategies for working with different hair textures and styles, share product recommendations and ultimately "elevate the whole beauty industry in the Twin Cities," she said. The lifelong St. Paulite and the fourth of five sisters has taught cosmetology part-time for about two years at St. Paul College, her alma mater.

Operating her own salon has been a longtime dream and a few years in the making. In 2019 she took some business courses and registered The Curl District as a business. She worked as an independent contractor at a friend's salon in Minneapolis and eventually found her own building last December.

The salon is located in a former eyelash studio and was transformed over about six months. Jackson single-handedly completed the makeover, including painting and laying much of the new tile floor, but



Salon owner Aubriana Jackson with a customer at Curl District.

hired professionals for plumbing. It's open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Sat., and early bird and night owl appointments are available by request. For more information, call 612-743-8663 or visit thecurldistrict.com.

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WSCO

from page 1

In their statement, the former executive team members recommended that the City of St. Paul evaluate and reconsider WSCO's status as a district council, encouraging a full investigation into the organization's finances, treatment of employees by the executive director and the effectiveness of the organization as a whole. They claimed that in their time with WSCO they had tried to address staff turnover, issues of anti-Black racism, and concerns about how the organization's finances were being managed.

The current board at WSCO said they're commit-

ted to investigating the claims of racism, but reinforced that their decision to ask the executive committee members to step down was based solely on their beliefs that the leaders were mismanaging the organization. Board elections will take place at WSCO's annual meeting in November. The board currently consists of people of African American, Latinx, Asian, Lebanese and White descent, according to Otis, board chair. Additionally, WSCO is working with Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute to conduct internal discussions to reflect on what happened at the public meeting and gain clarity from staff. A facilitated conversation open to the public will be announced soon.

WSCO is working with Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute to conduct internal discussions to reflect on what happened at the public meeting. A facilitated conversation open to the public will be announced soon. Board elections will be held in November.

The shake-up at WSCO has shone a bright light on the organization and St. Paul's district council system, which was founded in 1975 and stems from the city's Citizen Participation Program, now known as the Community Engagement Program. The purpose of this program is to help residents learn about what is happening in their neighborhoods and to collaborate with each other and city government to improve the quality of life for everyone in the city. To-

day, St. Paul has 17 district councils, each a non-profit run by a volunteer board of directors. Board members live in the neighborhood they represent and are elected by their neighbors at annual meetings.

Each council has an annual contract with the City to receive funds and provide community engagement services in their respective districts and develop district plans, which are reviewed by city staff before being adopted into the

City's comprehensive plans. Each council receives funding based on a formula that takes into account the neighborhood's demographics, including total population, poverty, number of non-English speaking residents and employment rates, based on census data. In 2019, WSCO received \$75,822, the sixth lowest amount of the 17 councils.

Given the contention that occurred at the public meeting, it's worth noting that the city's community engagement coordinator is available to assist the councils with organizational management coaching and resource navigation. They can also help connect them with resources such as the Dispute Resolution Center, a St. Paul-based non-profit that provides mediation, facilitation and restorative justice services and trainings.

WSCO's most recent work was an 80-page report

released in June called "From the Flats to the Future." It called for a public apology and financial reparations for the families of the approximately 2,100 people who were forced from their homes in the West Side Flats neighborhood in the 1950s and '60s by the City and St. Paul Port Authority due to frequent flooding that led to poor living conditions. Approximately 550 homes and businesses were demolished and the City quickly built a floodwall and industrial park in their place. WSCO has also been supportive of a newly proposed Latino Heritage Museum that could be built on the West Side and is working with a team of West Siders to create a 10-year community plan, which is expected to be complete in spring 2025. Other ongoing works relate to housing justice, land use, equitable development and environment. The organization's mission statement is, "WSCO organizes people of the West Side to build collective power to advance justice and racial equity in the community for all people." For more information, visit wSCO.org.

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Farmers market

from page 1

market,” said Fredrickson-Gosewisch. “We didn’t know who would take over, but vending at the market through the pandemic we all saw how important the market was to people.... To be able to fundraise, receive grants and be recognized as a nonprofit allows us to have staff that are paid and valued. Not everybody really understands that there’s this whole web of costs and duties to put the market up.”

Although she had been a vendor there since 2016, she was taken aback when she learned of the number of duties required of the executive director. This year she was able to hire two co-managers to assist with tasks such as community outreach and managing vendors. Next year, she hopes to bring on two more people to help organize volunteers and work with musicians and other performers. She made a point to recognize the interns they work with through St. Paul Public School’s Right Track program, specifically Sophia Wright who has helped run kids’ activities for two years and was named one of Right Track’s Supervisors of the Year in 2023.

