



How will homeless weather winter?

By JAN WILLMS

Whether working for the state, the city or on the front lines, workers addressing the homeless situation in Minnesota strongly agree on two things: affordable housing is desperately needed, and the COVID-19 pandemic greatly exacerbates the plight of the homeless.

Especially of concern with winter approaching is the number of individuals living in camps.

"The number of active encampments fluctuates regularly," said Suzanne Donovan, with the Department of Safety and Inspection (DSI) for the city of Saint Paul. "In mid-to-late October, staff counted about 90 active encampments throughout Saint Paul, which can range in size from two to three tents to more."

She said the city does not have a goal to "close" all encampments but is concerned about the welfare and safety of all individuals staying in encampments and in other outdoor spaces not intended as living quarters.

"The city is working with its partners to identify and secure safe indoor shelter space for all of our unsheltered residents," Donovan said.

However, shelter space is decreasing due to COVID-19 spacing restrictions.

"It's a systemic problem in that we don't have enough homes that are affordable for people to live in," said Minnesota Homeless Coalition (MHC) Executive Director Rhonda Otteson. "That is the

Advocates say affordable housing, more shelters needed



Niqui, April and Sean of St. Paul Camp Support with just some of the supplies they bring to the encampments. The group collects supplies at 2161 University Ave. W., on Wednesdays and Fridays, 3-7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. They always looking for clothing, camp stoves, towels or tents. (Photo by Jan Willms)

big problem, and within that problem we have another issue that is systemic in that we don't have enough shelter space for people to come indoors. COVID-19 has made that worse because social distancing is critical to the health and well-being of people staying in shelters, and shelters have needed to depopulate, a lot running at 50 percent capacity."

Otteson added that means that other housing, such as hotels, have to be used. "We

know it's dangerous to be outside in the weather, but we also know people experiencing homelessness and staying in shelters are targets of violence, and it's just not a safe space for anybody to be."

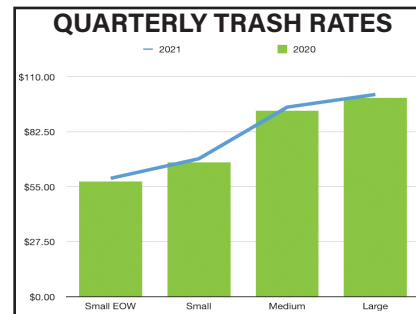
'People don't want to be in shelters'

"Many people don't want to be in shelters," said April, a front-line worker who volunteers with St. Paul Camp Support, a group that collects dona-

tions of supplies for individuals and families living in outdoor encampments. "It has not been a dignified place for them, and they don't feel respected at some of the shelters. One man told me he did not want to go to a shelter because to him it feels like a prison, and that is so valid."

Donovan said that the city has been actively engaged with Ramsey County in working to

HOW WILL HOMELESS >> 3



2021 rates will be less than 2018-2019 fees

Trash fees increasing

By JANE MCCLURE

What St. Paul's residents pay for trash collection will increase in 2021. But the usually contentious issue of organized collection drew fewer than half a dozen public comments during a November public hearing before the St. Paul City Council. The rates were adopted Nov. 18.

St. Paul implemented an organized trash collection system two years ago. Some of the strongest support came out of Frogstown, where illegal dumping of trash in alleys has been a longstanding problem.

Properties with 1-4 dwelling units are required to have garbage collection. Property owners are responsible for payment. The system was hailed by those who saw it as reducing street and alley truck traffic, and deterring illegal trash dumping. Opponents said it would prevent neighbors sharing carts, take away the ability to choose one's trash hauler and increase cost for those who practice "zero waste."

TRASH FEES INCREASING >> 15

Mapping Prejudice brings light to history's structural racism that impacts today's community



Denise Pike recalls a cross burning on the front lawn of her family's home in St. Louis Park when she was a girl. (Photo submitted)

Looking back to move forward

By CHLOE PETERS

As a young child, Denise Pike experienced an attempted cross-burning on the front lawn of her family's home in St. Louis Park. Her own family was multi-racial, and they shared the duplex with a Black family. Since then, Pike has wondered about racial differences and what housing in particular has to do with inciting violence against people of color.

During her master's program for Heritage Studies and Public History at the Universi-

ty of Minnesota, Pike had the opportunity to be an intern for Mapping Prejudice.

