



Sample St. Paul
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Voice

Downtown St. Paul



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Your Community News & Information Source

January 2025

Here comes WINTER

St. Paul Winter Carnival returns January 23

Tim Spitzack
Editor

Snow or no snow, you can always expect winter fun to arrive in late January with the annual St. Paul Winter Carnival. Dating to 1886, the Carnival is the oldest winter festival in the United States and annually provides a pleasant diversion in the heart of winter. The frosty fun begins January 23 and continues through February 2. Events are free or low cost and held in St. Paul, unless noted. Event information was accurate as of press time. For the most current information, visit wintercarnival.com.

New for 2025

Ice Park - Rice Park has long been home to the ice carving competitions, and that will continue but with some other attractions added. In addition to the masterpieces created by team and individual competitors, the Ice Park will also have a variety of additional frozen sculptures created by pros and amateurs alike. The competitions begin at 7 p.m., January 23, and the ice sculptures can be viewed throughout the duration of the carnival.

Grande Day Parade on Grand Winter Carnival / Page 2

Cycling museum opening in the Securian Building



Cycling Museum of Minnesota Co-founder Juston Anderson has completed century rides (100 miles) on a high wheel bicycle.

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

In the late 1800s, the latest craze was the high wheel bicycle, which looked far different than today's bikes. Its seat was about five feet off the ground, the wheels solid rubber, and it had no brakes or suspension, creating an often "bone-shaking" ride, according to early reports.

You'll be able to see one of these contraptions on display this spring – and on the street every now and then – when the Cycling Museum of Minnesota moves from Bloomington to its new home at the Securian Financial building in downtown

St. Paul. The museum, which has one of the largest collection of antique bikes in the state and is owned by the nonprofit Cycling Museum of Minnesota, is expected to open by March with two rotating exhibits and event space. Admission is free.

"We wanted to have more accessible space for our guests to come and check out our bikes and be out in the public view a little bit more," said co-founder Juston Anderson. "We're super excited about it. We've had some really great hosts that have donated space to us in the past...but we have always been looking for our own

Bike museum / Page 4

New signs aim to discourage panhandling; promote gun laws

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

Rather than handing out cash to panhandlers at busy intersections, the City of St. Paul is encouraging people to invest their money in established support systems that aim to create lasting change for people living in poverty. The City has installed signs at high traffic intersections around town as part of a new initiative dubbed "Be the Solution." The signs have a crossed-out image of a hand giving a coin to another, and they point people to stpaul.gov/solutions. The website has information about measures that Ramsey County is taking to reduce poverty and details on how to donate to charitable organizations.

Part of the initiative's mission is to increase safety in roadways for both drivers and panhandlers. It also encourages those in need to seek longer-lasting help instead of relying on temporary relief. Panhandling is not illegal, and other cities nationwide have adopted similar initiatives.

The city's Homeless Action Response Team regularly visits every homeless encampment in the city to provide helpful resources, including ways to find proper shelter. The team accepts donations of bus cards or tokens, bottles of water, nonperishable snacks and garbage bags. If you are interested in donating, visit stpaul.gov/solutions.

Signs / Page 4

Optimist Club of St. Paul celebrates centennial

Has a long history of helping youth facing hardships

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

For more than half of the storied history of Minnesota's capital city, the Optimist Club of St. Paul has been a beacon of light for people facing challenges big and small. In early December, it celebrated its centennial anniversary, sharing past accomplishments and eagerly looking ahead at ways to keep achieving its mission.

One of the club's primary goals is to support youth in the community through sponsorships, scholarships and more. Speaking at the club's anniversary gala was Na Eng, who was one of the first recipients of the club's college scholarships at Johnson High School on

St. Paul's East Side years ago. Her story exemplifies the club's mission to support youth in need.

Eng immigrated to Minnesota at age 5 with her mother and six siblings, as refugees escaping the Khmer Rouge and forced-labor camps in Cambodia. After receiving the Club's scholarship, she went on to study filmmaking at Columbia University in New York, earning the Paul and

Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans to fund her graduate studies. She has worked as a journalist and TV news producer for NBC, PBS and CNBC, winning many awards including an Edward R. Murrow Award, a Fulbright Fellowship and an Emmy Award. Currently she is the Chief Communications Officer for People for the American Way, a

Optimist Club / Page 3



Na Eng

Winter Carnival

from page 1

Avenue - The Grande Day Parade is moving to Grand Avenue this year. It begins at 2 p.m., January 25 at the intersection of Grand and Dale and travels to Lexington Avenue. It will feature dozens of units, floats and the newly crowned King Boreas and his Royal Family.

Slow Snow Glow - A winter bike ride begins at 4 p.m., January 25 at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St. Participants can enjoy music, food, fire pits, and a vibrant display of culture and community warmth that pays homage to the rich legacy of Black culture in the historic Rondo neighborhood. Riders will be provided with bike lights. Bicycles are available for use.

Walk-Up Snowboarding - Visit Battle Creek Regional Park 11 a.m.-4 p.m., January 26 for free lessons and demonstrations from professional snowboarders.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition - An extra day has been added to the popular jigsaw

puzzle competition, billed as the biggest puzzle competition in the country. Competitors will be hard at work January 25-26 at Union Depot. New competitions this year are the 500-Piece Solo and 500-Piece Teams Open contests.

Winter Play Day - The inaugural Winter Play Day will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m., January 25 at Crosby Farm Regional Park, 2595 Crosby Farm Rd. This free, all-ages event features the chance to participate in dozens of outdoor activities – equipment provided – including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, guided hikes, outdoor photography, s'mores with Smokey Bear, and more.