Nestled about halfway up the bluff separating the West Side Flats from West St. Paul, the market can house about 12 vendor tents at a time, and there’s live music nearly every weekend. Earlier this year, BankCherokee donated six tents, which the market rents out to vendors

for a small fee. This year the market has seen on average 150 people each week, which is a slight rise from last year but still about half what it was before the pandemic. The decrease can be partly attributed to the fact that it operates at the same time as larger markets in the area, and people have been “pulled in so many directions” in recent years, said Fredrickson-Gosewisch.

Last year was especially tough financially for the market, but this year the bump in attendance, vendors, various partnerships, and grants have been enough to revive its coffers to a healthy level.

“The community has come together around us, just like I hoped,” said Fredrickson-Gosewisch.

Vendors at this market may not offer as much as those found at larger ones such as in downtown St. Paul, but they have their unique charm, nonetheless. Some are in the startup stage of their business and others are simply testing the waters to see if selling at markets is right for them. Products commonly include produce, bread, honey, hot sauce, clothes, jewelry, and more. One goal is to add more produce vendors, as only three are reliably there each week.

Fredrickson-Gosewisch, a New Hope-native and St. Paul resident of 11 years, was a vendor through 2022 and may get back to it in the coming years. She operates

Vital Ground Farms, where she grows produce in her backyard and on rented farm space. She sells cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes, lettuce, potatoes, onions, sunflowers, herbs and more.

Since the market obtained nonprofit status, the staff has been seeking grants to help cover operating costs. They recently submitted one to the Mississippi Market Positive Change Program for help in continuing its Power of Produce (POP) program, which provides kids ages 4-12 with \$2 per week to spend on fruit or vegetables at the market. Although POP is a national program, it comes with no funding so the market has been paying the costs out of pocket. The market also accepts SNAP/EBT, Market Bucks and Seniors/WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers.

Two years ago, in an effort to serve lower income people and folks who don’t have land to grow their own food, the West Side Farmers Market, Capital View Communal Garden on Smith Avenue, Youth Farms and several other groups and individuals partnered to form a coalition dubbed Growing Resilience on the West Side (GROWS). As part of the coalition, the market donates its excess produce each week to a free farm stand which is set up Wednesdays at Beautiful Laundrette, and Sundays 4-6 p.m. at Parque Castillo. Additionally, the market is part of the Metro Food Justice Network, which helps groups increase racial equity in the food system through networking and



The market plans to add more produce vendors next season.

other efforts.

For more information on the West Side Farmers Market, visit westsidefarmersmarket.net.

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"Curious George: Let's Get Curious!" through January 5. Climb into the imaginative world of Curious George and The Man with the Yellow Hat in this playful exhibit based on the beloved children's books. 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 Oct. 6.

History Center
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mnhs.org

"Girlhood (It's compli-

cated)," through June 1, 2025. This exhibit from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History features more than 100 objects that explore how young women have influenced politics, education, work, health and fashion.

Twin Cities Hip Hop Day: A Conversation on Tradition, 12:30-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 12. A panel and community discussion, led by DJ Stage One, exploring the importance of documenting the rich history of hip-hop in the Twin Cities. Free.

"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, ac-

tivities, 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

"Rondo '56: Remembering St Paul's Black Main Street," 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19. Four musical



"Girlhood (It's complicated)," a new exhibit from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, is on view at the Minnesota History Center. It features more than 100 objects that explore how young women have influenced politics, education, work, health and fashion.

hosts will paint a portrait in music, stories and archival photos of St. Paul's thriving Black neighborhood in the decade before it was sliced down the middle to make room for I-94. From \$30.

"Behind the Sun," through 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 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
History Play "Little

Rock, 1942," October 3-5. The true story of a civil rights lawsuit that brought Thurgood Marshall to St. Paul and led to the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision. In 1942, Sue Cowan Williams, head of the Dunbar High School English Department and a member of the Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association, sued the school district for equal pay for black teachers. With the assistance of Thurgood Marshall, an at-

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November 13, 2024
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Saint Paul College's Mission: Grounded in equity and inclusion, Saint Paul College educates and empowers students to lead purposeful lives and discover rewarding careers.

torney from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Williams won her case in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. \$10.

Landmark Live concert: Ruth Moody, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 6. Moody will perform songs from her new album "Wanderer." They explore the emotional journey of motherhood, the joy and pain of life, the mysterious and complicated dance of love, and ultimately, the longing we all feel for home. \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. Cocktail hour begins at 6:45 p.m.

Landmark Live concert: Pieta Brown, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18. Brown, a singer-songwriter, performs folk music and Americana tunes. \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. Cocktail hour begins at 6:45 p.m.

St. Paul Civic Symphony concert, 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20. Free.

Woodturning demonstration in the American Association of Woodturners Gallery of Wood Art, 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20. Free.