Mapping Prejudice is a team of geographers, historians, digital humanists and community activists working with the University of Minnesota in order to expose structural racism. The data that they collect has brought thousands of racial covenants to light. These racial covenants were placed in order to prevent Black people from buying homes or property in Minnesota. On their

website, mappingprejudice.org, there is a map of the Twin Cities area where home owners can find out if their home has a covenant placed on it and then have the option to remove it.

"This data makes the extent of racial discrimination across the city of Minneapolis and the surrounding areas impossible to ignore or discount," Pike said.

In January 2020, the project extended into St. Paul and greater Ramsey County, Mapping Prejudice hosts online training

events for volunteers to help read deeds and contribute to the database that plots covenants.

'Owning Up' exhibit

Since becoming an intern for Mapping Prejudice, Pike also worked on a project of her own. Her portable exhibit, "Owning Up," explores the history of racial housing discrimination in Minneapolis through the stories of three Black families. Their experiences are displayed alongside the policy decisions and social practices that furthered the standard of racial segregation and continue to shape the city of Minneapolis.

MAPPING PREJUDICE >> 13



AGING WELL
'All you need is
a ball and a wall'

PAGES 6-7



Meet Creative
Enterprise Zone's
new executive director

PAGE 8



'Mr Rondo's Spirit.'
a story of a man
and his community

PAGE 9



SAINT PAUL COLLEGE
A Community & Technical College



Flexible & Affordable For You

classes start January 11

A Saint Paul College education will cost you less and give you more.
Our tuition is among the lowest anywhere, and many financial assistance options make it even more affordable.

With over 100 degree, diploma, and certificate programs, Saint Paul College offers many paths to achieving your career goals.

Register Now for spring semester!
saintpaul.edu/SpringStart

Saint Paul College named one of America's Top 150 community colleges by the Aspen Institute!

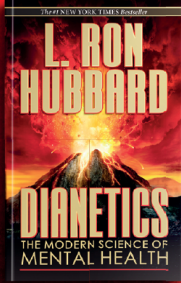


MINNESOTA STATE
Saint Paul College,
A member of Minnesota State

Document available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting 651.846.1547 or AccessResources@saintpaul.edu. Saint Paul College is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE MONITOR

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH



The all-time bestseller on the human mind
 Fear, anxiety, stress. They're buried deep in your reactive mind. Dianetics helps you find them. And, in the process, find yourself.

GET YOUR COPY TODAY
 Call (651) 298-8888
 505 Wabasha Street North
 Saint Paul, MN 55102

\$25

© 2020 Church of Scientology International. All Rights Reserved. Dianetics is a trademark and service mark owned by Religious Technology Center and is used with its permission.

Monitor Deadlines 2021

Publication typically second Thursday. * Some exceptions	Deadlines typically last or first Monday.
Publication date	Deadline date
Jan. 14	Jan. 4
Feb. 11	Feb. 1
March 11	March 1
April 15	April 5
May 13	May 3
June 10	May 28 (Friday)
July 15	July 2 (Friday)
Aug. 12	Aug. 2
Sept. 16	Sept. 3 (Friday)
Oct. 14	Oct. 4
Nov. 11	Nov. 1
Dec. 9	Nov. 29

BUILDING COMMUNITY
1 ad, 1 article at a time

OUT OF WORK DUE TO COVID-19? FIND WHAT'S NEXT.

- Virtual hiring events.
- Personalized guidance.
- Employment action plans.

LEARN MORE AT
ramseycounty.us/Next








Join the conversation on aging well. Offer our readers information on how to live life to the fullest after age 50.

Advertise in this quarterly feature. Next deadline March 1.

Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 651-917-4183
Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 612-345-9998



Lloyd's pharmacy

est. 1949
& Compounding Center

Your health is STILL our priority!

Re-Opened at:
694 Snelling Av. N, Suite A, St. Paul 55104
 temporary location.

LIVE, LOVE, LLOYD'S

Still servicing all your pharmacy needs:

- Prescription compounding
- Blister pack
- Delivery & mail out
- Vaccinations

We remain committed to the Hamline Midway neighborhood. Our home since 1918.

Hours

Monday-Friday
8am - 8pm

Saturday
8:30am - 6pm

Sunday
9am - 1pm

Web
www.lloydsrx.com

Phone
 651-645-8636



How will homeless weather winter?