Around the World in a Day Kids & Family Day, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., February 1 at Landmark Center. Entertaining performances by local cultural groups, educational presentations, arts and crafts, storytelling and other activities for all ages. Vendors will also be selling



Heather Friedli is the winner of this year's button design contest. She has a long history with the Winter Carnival as part of an all-female team that competes annually in the Minnesota State Snow Sculpting Competition at Vulcan Snow Park. Buttons may be purchased for \$5 for one and \$19 for the collector's pack of all four at Cub Foods, Blaze Credit Union, City and County Credit Union, local retailers, or online at wintercarnival.com.

their wares and food.

Pre-carnival events

Klondike Kate contest - Contestants seeking to become the next Mistress of Song and Merriment will bring their musical and performance talents to the Inwood Oakes Event Center on January 8. The contest begins at 6:30 p.m. and the next "Kate" will be named that evening.

Vulcan Snow Park Snow Stomp, beginning at 10

a.m., Saturday, Jan. 18 at the State Fairgrounds. Volunteers will create giant blocks for the snow sculpting competition by literally stomping and packing snow within special forms.

Ice Castles, January 1-February 2 at Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Ice Castles is an awe-inspiring winter phenomenon that brings fairy tales to life. Escape into a world of ice caves, frozen waterfalls, and glaciers formed into archways, caverns, slides and tunnels. Order tickets at icecastles.com.

Signature events

Ice Carving Competitions in Ice Park, January 23-26. Artists will carve 300-pound blocks of ice during the first weekend of the Carnival. The multi-block teams will have 48 hours to finish their masterpieces with 20 blocks of ice. On Sunday, artists will have five hours to carve in the single block competition.

Vulcan Snow Park and the Minnesota State Snow Sculpting Competition, January 24-February 2 at the State Fairgrounds. The competition begins on Friday and culminates with the

awards on Vulcan Fun Day on Sunday. The snow park features other family-friendly activities as well.

Vulcan Victory Torchlight Parade, February 1. The parade starts at 5:15 p.m., at Smith Avenue and West Seventh and ends at Rice Park. Following the parade, the 2025 Krewe will gather at the steps of the George Latimer Central Library for the ever-dramatic overthrow of King Boreas. A fireworks show will follow.

Other events

Ice Fishing Contest, January 5-February 2. People

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from across the state are encouraged to participate in this month-long digital ice fishing tournament through the FishDonkey Mobile App. Prizes will be awarded. \$20 participation fee.

Pioneer Press Treasure Hunt, beginning January 19. The winning hunter(s) could get a prize package valued at \$10,000 – \$2,500 if they find the medallion, \$2,500 if they have all the clues, and \$5,000 more if they have the 2025 Pioneer Press Treasure Hunt medallion patch. Clues will be released daily in the print edition of the Pioneer Press and on TwinCities.com until the medallion is found.

Klondike Kate's Red Feather Saloon Cabaret & Casino Night, 6-11 p.m., January 23 at Landmark Center. Order tickets at klondikekates.org. The Kate's will also perform 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., January 21 at The Camp Bar, 490 Robert St. N. Tickets are \$40 and include lunch.

Springboard on Ice, 1-4 p.m., January 25 at Springboard for the Arts, 262 University Ave. W. See performances, participate in Learn to Skate workshops at the mini ice rink, see artist vendors and more. Skates are available at no cost.

Saintly City Cat Show, January 25-26. The 48th Annual Championship & Household Pet Cat Show is held at RiverCentre. For more information, visit saintlycitycatclub.org.

50th Anniversary Winter Carnival Orchid Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., January 25-26 at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Dr. For tickets, visit orchidsocietyofminnesota.org.

Fire & Ice Run/Walk, January 26. Runners and walkers of all ages may participate in the 5K, 10K, 15K, 20K, NoK, or the Kid's Run at the State Fairgrounds, beginning at 8 a.m. Register at wintercarnival.com/event/



Ice carver Trevor Pearson

fire-and-ice-winter-run.

Hot & Cool Classics, 2 p.m., January 26. The St. Paul Civic Symphony will present a free hour-long concert at the Landmark Center. They'll perform pieces using the theme "Planes, Trains & Automobiles" in honor of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Ford Mo-

tor Co. assembly plant in St. Paul.

Vulcan vs Royal Guard Food Shelf Benefit Hockey Classic, 5:30-7:30 p.m., January 26 at Doug Woog Arena, 141 6th Street S., South St. Paul. One of the oldest Winter Carnival Legend traditions, this hockey battle raises money and food

for local food banks. Monetary and non-perishable food donations accepted.

Frozen Family Fun Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m., January 28 at the Landmark Center. Join this evening of all things "Frozen," including a singalong, story time, and visits with "stars" from the beloved film and characters from the Winter Carnival Legend.

St. Paul Brewing Steak Out, 5:30-9 p.m., January 30 at St. Paul Brewing, 688 Minnehaha Ave. E. Enjoy entertainment from DJ Shannon Blowtorch, balloon art by Silly Miss Tilly, mascot appearances, Winter Carnival merchandise for sale and more.

Winter Carnival Day of Good, January 31. Look for the Titan Truck outside the Landmark Center to make your donation of non-perishable food items, cold weather wear and blankets. All items will be donated to the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St.

BEAR'ly Open Golf on Ice, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., February 1. Play on two custom-designed, 9-hole courses along the shores of White Bear Lake and help raise money for the White Bear Area Food Shelf. For tickets, visit bearlyopen.org.

Union Depot's Doggie Depot, beginning at 10 a.m., February 1. Includes the crowning of the Canine King & Queen, giveaways, marketplace, and visits with pet experts.

Vulcan Victory Dance, 7:30 p.m., February 1 at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront, 11 Kellogg Blvd. E. Rhino will play a wide range of tunes from funk to R&B to retro-pop and current chart-topping singles. For tickets, visit vulcanvictorydance.com.

Berners in the Park, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., February 1 at Rice Park, 109 4th St. W. Meet the friendly pooches of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities.

Optimist Club

from page 1

progressive advocacy organization founded to defend freedom, justice and democracy.