Building Tour, 12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m., every Sunday. Learn about the building's history, gangster connections, and restoration.

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)," 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

Ben Folds, 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 6. From \$45.

"National Geographic Live: Wild Wolves of Yellowstone," 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8. Witness the beauty and wonder of Yellowstone National Park with wildlife biologist Doug Smith. From \$29.

"Ain't Too Proud," 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8. The smash-hit Broadway musical that follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. From \$45.

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra concerts: Julie Albers plays Elgar's Cello Concerto, Oct. 11-12. "When We Were Trees" with Abel Selaoocoe, Oct. 18-20, combines elements of Baroque music, contemporary rock and metal, along with musical styles from around the world. All concerts from \$16.

Jeremy Denk, 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 13. Pianist Jeremy Denk will present a program of both old and new, featuring music by notable female composers along with music by Schumann and Brahms. From \$28.

Charles Lloyd Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 27. From \$50.95.

Park Square Theatre

20 W. 7th Pl.
St. Paul

parksquaretheatre.org

"Holmes Poirot," Oct. 9-Nov. 3. Sherlock Holmes never lost a case. Or did he? In this new mystery, Holmes comes up against his most diabolical adversary in a tale of intrigue, international politics, wine and murder. And he's stymied. Enter Hercule Poirot 25 years later to investigate a new crime that rhymes with the first. From \$25.

RiverCentre

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

Twin Cities Bridal Show, noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 13. Connect with a large array of wedding vendors and reserve services on-site. Tickets are \$20.

Science Museum of Minnesota

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

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," through 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.

Xcel Center

199 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul

651-726-8240

xcelenergycenter.com
Jeff Lynne's ELO, 8 p.m., Monday, Sept. 30. From \$49.

Childish Gambino, 8

p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 2. From \$59.

Cody Johnson, 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 11. From \$50.

Brandon Lake, 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 13. From \$30.

P!nk, Oct. 17-18. From \$100.

Iron Maiden, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22. From \$49.

The Avett Brothers and Trampled by Turtles, 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24. From \$65.

Korn, 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 27. From \$35.

Justin Timberlake, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 31. From \$65.



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September 28, 2024
9:00 am - 1:00 pm



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460 Annapolis Street West West St. Paul

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651.457.9232 www.saintjameslutheran.com

POSTSCRIPT

Scary movies

I have never been able to watch scary movies. My mother will remind you (if she gets the chance) that I can't even watch embarrassing television programs, which, frankly, is embarrassing. I would watch a terrible moment on a rerun of "The Lucy Show" when Lucy was about to get caught doing something embarrassing by her employer, Mr. Mooney, and I would have to leave the room in a hurry – making excuses about how I suddenly needed to help set the table. The truth was, I just couldn't stand to watch Lucy



Carrie Classon
CarrieClasson.com

get caught.

Scary movies, of course, are much worse. If getting caught by Mr. Mooney was bad, imagine getting caught by a maniacal murderer,

a flock of birds or a shark. As a result, I've never seen the scary movies everyone else has seen. I've seen photos from the movies and I know the general plotlines but when it comes to sitting down and watching the shark attack someone, I haven't been able to do it.

Until recently.

I've seen a few scary movies lately and it's not because I've become braver. It's because my husband, Peter, has started signing out DVDs from the library with what is called "optional commentary." The movie plays but, while all the scary stuff is happening, the director – and sometimes an actor who was in the movie, or a historian or film editor – jabbers away on top of the dialogue

and the music, explaining how all the effects in the movie were made.

You might think this would be very annoying, particularly for someone who hadn't seen the movie without all the jabbering beforehand. Instead, I find it enormously comforting.

I watch the movie, miss some of the dialogue (but not too much), and the scary music is covered up by cheerful folks talking about how they made it so scary. I love hearing how all those terrifying birds were enticed into flying after the children in "The Birds" (they put snacks in the children's hair!). I am delighted to hear the mechanical shark in "Jaws" was named Bruce, purportedly after Steven Spielberg's law-

yer, and he broke down all the time and caused so much trouble that Spielberg feared his career might be over. I even enjoyed hearing how the infamous shower scene in "Psycho" was made and how the film, made in black and white, used chocolate syrup for the blood that circled down the drain after the murder – a murder that is never actually even seen but seems so real with that terribly scary music playing.

I've been able to sit through all of this almost like a normal person because I am reassured every minute that Janet Leigh was safe, no children were pecked by birds, and that terrible shark was, in fact, a very troublesome mechanical device named for an attorney.

The whole experience makes me feel like I'm about six, and I wonder why I require so much reassurance. But I suspect I've always felt a little too responsible for the fate of others, even if (especially if) there is nothing I can do to change the outcome.