>> from 1

stand up low-barrier overnight shelters as well as day space.

"There are several options in locations throughout the city under discussion, which would add to and expand existing capacity. These should offer alternatives, some with greater flexibility than more traditional congregate living spaces."

Although the homeless encampments are mainly concentrated within the Metro, Otteson said homelessness is prevalent throughout the state. "I live in Willmar, and I know that it exists right here," she stated. "It might not be so apparent, and it might be more hidden, but homelessness exists across our state." She said that 80 out of 87 counties lack enough shelter beds.

Who are the homeless?

"Many are working or they have a chronic disability," said Otteson. She added that half of the people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota are youth up to the age of 24.

"That really flips the switch for people when they think about who is homeless," Otteson said. "And the other piece of this is that we have systemic racism that comes out and is exhibited in the data on homelessness. People of color are 10 times more likely than their White counterparts to be homeless."

"American Indian and African American populations are at particularly high disproportionate rates of homelessness, and so that is something that we may continue to keep an eye on. We need culturally specific solutions created in communities to best serve people."

Otteson said that paying an unaffordable rent is the greatest factor to becoming homeless. "It creates this system of people being on the edge and being one car breakdown, one layoff, one sickness away from not being able to pay the rent. We have to do something about that."

Otteson knows of what she speaks, as she experienced homelessness when she was growing up. "My mom had to take her three kids and stay with an aunt in a one-bedroom apartment."

She said there is a lot of the same kind of doubling up happening today, but those informal arrangements are not preferred, particularly with the pandemic. "Just keeping that in mind, especially this time of year when



Tents are set up at various places in St. Paul, including by John Ireland Blvd. and Kellogg (above) and near a wooded park (at right). Homelessness is prevalent throughout the state. According to Minnesota Homeless Coalition (MHC) Executive Director Rhonda Otteson, 80 out of 87 counties lack enough shelter beds. Half of the people experiencing homelessness are youth up to age 24. People of color are 10 times more likely than their White counterparts to be homeless. (Photos by Terry Faust)

it gets cold, people are making really hard choices about what they have to do to stay safe and stay well."

Homes for All, coalitions

MCH, the organization Otteson leads, has its headquarters at 2233 University Ave. W. About 100 organizations across the state are members of MCH. "These organizations advance policy solutions on problems causing instability, and we really move the needle in creating homes in communities, the ultimate solution," said Otteson.

MCH plays a key leadership role and a founding role in Homes for All (HFA), which has been operating for about eight years, according to Otteson. HFA is a coalition of 280 endorsing organizations across Minnesota that advocates for the continuation of housing resources.

"We carry HFA's agenda on ours, submitting legislative items through that coalition because it is powerful and well known," Otteson said. She noted that after five special sessions, the legis-



lature finally passed a bonding bill. Otteson said the bonding investment of \$116 million is the largest passed in the history of the state to preserve and create homes across Minnesota.

"This was a big win, when we have so many challenges," Otteson said. She said the challenges are not only economical, but being an advocate during the current pandemic is difficult. "You can't just walk up to the Capitol anymore." She added that the new virtual environment and technology have created new space that MCH has embraced "because we have to."

"It's all about building that support for the (homelessness) issue, and with all the partners we come together as a community to advance these continued investments. We are going into one of the most challenging legislative sessions with our budget deficit not only in the current year, but in the next biennial. Advocates are preparing to have a strong presence and really engage

because those who are most at risk should not have to bear the greatest burden in balancing our state budget."

Camp Support collects donations

"It just sucks," said April, the St. Paul Camp Support volunteer. "If there were enough housing so people could move on from shelters in a healthy time frame, it wouldn't be so bad. But some people have been waiting for housing for seven years."

St. Paul Camp Support collects donations at a building at 2161 University Ave. W., on Wednesdays and Fridays, 3-7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. "We are always looking for supplies, such as clothing, camp stoves, towels or tents."

"The camps are not good," she said, "but some have been through this before and know how to survive."

St. Paul adds homeless shelters

Meanwhile, the city of Saint Paul continues to try and find solutions for the lack of both housing and shelters.