In a recent interview, she reflected on how recognition from the Club helped steer her to success despite the chips being stacked against her.

"I was delighted and absolutely grateful for the dollar amount because my family definitely needed assistance to afford college, but more so than that, I was really heartened by the strong show of support from the community," she said. "It helped to build my confidence. I just really appreciated the goodwill in which people who didn't know me wanted to support the next genera-

tion."

As a refugee, she said she's always felt a responsibility to pay forward the support that she found in the United States and do whatever she can to "play a small role in trying to make the world a better place."

Eng has also held leadership positions for philanthropic and humanitarian organizations including ARC (now Alight), Mercy Corps and the McKnight Foundation, and serves on the board of directors for the NAACP Foundation. Earlier this year, she was the first Asian-American inducted into the Johnson High School Hall of Fame. "I think in our society it's

tempting to tell a story about a hero and how great that individual is, but the message I really want to share is that it takes a village to raise a child," she said. "It takes a whole community to ensure the success of our children and allow them to thrive and pursue their aspirations and be their best selves. I just feel so blessed to have received that gift and I hope to be able to extend that to the next generation as well."

Whether as an adolescent or adult, Eng said she's been fueled to work hard and stay optimistic through life's challenges by keeping a spirit of gratitude, focusing on what she has control over and connecting with other people, including her son and other family members. A former volunteer for the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library board of directors,

she also loves getting lost in a good book every now and then.

Since 1924, the Optimist Club of St. Paul has contributed to countless stories similar to Eng's. It has provided more than \$650,000 in scholarships to high school seniors who have overcome significant obstacles in their young lives, honored and rewarded dozens of students in its annual essay and oratory contests and contests for the deaf and hard of hearing, served hundreds of meals for families at Jeremiah Program in St. Paul, donated essential items to at-risk youth at Safe Zone in St. Paul and more. Most recently, it helped raise funds for Neighborhood House, an organization on the West Side that helps refugees, immigrants and others meet basic needs, from food to housing and family

coaching to education programming.

"From the beginning in 1924 to today, our members have never lost focus of the Club's mission to bring out the best in our St. Paul youth, our community and ourselves," said Karl Olson, a member of the Optimist Club of St. Paul since 1976, in a press release. "Every year, we find numerous ways to support the youth of our community and provide them with opportunities to advance."

The 65-member Optimist Club meets at Joseph's Grill on the West Side twice a month. Its mission is "To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; To inspire respect for the law; To promote patriotism and work for international

accord and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world."

"They [the Club] need to be thanked and recognized and applauded," said Eng. "Sometimes when you write a check, you don't really know who it goes to or what becomes of that investment. I have a philosophy that helping those in need is always a good investment. You may not always know exactly what ends up becoming of the person you supported but it is an act of kindness and affirmation that can be really transformative."

To get involved, visit www.stpauloptimists.org.



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Bike museum

from page 1

brick-and-mortar location.” The museum is opening with help from the St. Paul Downtown Alliance’s Grow Downtown program, which provides free short-term leases for businesses opening in vacant commercial spaces. Among the bikes that will be on display are various high wheels from the 1880s that have front tires more than 50 inches in diameter, one of the few Monark Silver Kings that wasn’t recycled for aluminum during WWII, and the 1901 Rainmaker that A. A. Hansen built for himself

in Minneapolis and used in a 6-day race. Also being dusted off for viewing is one of the earliest mountain bikes known to exist, and the mountain bike that professional biker Jeff Hall from Shakopee used to win a national mountain bike championship race in 1996. The list of models in the museum’s collection goes on and on, and most have a unique story behind them. They have been displayed throughout the Twin Cities including at the Goldstein

Museum of Design at the University of Minnesota and the Hennepin History Museum. All museum team members are volunteers so its hours of operation at the new location were still being ironed out as of press time, but visitors can expect it to be open on weekends and perhaps one day during the week. Guided tours will be available by appointment. “We’re telling stories with them [bikes] and that’s one thing that the museum taught me,” said Anderson. “When I was collecting, it was all about the bike and it [restoration] had to be just perfect. Whenever I acquired a bike, I would research what it came with when it

was brand new and then I would source everything right down to the correct reflector. Now, I still restore and preserve bikes but it’s not so much about the artifact, it’s about the story that the bike tells.” Anderson was an avid biker in his youth and became fascinated with antique models after getting a book about them for his birthday. In adulthood, he realized his childhood dream of owning a high wheel. In 2012, he displayed 22 bikes at an exhibit at the State Fair, which was well received and opened the door for the founding of the museum. The other co-owners are Brent Fuqua

and owner of Recovery Bike Shop in Northeast Minneapolis Seth Stattmiller. In 2014, the Museum received a legacy grant from the State of Minnesota that allowed it to hire a consultant to assist with curation strategies and guide development of its collections care and maintenance plan. Anderson has also received curation assistance from members of the Minnesota Wheelmen, an antique bike club of which he’s a captain. Notably, with the National Wheelmen he has on multiple occasions completed a 100-mile bike ride in one day on a vintage high wheel. “Once you do a century

[100-mile ride] on a high wheel bike, I’m telling you, it changes you,” said Anderson. “You’re a completely changed person. It just changes your outlook on life, because you’re not afraid to tackle anything anymore.” “I wanted to find a space that’s a destination, and that’s a really great space there [downtown],” he added. “We can have events there, we can have rides that start from there, and there’s some larger spaces for lectures and classes on bike restoration.” The Museum has five members on its board of directors and is seeking others to join. For more information, visit cmm.bike.