It's good for me to see that it's just ordinary people doing an extraordinarily good job of tapping into our primal fears of things that fly down from the sky or swim up from the depths and come after us when we least expect it. It helps me understand that I do the same thing in my own life, artfully fabricating fears of unlikely things, and doing an excellent job of scaring myself.

Till next time.

Neighbors, Inc.
Dawn Wambeke
President & CEO

Community events

Neighbors is honored to host our 17th annual Duck Races during the On the Road Again festival, held October 5 along South-

view Boulevard in South St. Paul. It will be a wonderful day filled with craft and food vendors, community booths, live music, the South St. Paul Lions Club's

(fantastic supporters of our work at Neighbors) beer garden, booya and more. We are honored to keep our legacy Duck Race tradition going in partnership with On the Road Again to bring awareness of the support that Neighbors provides in our community through our hunger relief programs, Clothes Closet Thrift Store and our Financial Empowerment Center.

I cannot say thank you enough to this year's Duck Races sponsors, who not only helped make this a successful fundraiser for

Neighbors, but who also allowed our community to participate in this year's races. Each business sponsorship provided 100 families with a duck to race for prizes. Community events and fundraisers such as the Duck Races help us network and spread the word of our services, volunteer opportunities and ways the community can get involved with Neighbors. These events also help sustain our services – we have seen a 400% increase in our Hunger Relief program alone, and expansion of our Financial Empowerment

Services (jobs, training, and financial education) that are designed to help lift people out of poverty. Ducks are on sale at Neighbors (advance entry forms must be received by noon, Friday, Oct. 4), and ducks can also be purchased the day of the event. We look forward to seeing you there.

Neighbors would also like to invite the community to start the holiday season off by joining us for our annual fundraiser: "It's A Wonderful Life," a captivating and heartwarming live radio play performance held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the

beautiful St. Paul Hotel. Tickets go on sale soon.

We were also excited to host a community cookout on August 20 at the Kaposia Park Pavilion. Together we were able to enjoy hot dogs and ice cream while having conversations among Neighbors' community supporters, clients, staff, volunteers and board of directors.

As always, I'd love to connect. You may reach me at dawn@neighborsmn.org, 651-272-1135 or by stopping by our office at 222 Grand Ave. W., South St. Paul.

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Call 651-292-8933
petsareinn.com

WELCOME

Weekly Worship Schedule

- Sunday Service, 9:00 am
- Sunday School, 10:30 am
- Teen Bible Class, 10:30 am
- Adult Bible Class, 10:30 am
- Monday Service with Contemporary Music, Mondays, 6:30 pm

Special Events

LEGO Derby Car Race, Sat., Sept. 28, 9 am-1 pm. Kids in grades K-8 are invited to build and race a LEGO car. LEGO chassis and bricks provided and lunch served after the event.

Saint James Lutheran Church
460 Annapolis Street West, West St. Paul
651.457-9232 | saintjameslutheran.com

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Ruth Moody

OCT. 18
Pieta Brown

NOV. 15
The Foxgloves

DEC. 20
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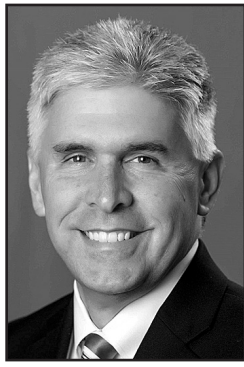
Election security

With the November election just weeks away, I am starting to get more questions about the steps Dakota County takes to ensure election security.

Election and ballot security - Elections in Dakota County are secure, transparent and accessible. Every step of the process is governed by laws and practices to ensure that every eligible vote is properly cast, counted and reported.

Our Statewide Voter Registration System is updated daily through a continuous and rigorous data-matching process with a wide array of offices and agencies at the county, state and federal levels. Polling places are managed by party-balanced election judges who ensure that only eligible voters are voting. Vote totals are reviewed by city and county election officials several times before an election is ultimately certified.

All election equipment has been approved by the state and the federal Election Assistance Commission. We test all tabulators publicly before every election. After every state general election,



Joe Atkins
Dakota County Commissioner

we publicly audit the results from the ballot tabulators using a hand count, and that total is compared with the machine-counted results from election night.

We strictly follow the 2002 Help America Vote Act, which includes accessibility for people with disabilities and requires posting of voter information at a polling place, among many other things. The Minnesota Council on Disability and the Secretary of State's office also provide extensive guidance that ensures that all polling places be accessible by elderly voters and voters with disabilities. If there are any suspected or possible violations of these election laws, we ask people to report

them immediately. For more election information, visit dakotacounty.us and search voting and elections.