"The affordable housing goals of the Ford Site Public Realm Master Plan and Redevelopment Agreement have not changed," said Donovan. "Common Bond and Project for Pride in Living are partners with Ryan Companies in developing affordable and supportive housing on the site. The project is now called Highland Bridge Development."

Donovan said DSI has a site plan application in progress for Common Bond Communities at 830 Cretin Ave. for a 60-unit senior housing building that was conditionally approved in July. The site plan is on hold, pending financing.

She also noted that Ramsey County is reportedly looking at the property at former Boys Totem Town as a possible area to develop affordable housing along with other uses. "That option appears as though it would have a long road ahead," Donovan said.

St. Paul is leasing a West Seventh fire station as a homeless shelter for 18 months, and Ramsey County plans to open overnight shelter space in December at the vacant Bethesda Hospital site in Frogtown, as well as a vacant Luther Seminary dorm in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood.

"The challenges for the homeless are myriad and interconnected," Donovan stated. "A key one is scarcity of types of affordable housing in the region in all price ranges, as well as developable land in a built environment, such as St. Paul."

As to the city's challenges in its attempts to decrease homelessness, Donovan said St. Paul works with the county and outreach partners closely to address the lack of affordable housing and shelters. "Federal funds designated for homelessness flow largely through the counties, which are primarily responsible for the continuum of care," she explained. "Again, the challenges are complex and ultimately benefit from private and public sector partnerships. The economic impact of the pandemic, including the loss of employment opportunities, has contributed to and exacerbated existing challenges."

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, a Wilder study showed that nearly 20,000 Minnesotans are homeless on any given night.

BUY LOCAL

Support your neighbors, live a more sustainable life, and build community. Tell them you saw it here.

Mosaic ON A STICK

1564 Lafond Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-645-6600
www.mosaiconastick.com

An artist-owned mosaic supply shop, community classroom & artist studio

LULA

LULA VINTAGE CLOTHING

651.644.4110 1587 • Selby Avenue, St. Paul • MN 55104
www.lulavintagewear.com

MIDWAY

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

CONNECT NETWORK BUILD SUPPORT

Now underway! Multi-part series
VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF NONPROFITS SERIES

- Fiscal Sponsorships~ "A First Step Toward Realizing Your Social Entrepreneurial Vision," Dec. 16, 8-9am
Register @ www.midwaychamber.com

Catch the first 4 programs on our YouTube channel.

CALL 651.646.2636
EMAIL info@midwaychamber.com

THE MOTLEY CONVERSATION

Monitor

Join the conversation, and let us know your diverse and varied thoughts on the issues that affect your neighborhood. Send letters and guest commentaries to news@MonitorSaintPaul.com or call 612-345-9998.

2020: The Year of the Pivot

2020 might become known as the year of the pivot. In the newspaper business, we've been zig-zagging for years now, since the Internet changed the business we knew. In some ways, that prepared us for 2020. I was just barely part of news media at its financial peak when there wasn't as much competition, so I don't expect ads to roll in easily. I expect to have to hustle to pay the bills. In some ways, it's helped to have entered this business during the Internet age because I've always seen the benefits and challenges associated with it.

At TMC Publications, we were already a home-based business, which means we didn't have to worry about how to pay the rent when revenue slowed to a trickle in April. We've been using a secure cloud-based system for years for our files.

We had moved to a VOIP phone system with a built-in video conferencing in 2019, and it sure came in handy this year. When we were all staying home, it was nice to see faces via video for interviews and sales calls, and its use is picking back up as we head into the colder winter months.

From 2004 to 2019, more than a quarter of the nation's newspapers folded, leaving behind vast news deserts, according to research by the Husman School of Journalism

and Media at the University of North Carolina. Reporters and editors employed by newspapers dropped by about half, pointed out *Des Moines Register* Executive Editor Carol Hunter in a recent editorial. Locally, we saw *City Pages* abruptly close in October, and the *Southwest Journal* plans to discontinue publishing in December.

While newspapers are facing challenges in an evolving world, what hasn't changed is our need for them.

"Newspapers have long served as 'watchdogs' over government. The pandemic magnified the significance of this role because the virus closed most government offices, and meetings of school boards, city councils and county officials moved onto Zoom," pointed out Iowa Freedom of Information Council Executive Director Randy Evans, writing to support National Newspaper Week in October.

