



South St. Paul Voice



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Volume 21 | Number 10

Your Community News & Information Source

October 2024

On the Road Again festival is Oct. 5

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again! Thousands of neighbors will flood the streets to celebrate the city and patronize the businesses that help keep it strong. The On the Road Again fall festival will be held Saturday, Oct. 5. Events run 9 a.m.-6 p.m. along Southview Boulevard and side streets. The festival was first organized in 1990 to celebrate the completion of a 2-year street, water and sewer project on Southview. Business owners organized the event to thank the community for supporting them during construction and it evolved into an annual event. Here's what's on the docket for this year's festivities. Details were accurate as of press time.

Arts and Crafts Flea Market, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. More than 100 vendors will offer bargains on vintage and handcrafted items.

Booyah World Championship, 11 a.m. 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 bragging rights. Sample their concoctions then cast your vote. Judging begins at noon. Last year's winner was Bethesda Lutheran Church. For more details,

Festival / Page 2

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 Padlford 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 3

Michelandia bar and grill opens on North Concord

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

The longtime restaurant building perched alongside the Mississippi River and railroad tracks on North Concord – most recently home to Las Islas Mexican restaurant – is under new ownership. It reopened as Michelandia Bar & Grill on Labor Day, just in time for people to enjoy fall views from its big patio.

The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, with many seafood options. New York Strip and ribeye steaks, as well as lamb chops also round out the menu. Some meals can serve up to four people. One notable entrée is Parrillada el Patron.

"It's a special dish for me," said owner Jorge Tirado, who hails from Mexico but has lived in Minnesota for about 25 years. "I got it from my family down in Mexico. There's lobster, shrimp, some other stuff, and a secret sauce from Mexico.... The octopus is one of my favorites, too."

The building has two levels, each with a full bar and seating capacity of about 85. The patio seats 120. Only cosmetic work was needed prior to moving in and Tirado has already held live music there several times. The lower level can be reserved for private events.

"People really love to sit on the

Michelandia / Page 4

SSP native releases fright flick in time for Halloween

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

Ready some popcorn and gather your closest friends for an evening of eerie fun, brought to you by South St. Paul native Nicholas Bain. "Voice of Shadows," a horror film written and directed by Bain, was released September 17 and is available on digital and streaming platforms.

Filmed primarily in Lanes-

boro, Minn., and starring Minneapolis native Bee Vang ("Gran Torino") and South American actor Guillermo Blanco ("The Queen of Flow"), the movie follows a young, working-class man named Gabriel as he and his girlfriend Emma move to the country to a large estate she stands to inherit. However, not everything is as it seems when they learn that for the inheritance to take effect, she must adhere to an increas-

ingly strange set of rules while staying there for the weekend. As things escalate and Emma is pulled deeper into the darkness by a mysterious cult, Gabriel battles his dark past and must find a way to save her and himself before a powerful evil awakens and they are lost forever.

The inspiration for the movie was exploring what a working-class person might be willing to do to get ahead, and what they might be will-

ing to sacrifice, Bain said.

"I like to play with stereotypes but we have a lot of original elements in [the film]. There's also a lot about religious faith. It's sort of a redemption story for the main character, who has a lot of internal conflict throughout the story and has to sort of redeem himself for something he did when he was younger."

Most of the movie was filmed in about two weeks

at the James A. Thompson House in Lanesboro, which operates as a bed and breakfast. Its world premiere was at last year's Twin Cities Film Festival, where it was awarded runner-up for Best Minnesota Made Film. In the past year it has been on an international film festival circuit, notching more awards including Best Feature Film at Romford Horror Festival, Latitude Film Awards, and Bestlov Festival,

and Best Visual Effects at the Los Angeles Crime and Horror Festival.

Actor Guillermo Blanco praised Bain for his work.

"From the moment we first discussed the project, and as Nick began crafting the script, I knew we were working on something special," he said in a statement. "The love and passion we

Voice of Shadows / Page 4

Festival

from page 1

contact Brenda at 651-528-8904.