DARTS Day - The county board recently declared DARTS Appreciation Day in Dakota County. Since 1974, the West St. Paul-based nonprofit has served older adults, their families and caregivers in Dakota County and surrounding areas, creating connections that enrich aging and preserve independence. We appreciate our partnership with DARTS in providing residents of Dakota County with a high quality of living as they age in their communities. Congrats and thank you to DARTS for 50 years of service!

State of the County in SSP - For the first time in Dakota County's 175-year history, the State of the County Address will be delivered in South St. Paul. This is because the board chair gets to choose the location, and I happen to be the board chair. Join me at 4 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10 at the historic Croatian Hall, 445 2nd Ave. S. The event is free, and all are welcome.

Best Library - Our Da-

kota County Library system was just named Minnesota's Best Public Library. With 10 branch locations providing books and e-books, events for all ages, access to technology, free meeting rooms, study rooms and more, the Dakota County Library was named the gold winner in the public library category in the 2024 Minnesota Best contest. Congratulations to our library team on earning this recognition.

60 years ago - Olivia Dodge moved to West St. Paul in 1964, where she purchased three neighboring properties that came up for sale over the next three years. She donated this land to create the Thomas Irvine Dodge Nature Center, which has grown to 320 acres and attracts 40,000 visitors each year, including many schoolchildren. Olivia and her sister also donated the Summit Avenue home they grew up in to the people of Minnesota in 1965. It is better known to the public as the Governor's Mansion. Olivia passed away in 2009, leaving an amazing legacy.

100 years ago - In October 1924, West St. Paul became the seventh city

in the nation to be awarded a \$2,000 grant from a \$100,000 fund established by philanthropist William Harmon to build playgrounds in 50 cities across the country. Harmon later provided a similar donation to create South St. Paul's Harmon Park. While Harmon also provided college loans for poor individuals and funded nursing programs, he is best known for funding the work of dozens of African-American artists - many of whom would go on to become widely recognized - and for being the first to come up with a plan for people to purchase a home in installments. His Easy Pay Plan, which asked home buyers to make a small down payment then pay what they could monthly, opened the possibility of home and land ownership to many who might not otherwise be able to do so.

Interestingly, Harmon also had a generous alter ego, Jedediah Tingle. Under this pseudonym, he dispersed money for fun purposes. Tingle's agents would frequently give money and treats to kids, artists and poets. Tingle's true identity was

not publicly known until after Harmon's death in 1928.

Joe Atkins represents District 2 on the Dakota County Board, which includes South St. Paul, West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights. Elected chair of the board in 2024, he welcomes feedback. To share comments, concerns or questions, contact him at Joe.Atkins@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-438-4430.

Volunteer In Your Community

Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeks volunteers age 55 or over in your area to provide companionship to older adults or mentor school-age children. Volunteers commit to regular weekly hours for a tax-free stipend and mileage reimbursement. Contact us at 888.205.3770, or AmeriCorpsSeniors@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community.



Worship Guide

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

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

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

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

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

Beth Jacob Congregation
1179 Victoria Curve
Mendota Heights
651-452-2226
beth-jacob.org

Holy Family Maronite
1960 Lexington Ave. S.
Mendota Heights
651-291-1116
HolyFamilyEvents.org

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

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

St. Paul's United Methodist
700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights
651-452-5683
stpaulsmn.org

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

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

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

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

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

Community Christ the Redeemer
110 Crusader Ave. W.
West St. Paul
651-451-6123
ccredeemer.org

Mizpah River Ministries
1530 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul
651-399-5783

Spirit of Hope Catholic
2035 Charlton Road
Sunfish Lake
651-760-8353
spiritofhopemn.org

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

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

Crown of Life Lutheran
115 Crusader Avenue W.
West St. Paul
651-451-3832
colwsp.org

Our Lady of Guadalupe
401 Concord St., St. Paul
651-228-0506
olgatholic.org

St. Anne's Episcopal
2035 Charlton Rd.
Sunfish Lake
651-455-9449
saintannesmn.org

ISD 197 inducts four into Warrior Hall of Fame

The ISD 197/Two Rivers Hall of Fame has added four new members and will acknowledge them at the homecoming football game on Friday, Sept. 27. The honor recognizes people who have significantly contributed to the school district community and excelled in various fields, including athletics, activities, fine arts, academics and philanthropy. The 2024 inductees are Eugene "Gene" Atkins, class of 1955 (deceased); Laura Ashley Grattan, class of 1999; Erin Pash, class of 2005; and Scott Van, class of 1974



Gene Atkins - After graduating from what then was Henry Sibley High School in 1955, Atkins enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served as a quartermaster. Following his honorable discharge, he earned a bachelor of arts in history from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls

and was then hired to teach history and civics at Frances M. Grass Junior High in West St. Paul. Concurrently, he attended William Mitchell College of Law (now Hamline-Mitchell) at night, earning his Juris Doctorate in 1968. Atkins built a successful law practice in Dakota County and was appointed a Minnesota First District Court Judge in 1983 by Gov. Rudy Perpich. He served with distinction until his retirement in 2003, becoming one of Minnesota's longest-serving judges. Atkins also served as mayor of Inver Grove Heights and on the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. He passed away in 2012.