Signs

from page 1

Other signs have recently appeared at city-owned parking ramps promoting gun safety. The St. Paul Downtown Alliance, in partnership with the City of St. Paul and St. Paul Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, is having them installed at 24 city-owned ramps, making it known that Minnesota law requires guns to be securely stored in unattended vehicles. This initiative follows gun storage ordinances passed in the city in fall 2023, partly in response to a shooting in 2021 at the Seventh Street Truck Park bar, which left one woman dead and 15 injured. “We’re really pleased that we can work with the lead-





ers of downtown to make it safer because I think a safe downtown is a visited downtown,” said Gretchen Damon, spokesperson for St. Paul Mom’s Demand Action. “If downtown is safe, if there aren’t rumors or stories going around about shootings, people will come.... Prevention of violence is hard to mark and hard to see, but it’s really the key to keeping the area and the community safe.” Damon said criminals will commonly rifle through a dozen cars because they know they’re likely to find at least one gun. Weapons not properly locked up and secured can be easily stolen and used for violent crimes or sold on the black market. Leaving a gun unsecured in a vehicle is a misdemeanor. As of press time, three signs



It’s the Law in Saint Paul

Firearms left in vehicles must be securely stored

Per Chapter 225 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code

had been installed. In 2022, the City of St. Paul launched project PEACE, which stands for Prevention/Intervention, Environmental Design, Accountability/Outreach, Community Action and Enforcement. The program, which is part of the Office of Neighborhood Safety, assists victims of gun crimes and strives to deter gun violence in the city by connecting individuals with a history of gun violence with various support services. For more information, visit stpaul.gov/departments/neighborhood-safety.

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TPAC

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

Tech-Savvy Survival in 60 minutes: Essential Skills for Everyday Life, noon-1 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 7. Equip yourself with the critical tech skills needed for everyday life. Registration required. \$29.

Tai Chi Chih for Health, 9:15-10 a.m., Jan. 8-Feb. 26. Tai Chi Chih is a meditation with 19 easy-to-learn movements. Register by Jan. 3. \$49 for 8 sessions.

Conversational Spanish for Absolute Beginners-Level 1, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Jan. 8-Feb. 26. Learn greetings, practical phrases, numbers, family, food, hobbies and more. Ideal for newcomers; no prior Spanish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Community
CALENDAR

experience required. The instructor ensures a stress-free, immersive experience using gestures and visuals for easy learning. Join this enjoyable language journey. Register by Jan. 3. \$48 for 8 sessions.

Conversational Spanish Level 2, 10:45-11:45 a.m., Jan. 8-April 30. This course delves deeper into greetings, practical phrases, numbers, family, food, hobbies, and more complex interactions. Registration required. \$96 for 16 sessions.

Soup and Scoop with Joe Atkins, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 9. Dakota County Commissioner Joe

Atkins will share the 10 Most Surprising Events in Dakota County history. Registration required. \$8.

Out in the Cold: Animal Behaviors in Winter, 1-2:15 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28. Learn how feathers, fur and animal behavior play a part in winter survival. Register by Jan. 21. \$10.

Prairie Potluck Band, 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15. The band's musicians will share their love of music and instruments, from traditional bluegrass to contemporary country, guitar, mandolin, banjo, bass, fiddle, dobro and ukelele.

\$10. Dessert included. Register by Jan. 8.

David Dyer-Bennet: Words Over Windows, 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29. In May 2020, after George Floyd's murder, plywood protecting windows quickly became canvases for expressions of layered pain, disbelief, hope and calls for social justice – and symbols of hope. Registration required. \$5.

Rise to the Challenge: A Memoir of Politics, Leadership, and Love, 1-2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30. Marlene M. Johnson, Minnesota's first female lieutenant

governor, will share stories from her memoir, "Rise to the Challenge." \$5.

Nesting Dolls: The Matryoshka Doll in Russian Crafts, 10-11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 30. Discover the rich folk tradition of Russian wood carving and the history and cultural significance of the beloved Matryoshka doll. \$3.

Men's Topics & Toast, 9-10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 27. \$10 annually.

Hand and Foot cards, 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. each Wednesday, January-April. \$15 annually.

Cribbage, 1-3 p.m. each

Wednesday, January-April. \$15 annually.

Mah Jongg, each Thursday, January-April. \$15.

Winter clothing drive, Jan. 6-31. Bring new and gently used hats, gloves, socks, coats, sweatshirts and blankets to Thompson Park Activity Center Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Donations will go to the Friday Night Street Team for those experiencing homelessness.

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.

{ THE FULLER FILES } by Roger Fuller

The City of St. Paul has approved \$2.16 million in tax increment financing for developer AEON to turn Mary Hall into 88 units of supportive housing. The vacant 6-story building is located at 438 Dorothy Day Place. The units will serve households earning \$22,050 or less annually. Half of the homes will be for people previously homeless.

Flaherty and Collins, an Indianapolis-based developer, has presented a proposal for a nearly 600,000 square-foot mixed-use development near the Green Line Central Station, near Fourth and Minnesota. The land is owned by the City of St. Paul and the St. Paul Port Authority, and the City is seeking to revitalize the area to help reduce crime and increase light rail ridership.

The Little Sisters of the Poor are planning to leave The Holy Family Residence at 330 S. Exchange St. and are looking for a new organization to care for the residents. The Little Sisters of the Poor have provided skilled nursing care and independent living assistance at the 2-building property since 1977.

Metro Transit is lowering fares, effective January 1. Non-express buses and light rail will be \$2 all day, every day. Youth, seniors and Medicare recipients can ride for \$1 all day, every day. All

day passes will be \$2-\$4 and 7-day passes \$20. More than 926,000 additional rides are expected as the result of the fare changes, offsetting some of the cost associated with lowering fares.

The Wakan Tipi Center, a 9,000-square-foot cultural center at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is scheduled to open this summer with exhibits, cultural programs and information on the Dakota people. Its name honors the significance of Wakan Tipi Cave, a Dakota sacred site.

The Gold Line bus rapid transit route is scheduled to open this spring. The 10-mile line will run between St. Paul and Woodbury along the I-94 corridor, with stops in Maplewood, Oakdale and Landfall every 10 minutes on the weekdays and 15 minutes on the weekends.