Chalk Art Competition, returns for its second year, at 4th Avenue and Southview Boulevard. Fifteen artists from around the metro area and two from Iowa will create chalk art 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

The public will cast votes for the winners, and judging will take place 3-3:30 p.m. First place winner will receive \$350, second place \$200, and third place \$100. The winner of the "festival favorite" design will also get \$350. The event also features a kids' zone with complimentary chalk.

Cool Truck and Bass Boat, is a new free event, 9

a.m.-2 p.m., at Southview 66. Professional bass fisherman Tyler Darrow will teach children casting techniques.

Giant Medallion Car Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., between 9th and 12th avenues and side streets. Check out the wide array of vintage cars and trucks flaunting shiny chrome, custom detailing and other meticulous works of restoration.

Great Neighbors Duck Races, held 11 a.m.-3 p.m. near 9th and Southview. Heats are held every 15 minutes and three winners from each heat will receive a prize. Winners will advance to the final race where they will compete for a night-on-the-town package valued at \$500. Ducks are available for \$10 each and can be purchased at Neighbors, Inc., 222 Grand Ave. W., local businesses or at the event. Proceeds support programs and services at Neighbors Inc. For more information, call 651-455-5000 or visit

neighborsmn.org.

Little Elko Quarter Midget Race Cars, is a new event at Southview 66. Four cars will be on display.

South St. Paul Lions Club Beer Garden and Raffle, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at 9th and Southview. Quench your thirst at the Lions Club beer garden and take part in their raffle drawing at 2:30 p.m.

Live music, 1-4 p.m., at 8th Avenue and Southview Boulevard. Vivian Hayes and Lamont Cranston will perform. Food, face painting and kids' activities will be featured throughout the festival area.

Pickle Contest, judging begins at 2 p.m. Contestants will compete in three categories: sweet, dill and hot. To enter the contest, drop off your pickles by 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 5 at Southview 66, 725 Southview Blvd.




Photo by On the Road Again

The Booyah World Championship begins at 11 a.m. and goes until the last ladle is dished out. Sample the stews then cast your vote. Judging begins at noon. Last year's winner was Bethesda Lutheran Church.

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BOOYAH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	<small>Start serving at 11:00 AM until gone. Typically serve around 700 - 800 gallons. Judging starts at Noon Contact Brenda Books: 651-528-8904</small>
GIANT MEDALLION CAR SHOW	<small>Sponsored by: Buggs Bar • Key Bank Southview 66 • Royal Star Liquidators 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Southview Blvd. between 12th & 9th Avenue including Side Streets</small>
LIVE MUSIC	<small>Sponsored by: Midwest Fence & Manufacturing Co. Vivian Hayes • Lamont Cranston 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM • 8th & Southview</small>
SSP LIONS BEER GARDEN & RAFFLE	<small>9th & Southview 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Raffle Drawing at 2:30 PM</small>
COOL TRUCK & BASS BOAT	<small>NEW EVENT Teyler Darrow Southview 66 • 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM</small>
PICKLE CONTEST	<small>Sponsored by: Yards Apartments Chris Kisch Insurance • Cherokee Manufacturing Bring your best sweet, dill or hot pickles to Southview 66 by 11 a.m. on Saturday • Judging starts at 2:00 PM</small>
GREAT NEIGHBORS DUCK RACES	<small>\$10 per duck adoption. Each race will have 3 winners and prizes. The final race will be for all winners as they compete for a special grand prize. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM</small>
LITTLE ELKO QUARTER MIDGET RACE CARS	<small>NEW EVENT Southview 66</small>
CHALK ART COMPETITION!	<small>4th Avenue & Southview Blvd.</small>

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Fall Fun

from page 1

fresh, juicy apple, and you don't have to go far to find one. Several varieties grown on-site are available 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Sunday at Orchard Hill, 131 Wentworth Ave., West St. Paul. All apples are picked and bagged for purchase.