He added, "The most potent tool of newspapers continues to be the spotlight. They shine it on problems that need to be addressed and on solutions that ought to be considered. They shine it on stories that are heartwarming and uplifting. At other times, they shine it on topics that might raise the blood pressure of readers."

We've certainly got our share of blood-pressure-raising issues

Too much coffee

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN,
Owner & Editor

Tessa@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com



right here in the Twin Cities this year, and we're working to help you understand the varying perspectives around us with our coverage.

It's been a year of challenges.

In response to this, newspapers nationally have come together to support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act. Read more about it on page 5 in Dean Ridings' guest column, and then call your legislators to voice your support.

One of the hardest parts for me is hearing comments folks make disparaging the media, as though they've forgotten what a vital role we have in this great democratic experiment.

America needs journalists. We simply won't exist without them. I've always appreciated newspaper coverage of issues the most, as I think you avoid some of the echo chamber found on cable, television and social media.

Here at the *Midway Como Frogtown Monitor*, we recognize

that we need to pivot to keep up with the changes in our society, while also building upon what makes us strong.

In November, we launched a new, user-friendly website that we'd been working on for months. I'm pretty excited about it, and I hope you will be, too. We have more options for how we share the story with you, and it's easier from the back-end, which means we spend more time reporting than on tech issues.

We're also working on a great new Marketplace to showcase advertisers and connect local shoppers with local business, an important part of our mission. It fits in seamlessly with our What's Open page. If you have a business, I hope you'll take advantage of our free What's Open listings and let folks know as you pivot in response to the coronavirus pandemic. You can go in and make as many changes as you'd like, and there are ways to upgrade your listing at affordable rates.

We're adding paid obituaries to honor those we've lost. We're also adding paid announcements such as birthdays, weddings, engagements and births to celebrate what we have. This is the stuff of our lives, what connects our community, and so it belongs on both our online and print pages.

With your engagement as readers and advertisers, we can build our community and pivot together.

To the Editor

Wrong decision on Line 3

Dear Editor:

Since the beginning of this year we have been fighting an ever-changing battle to protect our families, our neighbors and our communities at large. Our foe in this battle is a virus. A virus we knew little about, a virus that was hard to predict and it has proven to be a formidable opponent. Being a part of a struggle like this has been scary, it has created great suffering, yet at times it has brought us together as a people. On a local level, I must express pride that we have leaders such as Governor Walz who have helped us face this challenge. He has lead us in facing this foe honestly, with clear eyes and with an underlying belief that our actions in this battle will be based on science and the common good. Simply put, we will make decisions based on scientific fact and on how we can use science to protect our neighbors, our families and those in our communities most at risk.

While I feel pride in Governor Walz's decision making in regard to COVID-19, I must admit I am feeling frustration and anger in regard to recent decisions Governor Walz and his administration have made in regard to Line 3. As a candidate and as governor, Governor Walz has talked about the need to act boldly on the climate crisis. He has also often talked about the need to respect, honor and protect our indigenous neighbors. In spite of this expressed commitment, just this week the Walz administration (along with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) granted Enbridge Inc. with their long sought after permits to begin construction on Line 3. This decision flies in the face of climate science and long-term health of our communities and planet. It also is another clear reminder that money talks and talks louder than the needs of the Indigenous communities that will be put at risk for the benefit of a corporation to make money on the sale of fossil fuels. In that regard, the long-standing tradition of broken promises to our Indigenous neighbors continues.

So what next? This reminds me that the world is gray and even those leaders we support make bad decisions. Unfortunately for us all Governor Walz made the wrong and likely devastating decision to allow Line 3 to move forward. It also reminds me that in this and all areas true change will come from the ground up. When our leaders fall short, when our leaders ignore science and the well-being of our fellow citizens WE must act. No doubt the actions of the Walz administration this week are a huge step back in the fight against Line 3. That said, the battle is not over. We all must rise, we all must push back. When we make our voices heard, when we follow the science to make decisions and when we put people first we will prevail. Hopefully then, our leaders like Governor Walz will come along with us..

Tom Lucy
Como

A socially distanced holiday season

We are now about nine months into the pandemic. Many have tried to maintain sanity by making jokes (today is the 265th day of March) as we all hear the same phrases used over and over ("in these unprecedented times" and "you're on mute" come to mind).