The new Borealis Amtrak route between St. Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago has proven to be quite popular. In late October it had its 100,000th passenger.

The water fountain at Historic Irvine Park has been removed for restoration and will be returned this spring. KCI Art Conservators is overseeing the project, which includes metal restoration, repairing structural damage, wiring and lighting, and painting. The Historic Irvine Park As-

sociation and St. Paul Parks Conservancy are working to raise \$150,000 for the project. The fountain dates to the late 1970s.

Camp Bar and Cabaret, 490 Robert St. N., will host comedian Steve Gillespie Jan. 3-4 and A.J. Wilderson Jan. 17-18.

The St. Paul Farmers Market at Fourth and Wall streets is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays during the winter. It has cooking classes, infrared heaters, and fire pits for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows.

Metronome Brewery, 385 Broadway, will host the following bands in January. All performances are 7-9 p.m. unless noted. The Argyle Street Trio, Saturday, Jan. 4; Red Planet Jazz Trio,

Tuesday, Jan. 7; Stablemates, Thursday, Jan. 9; Red Hot Django Peppers, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 19; Mill City Caravan, 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The skyway walking group meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays at US Bank, 101 5th St. E. The group travels a mile and a half through the skyways at a casual pace.

The St Paul Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), a nonprofit with the mission of advancing "equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research," is hosting the program AAUW-Leading the Way to Advancing Equity for Women and Girls at 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 7 at St. Paul College Club, 900 Summit Ave. Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN president, is the presenter.

Boyd named to TCB 100 list

Lindsay Boyd, general manager of Union Depot, has been named to the TCB 100 List, which recognizes people that the editors of Twin Cities Business say are likely to make news and drive change in the year ahead. The list for 2025 includes CEOs, founders, philanthropists, educators and innovators from across the state.



Here's what the editors had to say about Boyd. "As downtown St. Paul struggles to recover from the pandemic, there's one long-underutilized landmark that has really rebounded. Union Depot is now fully leased, and that's thanks to the vision of Lindsay Boyd. Named marketing manager two years ago, she got her real estate license and became Union Depot's general manager. Boyd's vision for the property balances services for Amtrak and transit passengers with destination attractions for locals. She brought in Lake Elmo Inn to operate the building's restaurant, plus specialty retailers Story Line Books and Choo Choo Bob's train shop. She's added monthly author events and music nights, and the European Christmas Market now draws 250,000 annually. Next year will be about daily activations."

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sowashco.org/careers

School Choice Guide

Understanding your options when choosing a school



National School Choice Week is January 26-February 1

Looking for a new school for your student? Registration deadlines for the next school year are fast approaching, so now is the time to do your homework. Families have many choices: public, magnet, parochial or charter schools, as well as homeschooling. Post-high school choices include trade schools, two-year and four-year colleges and universities. This primer will help you understand the differences among them so you can select the best option for your child.

Open enrollment

Minnesota has open enrollment, which means families may choose a school that is not within their resident district. State applications are used for open enrollment, and nonresident districts must receive applications by January 15 for the following fall, with some exceptions. Families that apply to a school not assigned to them are responsible for their own transportation.

Public schools

Public schools are funded through taxes and operated

by local school districts and a board of education. Each student is guaranteed enrollment and is assigned a school near where they live. Busing is free for those outside of walking distance. When selecting a public school, families may want to consider class sizes, student-teacher ratios, academic progress and extra-curricular activities.

Magnet schools

A magnet school is part of the public school system but has a curriculum focus that is used in all classes, such as environmental or STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).



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Families should ask about the school's focus, transportation options and if there are additional fees for field trips or supplies.

Charter schools

Private groups can get a charter to operate a school that uses alternative teaching methods and innovative curriculum. These schools typically have a smaller student population and a lower student-teacher ratio. Charter schools do not charge admission, nor do they have admission requirements to enroll students. They employ licensed teachers and offer services to special needs students. Charter school students are required to take state and national assessments. If the school does not meet academic performance requirements, the charter is revoked and the school is closed. Parents should inquire about the teaching methodology used, how academic progress is measured, if there are any special enrollment requirements or fees, and if the site is the school's permanent location.

Parochial schools

Parochial schools are operated by a church or religious organization and have a curriculum that includes religious instruction. Class sizes and student-teacher ratio are usually small but tuition can be high. Parents should ask about tuition, scholarships, transportation, religious requirements or expectations, and if there are any additional expenses for uniforms or supplies.

Online learning

While online learning became standard during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, it is not a new model. Prior to the pandemic, some schools offered a full on-

line program. Today, some school districts have added an online option as well.

Tips for choosing a K-12 school

National School Choice Week is Jan. 26-Feb. 1. The following seven steps will help you make an informed decision on choosing the best school for your child. The information is summarized from Andrew Campanella's book, "The School Choice Roadmap: 7 Steps to Finding the Right School for Your Child." Campanella is president of National School Choice Week.

Step 1: Think back to your own time in school. How you perceive education will help inform your school search for your children. Write down what you learned the most, liked the most, and who taught you the most. Also, write down the things you didn't like, then put those experiences in perspective and remember that your child may have different experiences.

Step 2: Identify your goals for your child. You know more about your child than anyone else, which is why you are more qualified than anyone else to choose your child's education. Take a few minutes to think about your hopes, dreams and goals for your child, and your child's strengths and weaknesses.

Step 3: Decide what you need and want from a school or learning environment. What does that learning environment look like? Are there specific things you know your child will need, such as different instructional strategies or curricula? Maybe there's a specific theme or subject that motivates your child, or perhaps your child thrives in a smaller school setting. Write

all of these things down.