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.

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-orTeeing.

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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Voice of Shadows

from page 1

poured into this film, especially in the challenging post-pandemic environment, are reflected in every scene. 'Voice of Shadows' is not just a movie, it's a testament to our resilience and commitment to storytelling."

Bain wrote the screenplay in 2020, the first year of the pandemic.

"It's extremely meaningful

to get to this point," he said. "To go through pre-production and actual production was extremely difficult, and when you make an independent film, you don't know if you're going to get a distributor. But we did and we've had good success, and we're looking forward to seeing what happens."

Bain has written a few

other screenplays for movies that were never made – as is commonplace in the industry – and that was part of the reason he wanted to try his hand at directing and producing his own film. Past works that came to fruition include several short films and a 2017 kids adventure movie shot in Bayport, Minn. called, "Kid West."

Bain attended Midlands Academy in Woodbury through his junior year of high school then transferred

to South St. Paul Secondary for his senior year. He's lived in California for a few years but his parents, sister and other family members still live in South St. Paul. Bain has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the University of Minnesota and works full-time at a mortgage company.

The not-rated film is about 90 minutes long. Find it on Apple TV+, Amazon Prime Video, Google Play, and local cable and satellite providers.



Michelandia

from page 1

patio because they got the whole view of the river and the trains," he said.

Tirado's parents have operated restaurants in Mexico

for about 65 years, so he understands the industry. Although he's worked in construction for most of his career, opening his own res-

taurant has always been in the back of his mind. When he learned that Las Islas was closing, he jumped at the opportunity.

The restaurant is named after Micheladas, a Mexican drink made with beer, lime juice, assorted sauces, spices

and chili peppers, and served in a chilled, salt-rimmed glass. Current hours are Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 a.m., and Sundays 11 a.m.-11 p.m. For more information, call 612-250-6486.

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EOE

THE MAYOR'S
**Youth
TASK
FORCE**

Happy October! This is going to be a fantastic month with community events involving pumpkins. It includes the Great Halloween Green Costume Exchange, BOO Grams, the 23rd Annual Great Halloween Get Together, and pumpkin recycling. New this year is the Great Pod-kin Patch event to benefit Neighbors, Inc.

Great Halloween Green Costume Exchange - October 12 is National Costume Exchange Day. Join the task force and Kaposia Library for the 5th Annual Great Halloween Green Costume Exchange. Drop off gently used, laundered costumes at Kaposia Library during normal business hours by Thursday, Oct. 10 and receive a ticket to exchange for a costume that is new to you. Return to the library

on Saturday, Oct. 12 and exchange your ticket for a costume. People with tickets have the first opportunity to select a costume, then the costume area will be open to anyone. Costumes may be "purchased" by making a food or monetary donation to Neighbors, Inc. This event is a great way to reuse costumes and do good in the community.

New this year is the **South St. Paul Great Pod-kin Patch**. The task force will create a "pod-kin" patch at South St. Paul City Hall on Thursday, Oct. 24, 6:30-8 p.m., using laundry pod containers. Volunteers are needed to transform the containers into pumpkins to place in the pod-kin patch. On October 24, the pod-kins will be lit for visitors to view. The goal of the Pod-kin Patch is to raise funds for Neighbors, Inc. to purchase laundry pods to distribute to their clients. Monetary and laundry pod donations will be accepted. The Local Lemon Lemonade Stand will be there - transformed into Spooky Treat Station - with hot drinks and treats.

Halloween BOO Grams - The task force is again spon-

soring Boo Grams for Halloween. These can be sent to anyone who lives or works in South St. Paul. The message can be up to 100 words to offer encouragement, happy news, or wish someone a good day or Happy Halloween. The Boo Gram form is available at southstpaul.org (on the Event Calendar), at South St. Paul City Hall, 125 3rd Ave. N., or by contacting Deb Griffith at 651-554-3230 or Deb.griffith@southstpaul.org. Boo Grams and fun, tasty treats will be delivered to the recipient's front door on Saturday, Oct. 28. Grams are \$6, or two for \$10. Deadline is October 24. Proceeds benefit activities the task force hosts each year.