There was added excitement over the warmer months when we felt a sense of freedom as we could enjoy nice weather and many restrictions were eased. But as the year went on, we saw the likelihood of the pandemic's end coming before the end of 2020 look less and less likely as company work-from-home policies kept pushing out the return date.

The school year started with many students not in the classroom, but at home attempting to learn virtually. While students, teachers and parents all have said it has gone smoother than it did in the spring, the joy and social aspect are gone from in-person learning.

Now we are finding our-

selves in the midst of another time of the year we hoped we wouldn't experience socially distant from one another- the so-called "most wonderful time of the year." The annual gatherings with friends, family and colleagues at restaurants, offices and other public places are not happening, and holidays are advised to be spent only with immediate households. And the unfortunate numbers of new COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths are daily reminders of why we must continue to be careful.

So what can we do to bring light to this dark period? Plenty! Let's start with lights...

A favorite annual tradition for many is taking a tour of holiday lights. For some this is simply driving or walking around their neighborhood to see the biggest and brightest displays at nearby homes. For others, they may also seek out the homes that sync up their lights to a radio station. This year, there are also many professional displays including one at the State Fairgrounds. These events keep you

Building a stronger Midway

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

in the comfort and safety of your vehicle.

Even though shoppers are continually resorting to online shopping, many of us still prefer going in-person for our shopping - especially for gifts. Thankfully, health officials have found retail establishments are a low-risk place for spreading the virus due to shorter visits and a mask requirement. If you usually dread the idea of going to stores in December for fear of crowds, this year you should have an easier time finding a parking space and elbow room once inside. A comment I've seen online is now is the time to give back to those

small businesses in your community who have agreed so often to donate to an auction for your school, church and more.

While we cannot dine and drink inside our favorite restaurants and taprooms, we can still show them our support by ordering takeout. Gift cards also make excellent gifts, including for yourself. We all have our favorite places to dine; pick out your top few and show them your support this season.

Finally, while it isn't the same as being in person, you can still fire up the virtual meeting to connect with friends and family this year. This technology is a great way to stay connected and see people you might not normally see. Show your creativity by wearing a fun sweater, decorating Gingerbread houses and anything else you can think of that can be done virtually.

This holiday season will be one to remember. But it can also be one to remember for starting new traditions. Be safe, be creative and be thankful for what you have this year. May 2021 be a year that brings us a COVID vaccine and lessons learned from the challenges of 2020.

Monitor

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097
Minneapolis, MN 55417

612-345-9998

MonitorSaintPaul.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/
monitorsaintpaul/
Instagram: midwaycomomonitor

News for you!

The *Midway Como Frogtown Monitor* is a monthly community publication in the Midway, Como, Hamline and Frogtown neighborhoods of St. Paul, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. Visit our website for our calendar and publication dates.

Story ideas always welcome.

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

Owner & Editor:

Tessa M. Christensen, 612-345-9998
Tessa@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183
Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!

Apply for open position.
Details on our website.

Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

This issue of the *Monitor* is printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Approximately 95-97% of material that enters the print facility is recycled.

TMC
PUBLICATIONS COREAD
then
RECYCLE

Delivery provided by: Fresh Heir and IDS

If you have a problem with delivery, call 612-345-9998 or email the editor. Mail subscriptions are available at \$40 a year.

Design & Layout:

Tessa M. Christensen

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jane McClure, Jan Willms,
Jill Boogren, Margie O'Loughlin,
Matthew Davis, Stephanie Fox, Terry Faust,
Chad Kulas

The *Monitor* is for profit and for a purpose - and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that

is both black and white, both/and. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

All rights reserved. The contents of the *Monitor* cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2020.



In a divided time, saving local journalism is a bipartisan cause

In a presidential election year and in the midst of the dual crises of the coronavirus pandemic and widespread economic misery, the divisions among Americans can seem to easily overwhelm the bonds that unite us.

That's why it's so heartening to see in recent weeks that Americans of all persuasions, and their political leaders on both sides of the aisle, are coalescing around a cause for a community pillar with a history of helping this nation navigate past buffeting winds of turmoil: Saving local journalism.

And make no mistake, local journalism – primarily the newspaper that brings news of its community from high school sports to mayoral campaigns – needs saving. Even before the pandemic lockdowns and before shuttering Main Street businesses sent advertising revenue off a cliff, local newspapers were operating on a financial knife edge. They are being whipsawed by Big Tech companies like Facebook and Google that suck up nearly all available ad dollars while paying no or minimal compensation for the local journalism content they display on platforms.