Step 4: Make a list and research schools. To choose the right school or learning environment for your child, you need to know what options are available. Research school choice policies in your state. A free guide to school choice in Minnesota is available at schoolchoiceweek.com. Start making a list of schools in your area using the Schools Near Me tool. Don't eliminate any schools because you think they may be hard to get in to or be too expensive. Next, look up information about these schools online so you can get a sense of what they offer. Don't forget to consider homeschooling and online schools, too. Start narrowing your list down to develop an initial short list of schools to visit.

Step 5: Visit schools. School tours are important. Ask as many questions as possible, take detailed notes and visit classrooms, if possible. Look around to get a sense of the school, the teachers, and the school's values, approach and culture. Throughout your tour, ask yourself: "Is this a learning environment where I can see my child learning, succeeding, being respected, be-

ing safe and being happy?" If you're considering online schools, schedule a phone interview to ask questions. If you're considering homeschooling, take this time to research your state's homeschooling rules, policies and laws.

Step 6: Evaluate schools. After your tours, look at the notes you took before you started your visits, and your notes from those visits. Which schools or learning environments best meet your child's needs? Narrow your list to two or three finalists.

Step 7: Choose the school or learning environment that meets your child's needs. Sit down as a family and choose the school or learning environment that works best for your child. This is a very personal decision, and every family will pursue this step in a different way. After you've decided, it's time to apply, submit applications, fill out paperwork, and get your child ready for their first day of school.

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Colleges

The nonprofit College Board offers the following to consider when choosing a college.

Two-year or four-year school: At a two-year college, students can earn an associate degree. At a four-year college, students can earn a bachelor's degree. Many students begin at a two-year college then transfer to a four-year college.

Public or private: Many students exclude private colleges because they think they're too expensive. However, financial aid can sometimes make private colleges as affordable as public colleges.

Location: The distance to home should be considered. Does your student want to be close enough for meals and laundry, and to visit on weekends, or will they only come home on school breaks?

Campus setting: Many students say that campus size and feel was a big part of their college choice. Visiting a college and talking to students is a great way to get to know a campus. Do most students stay on campus or do they commute to school? Does the campus exude school spirit?

Cost: For many families, cost is a big concern. To offset the price of college, students should apply for financial aid and scholarships. Most students get some financial help from the government or the college itself.

Majors: Students often think they must choose their major before they start college. This isn't true. In fact, many students change their major more than once. However, for the undecided, the school should have several majors of interest to the student.

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Children's Museum

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

"Curious George: Let's Get Curious!" through January 5. Get up close with the most curious little monkey and follow his lead as you engage in math, science and engineering activities modeled after Curious George's own adventures.

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

limited. The next free date is January 5.

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.

"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. Admission and parking are free on Thursdays, 4-8 p.m.

History Theatre

30 E. 10th St.
St. Paul
651-292-4323
Historytheatre.com
"I Am Betty," through December 29. A musical



Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo comes to the Xcel Center Jan.1-Feb. 1.

look at the fictional Betty Crocker and the lives of women and society throughout the past 100 years. From \$30.

"The Root Beer Lady," Jan. 25-Feb. 23. Discover the story of the indomitable Dorothy Molter, the last legal non-indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters. The story reflects the beauty and hardships of Molter's solitary yet satisfying life. From \$25.

Landmark Center

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

Courtroom 317 Concerts, all are free and held noon-1 p.m. Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano, noon-1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 2; Copper Street Brass, Thursday, Jan. 9; Brian Krinke and Laura Sewell, noon-1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16.

Minnesota Boy Choir,

1-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 5. Free.

Schubert Club KidsJam: Copper Street Brass, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 9. Free.

Schubert Club FamilyJam: Copper Street Brass, 10-11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 11. Free.

Urban Expedition: India, 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 12. Authentic music, food, dance and crafts. Free.



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Woodturning demonstration, 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 19 in the AAW Gallery of Wood Art. Free.

St. Paul Civic Symphony concert, 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 26. Free. "Hot and Cool Classics" with the theme "Planes, Trains & Automobiles."

Public Building Tour, 12:30-1:15 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

"Hilo de la Sangre (Thread of the Blood)" through January 15. Organized with Grupo Soap del Corazón, this exhibition brings together Latino 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.

"Here, Now," through May 2027. Discover 150 artworks across media from

historically significant and notable new artists. All are in the M's permanent collection. 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

"The Little Mermaid," through Dec. 29. In a magical kingdom beneath the sea, the beautiful young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's "The Little Mermaid." From \$46.50.

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra concerts: Roman Rabinovich plays Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20, January 17-19. Haydn's Fire Symphony, Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Both from \$16.

International Artist Series: Emmanuel Pahud, flute, and Alessio Bax, piano, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22. From \$36.

RiverCentre

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

Land O'Lakes Kennel Club Dog Show, January 2-5.

Minnesota Roller Derby, 6 p.m., Jan., 11. Roller Vortex vs. Wednesday Warriors and Bodies of Water vs. Maul Rats. From \$17.

St. Paul RV Supershow, January 16-19.

Science Museum of Minnesota

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

Mental Health: Mind Matters, through February 2, 2025. Unravel the layers of mental health, using empathy and understanding to analyze the specific challenges and triumphs associated with mental well-being.

Virtual Reality Transporter, through December 2026. 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.

Museum Nights, 5-8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Explore museum galleries, check out special Science Live performances, enjoy food and drink, then catch an Omnitheater show.

Omnitheater films: "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," through April 13, 2025. The film unravels how plants and animals would not exist without mushrooms, molds, yeasts and toadstools.

"Secrets of the Sea," through April 14, 2025. From the smallest krill to the largest whales, explore how ocean ecosystems depend on biodiversity and a surprising level of animal cooperation.

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

Tickets are \$34.95 for

adults and \$24.95 for ages 4-17, and include an Omnitheatre show.

Xcel Center

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

Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 31-Feb. 1. The world's toughest cowboys compete in bull riding, saddle bronc riding and bareback riding, and the thrilling winner-takes-all showdown round and women's barrel racing. The rodeo opens at 6 p.m. each night for a pre-show event "down on the dirt," pony rides, the chance to meet the cowboys and more. From \$27.