The 23rd Great Halloween Get Together returns to Marie Avenue 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 31. A safe and fun community-wide trick-or-treating trail will be offered between 4th and 7th avenues. Businesses and organizations are invited to set up a booth to host games and/or hand out treats. The event is free. Monetary donations are accepted to purchase treats.

Pumpkin recycling - Partnering with the South St. Paul Recycling Program and Wakota Federal Credit Union, task force members will be accepting pumpkins for composting 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 2, at Wakota Federal Credit Union, 1151 Southview

Blvd. Task force members will help remove pumpkins from your vehicle and place them in the compost bin. The dumpster will be there all weekend for free pumpkin disposal.

For questions or more information on these events or the Mayor's Youth Task Force, contact Deb Griffith at 651-554-3230 or Deb.griffith@southstpaul.org.

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Arts & Entertainment

Children's Museum
10 7th St. W.
St. Paul
651-225-6000
mcm.org

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

"Girlhood (It's complicated)," 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, 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.
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651-292-4323
Historytheatre.com
"Rondo '56: Remembering St Paul's Black Main Street," 7:30 p.m., Satur-



"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.

day, Oct. 19. Four musical 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 neigh-

borhood, 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

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of Thurgood Marshall, an attorney 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 Selaocoe, 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 Tele-

scope show.

"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 tele-

scope 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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Library events

The following events are held at Kaposia Library, 115 7th Ave. N., South St Paul. For more information, visit co.dakota.mn.us/libraries or call 651-480-0900.

Block Printing: Birds of Minnesota, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1. Choose from a loon or cardinal and learn how to carve, ink and print with your very own block. Registration required. This program is for adults.

Storytime for families with children ages 2 to 6, 10:30-11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 3, 10, 17 and 31. Stories and activities that help develop early literacy skills.

Storytime for families with babies, 10:30-11 a.m., Friday, Oct. 4, 11 and 18. Stories and activities for

families with children ages 2 and younger.

K'NEX Racing, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 28. Build your own vehicle from K'NEX pieces of all types and sizes. Ages 5 and older.

The **South St. Paul Arts Council** is hosting "Bring Your Own Art" at Kaposia Library, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22. Bring a project to work or use supplies they have available.

Meeting dates

The **South St. Paul City Council** meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month in the council chambers at City Hall, 125 3rd Ave. N. For agendas and city council member contact information, visit southstpaul.org or call 651-554-3284.

The **Special School District 6 School Board** meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. For agendas and

school board member contact information, visit sspps.org or call 651-457-9400.

The **South St. Paul Lions Club** meets at 7:15 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month (September - May). Locations vary. For more information, visit ssplions.org.

South St. Paul Southwest Lioness-Lions Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at Angelo's Italian Restaurant, 1203 Southview Blvd., South St. Paul. This group of women serves the community through fundraising and volunteering.

Fall sport schedules

Cross Country

- Thurs., Sept. 26, 5 p.m. at Levi P. Dodge Middle School, Farmington
- Sat., Oct. 5, 9 a.m. at Simley
- Tues., Oct. 15, 3 p.m. at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park (varsity conference championships)

Football

- Fri., Sept. 27, 7 p.m. vs. Simley at TCO Stadium, training grounds of the Min-

Pitching in to improve the community

Tim Spitzack
Editor

The South St. Paul City Council takes a few moments during each meeting to recognize individuals, businesses and organizations that make donations to the city. In the past 12 months (through August), the city received about \$45,000. Most went to the police department for the purchase of a K9. The rest was used for community events. In January, the police department purchased Doug, a black German shepherd trained in criminal apprehension, tracking, evidence recovery, and fire-arm and ammunition detection. The South St. Paul Police K9 program is in its 40th year.