Laura Ashley Grattan - Grattan excelled in soccer, basketball, and track and field, earning numerous accolades and breaking records. She led her soccer

team to state and section championships, earned 3-time All-State and 4-time All-Conference honors, and led the state in scoring for Class AA. In basketball, she was a 4-year letter winner and state participant, and in track and field, she participated in four state meets and received multiple MVP awards. Academically, Grattan graduated as valedictorian with a 4.0 GPA, was a National Merit Commended Student, and was first chair alto saxophone in the high school band. Her senior year, she received a Mount Olivet Award (for Outstanding Minnesota High School Female Athlete of the Year), SAMMY Award (given to 25 students nationally for excellence in athletics, academics, leadership and community service), Athena Award, and Triple "A" Award. Following high school, Grattan attended Dartmouth College and Harvard Business School. At Dartmouth, she was a standout on the nationally ranked Top 20 varsity soccer team, and graduated summa cum laude. She is now a partner at Hg Capital and has held significant positions at leading private equity firms for

more than 20 years. Her community engagement includes serving on nonprofit boards and youth coaching. She lives in the Boston area with her husband, Brendan, and three sons, Drew, Cole and Wes.



Erin Pash - Pash has made remarkable strides in the field of mental health. As CEO and founder of Ellie Mental Health Services, she has worked to make mental health care accessible for everyone. Under her leadership, Ellie Mental Health has grown from a single office in St. Paul to 225 clinics across 38 states, providing services to over 200,000 families. Pash graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in child psychology and earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy at St. Mary's University. She is a clinical supervisor and a clinical fellow with both the Minnesota and American Associations of Marriage and Family Therapy. She is also an author, professional speaker, content creator and mother of six.



Scott Van - As a three-sport athlete, Van played on the first soccer team in school history, swam freestyle on the swimming team, and was a state champion in high hurdles in track and field. His senior year, he was selected to be one of the captains for soccer, swimming and track, making all-conference in all three sports. He was also selected as the school's Male Athlete of the Year. His academic achievements matched his athletic skills. He made the "A Honor Roll" throughout high school and received an Optimist Club academic achievement award his senior year. Van also served on the ISD 197 Educational Foundation Board for over 15 years.

Letters to the Editor

Supporting Zanmiller for Soil and Water Supervisor District 2

We are fortunate to have Laura Zanmiller represent us as our Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supervisor. SWCD provides technical, training and financial support to residents, businesses and municipalities to conserve and manage land and water resources. There are 91 SWCDs statewide.

Here are a few highlights of Zanmiller's service since being elected in 2012: served as chair (2017-2023) and is currently vice chair; has served as Metro Conservation Board representative for Dakota County since 2013; completed leadership program (2018-2019) with the Minnesota Association SWCD, which partners with the University of Minnesota Extension program to provide individuals with skills to excel as leaders in conservation; in 2023 was nominated and voted to serve as the Area 4 Director on the MASWCD where she represents the metro area at the state level; in 2024 Dakota County was awarded the District of the Year award at the annual MN Association of SWCD's convention.

Laura is a strong environmental leader and is always working to help our communities. Please join me and vote for Laura Zanmiller for Soil and Water Supervisor District 2 on November 5.

Julie Eastman
West St. Paul

Problems at WSCO

The West Side community has suffered the effects of ongoing dysfunction in the West Side Community Organization (WSCO) for an oppressively long time. This is something that I know from having lived on the West Side since 1998 and having served on the WSCO Board of Directors following elections at the WSCO Annual Meeting in December 2014. As a WSCO board and committee member I experienced disenfranchisement, and that experience continued in the years since when I attempted to be involved in activities sponsored by WSCO. Allegations of recent racism are disappointing, but do not surprise me, based upon my own experiences and observations. It is difficult for the average West Side resident to gain an understanding of WSCO's history, as the information is not readily available. For example, all board meeting notes from all years previous are not available on the WSCO website. For example, in 2016, the year that the previous executive director of WSCO exited, and Monica Bravo received a promotion from community organizer to executive director, board meeting notes are only available for the first four months of the year. Rumors of a firing abounded, but the entire period of May-Dec. of 2016 the Board meeting notes were not available to the public (https://www.wsko.org/wsko_board_meeting_notes). This lack of transparency makes it impossible for the constituents of the West Side to have an informed understanding of the events that lead to a change of leadership in our community. Due to this same chronic lack of transparency, it is likely that many in the community are unaware Monica Bravo also worked as a community organizer at WSCO in the 2000s, at a time of reportedly great controversy. Despite the fact that there are no board meeting notes for the years 2020-2021 on the WSCO website, the total of executive compensation, other salaries, and wages for the fiscal year ending in Dec. of 2021 was \$273,058 (<https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/237447142>). The mandate for the WSCO Board and staff is to serve the residents of the West Side. From my perspective, there needs to be reform in order for this to happen. With board elections coming up soon, now is the perfect time to shed a bright light on WSCO.