Other events

Portraits of Indigenous Authors and Artists, through June 30, at 3rd Floor Exhibit Gallery at the Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Now featured is a collection of fine art photography by John Ratzloff. This project started when Ratzloff was invited to photograph the life and natural

beauty of White Earth Nation. His photography honors the voices and legacies of Indigenous leaders, offering a unique visual narrative that celebrates their contributions to art, culture and advocacy. Open weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.

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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.



Gatsby at 100 programs

Friends of the St. Paul Public Library is hosting a series of programs in 2025 to mark the 100th anniversary of the publication of "The Great Gatsby" by St. Paul native F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the Jazz Age of the 1920s, the novel explores ideas about class and society, materialism and the American Dream. Programs include:

Book Launch and Conversation of "F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Composite Biography," noon-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 18 at Arlington Hills Community Center, 1200 Payne Ave., St. Paul.

"The Great Gatsby" performed by Literature to Life, 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12 at George Latimer Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., St. Paul.

Gatsby & Fitzgerald Collection at Minnesota History Center, March-May at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. Items from the collection will be on display in the Gale Family Library. Entry is free.

"The Great Gatsby" read in full by various special guests, 1:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 10 at The Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul.

Books & Bars: "The Great Gatsby-A Graphic Novel Adaptation" by Katherine Woodman Maynard, 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, April 22 at Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St., St. Paul.

Walking Tours: Fitzgerald Around St. Paul with Mark Taylor, held in July



F. Scott Fitzgerald

and August. Covers a 1.5 loop of locations that played a significant role in Fitzgerald's life and novels. To book a tour, visit www.fitzgeraldwalkingtours.com/tours.

"Gatsby at 100" exhibit, September 13-October 4 at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis. The exhibit will bring together works that embody the decadence, social upheaval and underlying racism of Fitzgerald's most famous novel, highlighting paintings, prints, drawings and photographs that are rarely on view. Free.

Panel Discussion: Teaching "The Great Gatsby," Saturday, Nov. 1. Time to be announced. An online panel discussion from teachers from around the United States about how they teach "The Great Gatsby."

For more information, visit the-friends.org/gatsby.

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POSTSCRIPT

Little Luxuries

I am quick to criticize other people's luxuries.

"Buying a latte every day? What a waste!" I say.

But, of course, I have my husband Peter making me coffee, and I can have it exactly the way I like it. (Lots of milk, not too much coffee.)

I think sailboats and horses are crazy expensive, but campers and RVs make sense – because that's what I grew up with.

"Economics don't count when you are talking about



Carrie Classon
CarrieClasson.com

campers," my father has repeatedly told me. My father is a frugal man. He lives simply and has no luxurious habits but he has a very

nice RV and he has traded it several times for slightly nicer models.

"This is the last one we will buy," he tells me, in a voice that makes it sound as if he means it. But then my parents see a new model that has some really nice features, and...

My husband started flying business class when he turned 70. He said it was his gift to himself when he went on Social Security. He claims that shopping around as he does, he pays only a little more for business than he would for coach.

I am not yet 70, so I don't know that I deserve this special treatment but I confess I've gotten used to being able

to go into the club between flights and get a free cup of coffee exactly the way I like it (Lots of milk, not too much coffee). Peter stretches out his long legs and enjoys every minute of it.

I cannot believe how much people spend on new clothes. I buy all my clothes used but I don't want to tell you how many dresses I own – and I can't because I have no idea. I have far more dresses than any one person can reasonably wear.

But just when I say I need to stop buying dresses, I see a sleeveless burgundy number with a swathe of velvet down the front and an asymmetrical hemline for less than \$30 (used, of course) and the

next thing I know, I'm having it shipped because, well, I cannot let it go.

Every week, I buy flowers for my desk. I could buy quite a few lattes with what I spend on them. I justify the expense by saying that because I sit here all day writing, I need something pleasant to rest my eyes on between sentences. I say it's something I need – and that is how all our luxuries are, I expect.

I know I'm unfair to the people who need to go sailing and ride horses. I'm unfair to the people whose day only starts out right when they have a pleasant professional prepare them a latte,

although I still say Peter's is every bit as good, and just the way I like it.

I know there are people who would say that having a closet full of dresses (however beautiful and deeply discounted) is ridiculous and buying fresh flowers is wasteful. I would say they're being unreasonable. But I suspect we are all a little unsympathetic to what others perceive as a need.

We all need a few luxuries, big or small, to make us feel we're treating ourselves well. I'm going to try to enjoy my little luxuries without too much guilt and allow everyone else to enjoy theirs.

Till next time.

VIEWPOINT

'Saints by Night'

One artist's view of downtown St. Paul

Prose and photo by
Jared Arvin

In the hours when the city exhaled its final breath for the day, the streets became something else. Here, under the soft glow of lamps, the familiar took on new shapes – buildings loomed higher, shadows stretched longer, and the air thickened with the weight of stillness. There's something about nighttime that draws you in, not to the noise, but to the quiet moments – the ones that drift by if you aren't watching.

"Saints by Night" captures that stillness, where every figure melts into the fabric of the city, unnoticed yet deeply present. Each passerby carries a story, told not through words but through their pace, their posture, their movement against the

brick and steel. Some shuffle alone, heads low, while others linger in clusters, sharing whispers too faint to catch. Yet, somehow, they all belong to this moment, bound by the cold and the quiet.

The scene is scored by the distant melody of jazz, a tune that rolls through the air like fog, drifting between alleyways and fading into the night sky. It's the kind of music that wraps itself around you – not loud enough to interrupt, but present enough to shape the rhythm of the night. Road to the West – smooth, slow, wandering – floats in the background as the night unfolds. A song without urgency, like the street itself.