Below are the donors that have helped support the community through their generosity.

K9 program

- The Coss Family Foundation of the St. Paul Foundation, \$20,000
- South St. Paul Lions, \$10,000
- AKC Reunite, \$7,500

Community events

- Mizpah Lodge #191, \$2,462.34 for the Fill the Backpack campaign
- Quality Auto Care, \$1,500 for Doug Woog Seasonal Open Skates
- South St. Paul Lions, \$1,200 for the Giant Easter Egg Hunt
- Waterous, Inc., \$1,000 for Splish Splash Bash
- Metzen Realty & Assoc., \$530 for Movies in the Park
- Luther Collision & Glass, \$500 for Color Run
- Marie Avenue Service, \$250 for Color Run
- Boy Scout Troop, \$200 for the Fill the Backpack campaign
- Stockyards Tavern & Chop House, \$200 for Splish Splash Bash

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nesota Vikings.

- Fri., Oct. 4, 7 p.m. at Hill-Murray
- Fri., Oct. 11, 7 p.m. vs. St. Anthony Village (Homecoming)
- Wed., Oct. 16, 7 p.m. vs. Byron

• Sat., Oct. 5, noon vs. Duluth East

Swimming and Diving

- Thurs., Sept. 26, 6 p.m. at Hastings
- Thurs., Oct. 3, 6 p.m. vs. Hill-Murray
- Thursday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m. vs. Mahtomedi
- Fri., Oct. 25, 6 p.m. at Hastings (conference meet)

Soccer, boys

- Thurs., Sept. 26, 7 p.m. vs. Simley
- Tues., Oct. 1, 5 p.m. vs. Hastings
- Thurs., Oct. 3, 5 p.m. at Hill-Murray

Volleyball

- Thurs., Sept. 26, 6:30

- p.m. at Hill-Murray
- Sat., Sept. 28, 8 a.m. at Park (tournament)
- Tues., Oct. 1, 7 p.m. at St. Paul Highland Park
- Wed., Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m. at North St. Paul
- Tues., Oct. 8, 7 p.m. at Como Park
- Thurs., Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m. vs. Simley
- Tues., Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. vs. Hastings

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Please feel free to contact me anytime: 651.451.1189
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luther-memorial.com

St. Augustine's Catholic Church

408 3rd St. N.
651-455-1302
holytrinitysspmn.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

Catholic church
749 6th Ave. S.
651-455-1302
holytrinitysspmn.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
www.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

Worship Guide

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 – jabbars 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

(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.

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

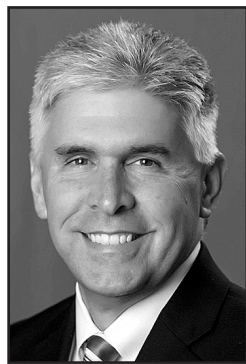
Election security

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 As-



Joe Atkins
Dakota County Commissioner

sistance Commission. We test all tabulators publicly before every election. After every state general election, 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 Dakota 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, Jediah 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.