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Candidates and Cookies

The Optimist Club of West St. Paul will host a candidate forum 6-7:15 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Wentworth Library, 199 E. Wentworth Ave., West St. Paul. All candidates running for West St. Paul mayor or city council have been invited to participate. Each candidate will speak then answer questions from the audience. Cookies and water will be available.

CROP Hunger Walk

The St. Paul CROP Hunger Walk will begin at 1:15 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 13 at Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. This annual community-wide event is sponsored by Church World Service to raise money and awareness for hunger relief in St. Paul and around the world. Teams and individuals help raise funds by getting sponsors for the 3.4-mile round trip route on Summit Avenue. Participants walk as much or as little as they like. Twenty-five percent of the money raised goes to the Department of Indian Work Emergency Services, a program of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, and the remainder is used to support Church World Service's hunger relief efforts in areas throughout the world. To register, visit crophungerwalk.org/saint-paulmn.

TPAC

Unless noted, all activities take place at Thompson Park Activity Center, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul. Events are for ages 55 and

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Community CALENDAR

older. To register, call 651-403-8300.

Bear Aware, 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1. Discover the majestic world of bears. \$8.

Greeting Card Making Class, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 3. Create three beautiful homemade greeting cards, adding your own personal touches. Register by Sept. 26. \$24.

Watercolor Painting Introduction I & II, 1-3 p.m., Monday, Oct. 7, 21 and 28. Learn fundamental techniques, color theory and the art of mixing pigments. Supplies may be purchased at the class for \$40. \$54 for three sessions.

Marvelous Mushrooms, 10-11:15 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 15. Learn about fungi, forage for them around Thompson Park and return to taste safely-prepared, delicious mushrooms. Register by October 8. \$15.

2nd Annual Costume RunWay Show, 10-11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 20. See and learn the history of new and vintage costumes from decades ago. Register by October 4. \$5.

Recycling: Believe It & Do It, 10-11 a.m., Monday, Oct. 21. Review recycling basics, learn about how the system functions and what happens to recycled materials. Register by October 6. \$3.

What is New for Medicare in 2025?, 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22. Learn

about significant Medicare cost changes, program updates, and a new option for the upcoming year. Register in advance. \$3.

Inver Hills Community Band concert with vocalist Vicki Kueppers, former Ms. Minnesota, 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23. \$10. Includes dessert. Register by October 16.

Discover Dough Gold: Premium Cookie Dough, 10-11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 31. Learn about Dough Gold, a premium, small-batch, BIPOC, woman-owned cookie dough manufacturer based in Eagan. Samples will be served. Register by October 25. \$3.

Exploring Conversational Spanish for Absolute Beginners, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 30. Learn greetings, practical phrases, numbers, family, food, hobbies and more. Register by Oct. 25. \$40.

Men's Toast and Topic, 9-10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 28. Discuss various topics in a supportive and engaging environment. \$10 annually, September-August.

Cribbage & Scrabble, 1-3 p.m., each Wednesday. \$15, now through December 1.

Computer Center - Get help with technology questions for both hand-held and home-based devices.

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 sppl.org/events for more information. The library will be closed October 10 for staff training.

Level Up for Teens, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. Video games, arts and crafts.

PJ Storytime, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 2. Wear your PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal.

Baby & Toddler Storytime, Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs and age-appropriate toys and socializing for ages 3 and under.

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. Call 651-266-7000.

Sewing with Susan, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5 and 19. 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. Call 651-266-7000.

Roe Family Singers, 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 19. Contemporary takes on old-time and traditional tunes the entire family will enjoy.

Historical Building Tour, 1-2 p.m., Saturday,

Oct. 19. Explore the downtown library built in the Italian Renaissance Revival style. Led by library staff.

Girlhood Book Club for ages 8-12, 2-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19. Minnesota History Center is partnering with SPPL to host a series of book clubs featuring Minnesota authors who write books about girls. The first book is "Meet Me Halfway," by Anika Farjado. Stop by the library to register and receive a free copy to keep. Copies are available to check out.

Craft Circle, 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23. Bring a project to work on, or start a new one with supplies from the library.

Leonardo's Basement, 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 26. A Halloween-themed Maker Space with fun materials that help develop technical skills and problem-solving. Ages 5 and older.