In this frame, the city transforms. Daylight might expose its imperfections, its hurried pace, its chaotic

moments, but at night, everything seems more deliberate. The edges of the buildings, the glow of signs, the faint outline of figures passing through the shadows – it all becomes art, a living, breathing canvas rendered in tones of noir.

This is where it began for me, with this moment, this image. A simple street, a handful of people, a cold night. But in the quiet, I found something more – a sense that the night holds secrets, stories waiting to unfold. "Saints by Night" isn't just a photo; it's an invitation to pause, to look closer, and to listen to the spaces where sound fades. And maybe, if you stand there long enough, you'll hear it too – the soft murmur of a city at rest, waiting for the next chapter to begin.



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Worship Guide

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stlouiskingoffrance.org

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assumptionsp.org

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

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

Church of St. Mary
267 8th St. E., #100
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651-228-0506
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saintpaulmennonite.org

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ccredeemer.org

**Crown of Life Lutheran
Church & School**
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651-451-3832
colwsp.org

Faith United Methodist
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651-457-5686
faithumcmn.com

Mizpah River Ministries
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West St. Paul, 612-254-480
restorationhopechurch.com

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651-457-3831
riverviewbaptist.net

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salemluth.org

**St. George Antiochian
Orthodox**
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saintgeorge-church.org

St. James Lutheran
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saintjameslutheran.com

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran
1575 Charlton St.
651-457-6541
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651-451-2400
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**St. Augustine's
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651-455-1302
holymtrinitysspnmn.org

First Presbyterian
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fpcssp.org

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

**South St. Paul Hispanic
Seventh-day Adventist**
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651-455-0777

Grace Lutheran Church
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651-451-1035
grace-ssp.org

**Holy Trinity
Catholic Church**
Catholic church
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651-455-1302
holymtrinitysspnmn.org

**Clark Grace
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clarkgraceucc.org

**St. Sava Serbian
Orthodox church**
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stsavamn.org

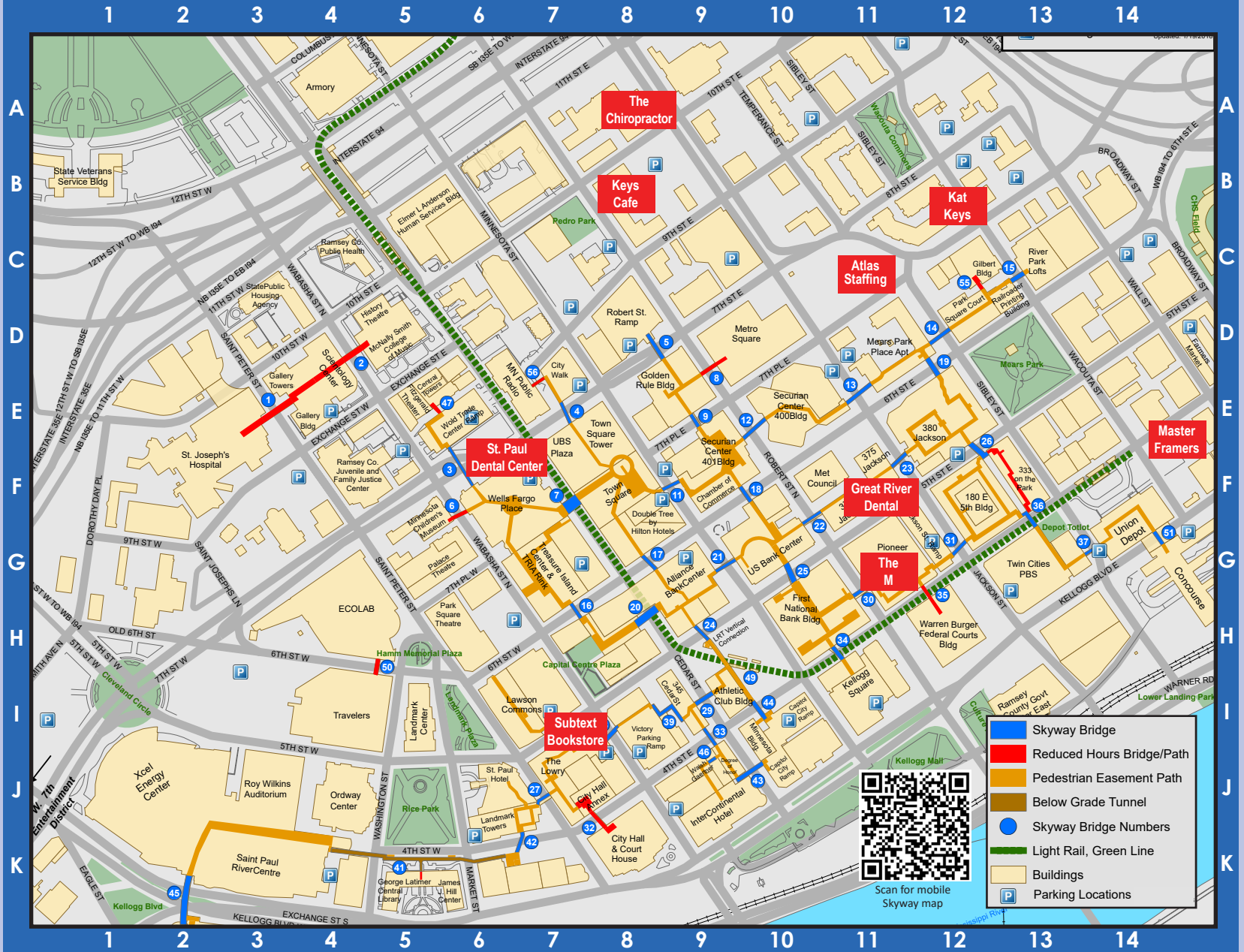
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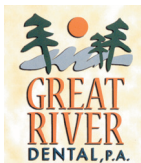
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