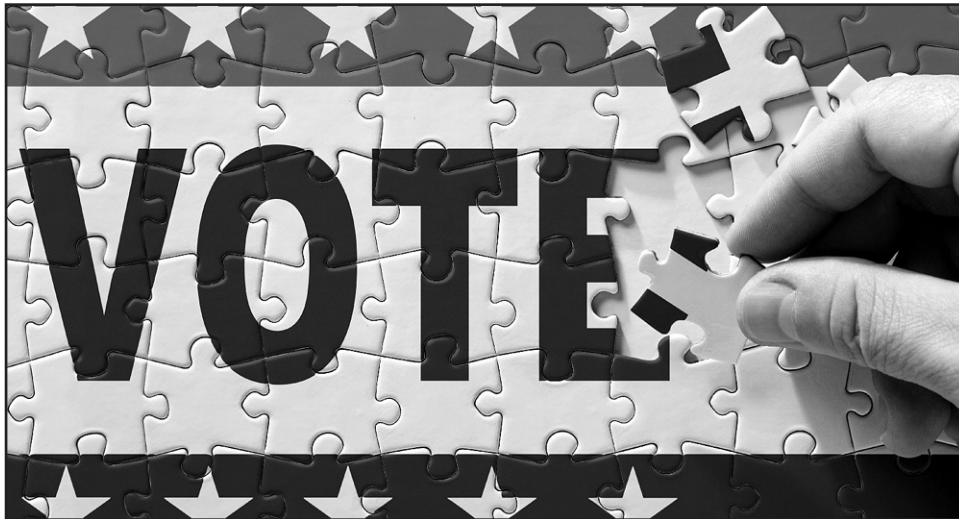
Joe Atkins represents District 2 on the Dakota County Board, which includes South St. Paul, West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights. Elected chair of the board in 2024, he welcomes feedback. To share comments, concerns or questions, contact him at Joe. Atkins@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-438-4430.

League of Women Voters of St. Paul takes action to increase voter turnout

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

Following the primary election in August, Minnesota lost its spot as the state with the highest voter turnout, according to Secretary of State Steve Simon. The turnout (12%) was the lowest in the state since 2016 (7%), but Simon is hopeful that Minnesotans will reclaim the top spot with the general election on November 5. Nevertheless, several groups, including the League of Women Voters of St. Paul, are working to ensure that all eligible voters are prepared to cast a ballot by Election Day.

“Our government is of, by and for the people, so we have to be part of that,” said League of Women Voters of St. Paul President Beatrice Owen. “There is a lot of value in having as many voices as possible at the table so that we have a representative government.... I think one [reason people don’t vote] is people feel their vote doesn’t matter, and our stance on



that is that it matters in ways that you don’t know. I also think there’s some distaste [for government], but when we get more people involved, then it doesn’t focus on the distaste. It’s more about moving forward and making a difference for our community.”

The volunteer-run, 110-member St. Paul League is in the thick of election season and is hosting candidate forums with a trained moderator, which are being

recorded and uploaded to its YouTube page and the St. Paul Neighborhood Network website.

The League of Women Voters is a national, non-partisan organization dedicated to democracy and helping people learn about voting. The St. Paul chapter, founded in 1947, was the first in Minnesota. The national organization was established in 1920 to educate women about voting following the ratification of the

19th Amendment. Today, it serves all eligible voters.

The St. Paul League has some creative freedom on how it performs outreach. In addition to hosting candidate forums, it organizes book clubs and other events. A free workshop, “Use Your Indoor Voice! Talking Politics with Neighbors and Friends,” will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22, via Zoom. In 2021, the League did a series covering every-

thing from how polling booths aren’t accessible for people with some disabilities to the importance of making ballots available in more languages. The League also has an abundance of resources on its website, and the national league operates vote411.org, which includes information about candidates in all types of races, polling locations and more.

“It’s about helping educate the voters so that they can make informed decisions whatever their choice happens to be,” said Owen. “It’s so people can walk into the voting booth and feel confident in their vote.”

Members of the St. Paul League have the option of participating in about eight programs a year and two annual in-person events – a June meeting and December luncheon, both of which feature a speaker. New member orientations are held, and the League organizes annual member meetups for networking. The St. Paul League is based out of

the Landmark Center. The Minnesota League office also recently moved there. There are about 800 local and state League of Women Voters groups in the United States.

Early voting for state elections can be done with an absentee ballot submitted by mail or in person through November 4. To apply for an absentee ballot, visit sos.state.mn.us and search “other ways to vote.” Additionally, voters for all elections can register in advance to save time at their polling locations. To vote in Minnesota, residents must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Minnesota for at least 20 days, at least 18 years old on Election Day, not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction and not under a court order that revokes their right to vote. To register online, visit mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us. To find your polling location, visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us. For more information on the St. Paul league, visit lwvstp.org.