The following events are held at the Riverview Library, 1 E. George St. Visit sppl.org/events for more information.

The library will be closed October 10 for staff training. Visit sppl.org/events for more information.

West Side Writers, Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. This group is for writers of all experience levels. Each week participants bring in pieces of written work, offer each other feedback, and discuss the craft of writing.

Teen Wednesdays, Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Drop-in for games, snacks, art and more.

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

Riverview Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 14. The title is "Checkout 19" by Claire-Louise Bennett.

Color X Chalk Creations with Now.Make.Art, 2-4 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 17. Kids ages 7-11 are invited to create unique chalk creations for a shared mural.

Paw Pals: Read with Odin, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 19. Read to a friendly dog who loves to sit and listen to stories. Ages 6-12. Reading sessions are 15 minutes long. Registration is required. Call 651-292-6626.

Union Depot

The following events are held at Union Depot, 214 4th St. E. For more information, visit uniondepot.org/event-calendar.

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.

American Red Cross blood drive, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 17.

Boonion Depot, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 27 at Union Depot, 214 4th St. E., St. Paul. This free event features a DJ and dance zone, crafts, prizes, Halloween-themed entertainment, face painting, a balloon artist, hero and Disney characters, and more. Halloween costumes encouraged.

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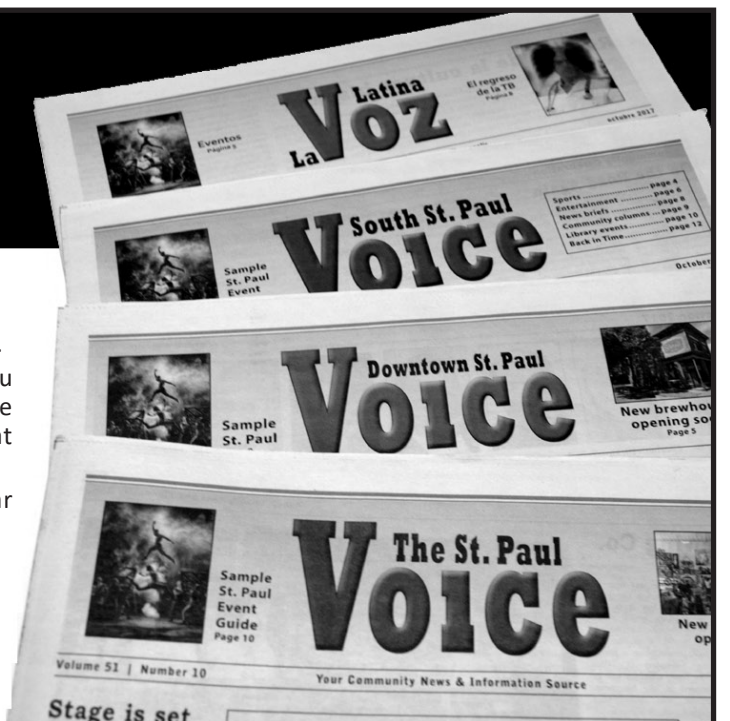
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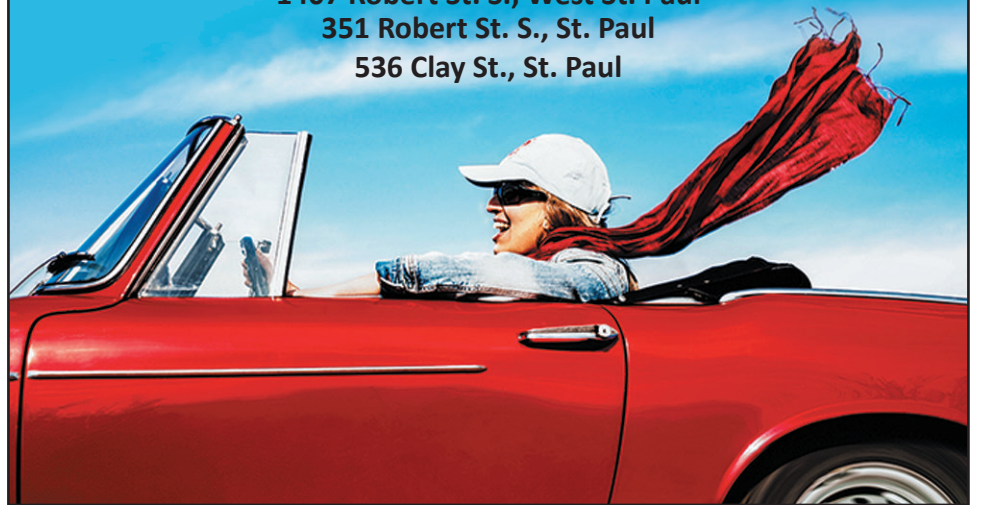
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