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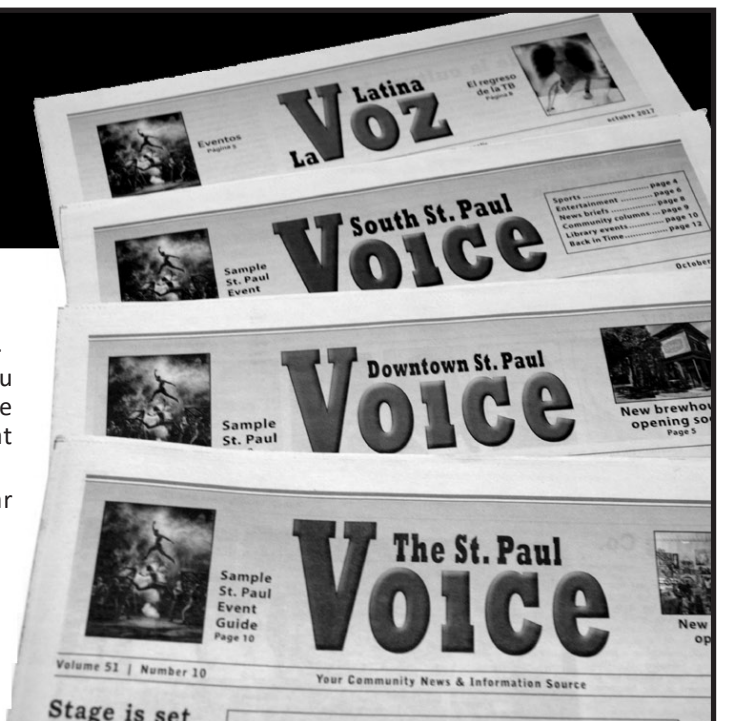
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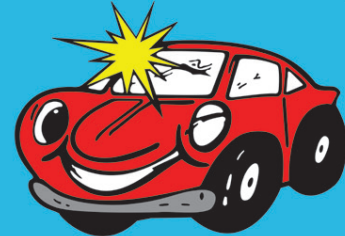
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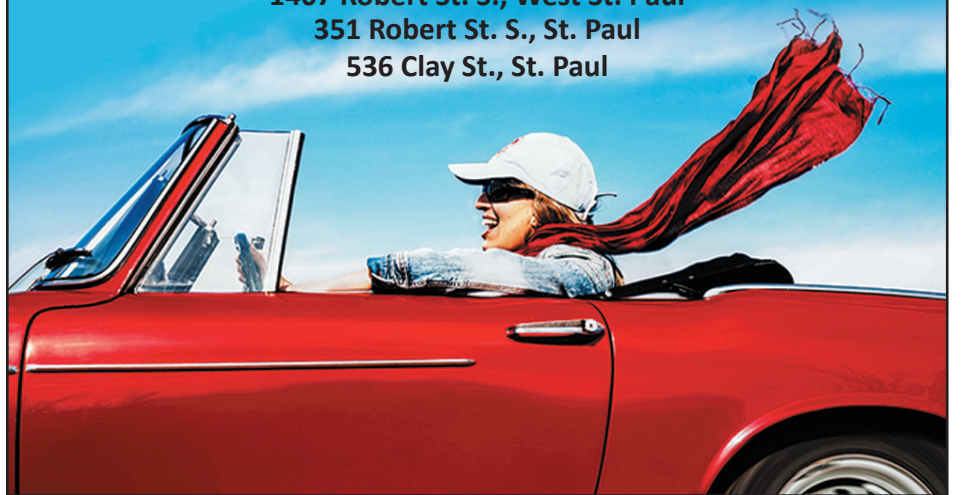
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