A joint survey of 20,000 Americans, which was conducted

by Gallup and the Knight Foundation just before the pandemic unleashed its wrath upon the nation, found Americans understand very well the consequences of civic life without robust local journalism.

The vast majority of Americans, more than eight in 10, say – in general – that the news media is “critical” or “very important” to democracy. More Americans report they are following local news closely. A follow-up question shows that these citizens are more likely to vote and to feel attached to their communities.

Most encouragingly, Americans still see the news media as part of the solution and not the problem: Nearly half, 49%, say the media could do “a great deal” to heal political divisions, while another 35% say journalism could contribute a “moderate amount” of healing.

Perhaps the best example of this growing recognition of the importance of local journalism – and the urgent need to support it in a time of its own crisis – is the bipartisan response to an important piece of legislation introduced this summer by U.S. Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick, a Democrat from Arizona, and Dan Newhouse, a Republican

Guest columnist

By DEAN RIDINGS
CEO, America's Newspapers



from Washington state.

The Local Journalism Sustainability Act has attracted 78 cosponsors. These Congressional representatives range all over the supposedly immutable political divide – from liberal representatives, including Democrat Eleanor Holmes Norton of Washington, D.C., to conservative Republican Vern Buchanan of Florida. In Minnesota, Betty McCollum (D-4), and Collin Peterson (D-7) are supporters.

There's a lot to like about the Local Journalism Sustainability Act, which will cost taxpayers nothing while helping the three stakeholders of trusted, fair and accurate journalism: People who subscribe to newspapers or other local media; businesses that advertise in local newspapers; and newspapers that staff their news-

rooms with journalists who cover the community.

The legislation provides a sun-setting five years of tax credits for subscriptions, advertising and newsroom payrolls.

Whether or not this legislation passes in this election-shortened Congressional session, it still stands as a way forward for bipartisan action on a crisis that affects not just newspapers, but all elements of a thriving community. That's why, if you don't see your Congressional representative in the list of cosponsors for H.R. 7640, please consider asking him or her to be part of the solution

that safeguards your access to local news and information.

Your right to know – your access to accurate and fair local news – transcends any partisan divide.

On behalf of its approximately 1,500 newspaper and associate member companies, America's Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. We put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: www.newspapers.org

Remember the Midway Stadium?

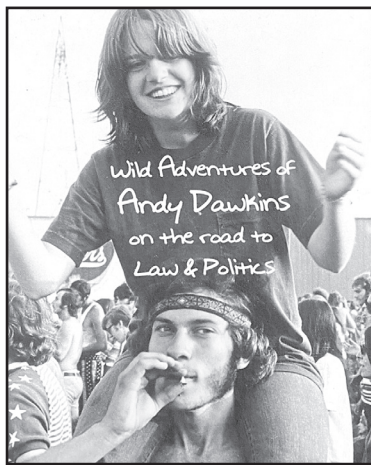
How many of you readers have a favorite Midway Stadium memory? Some of you, I'm sure, go all the way back to the old Midway Stadium built in 1956 on a gravel pit east of Snelling. Share your favorite memory with readers by emailing news@MonitorSaintPaul.com.

How many of you readers have a favorite Midway Stadium memory? Some of you, I'm sure, go all the way back to the old Midway Stadium built in 1956 on a gravel pit east of Snelling. Share your favorite memory with readers by emailing news@MonitorSaintPaul.com.

Maybe you saw a famous person there? Anybody in the stands the day Gene Mauch, the Minneapolis Millers Manager, and later the Minnesota Twins, stormed into the stands and got into a fist fight with a fan? Is it possible someone out there even knows whom the fan was?! All I know is that he was a regular at Saints games, sat near the field, knew his baseball, and was good at getting the goat of opposing players.

I was there the day Eddie Feigner, the King and his Court, played a Twins team headed by Zoilo Versalles. Eddie Feigner (The King) threw a softball underhanded faster than any Major League pitchers of his day. He had just three teammates (The Court) behind him in the field; but I don't remember who won. Anybody remember who did, or the score?

There are great music events some of us might want to recount as well, but first I want to fit in one more baseball story – the day I met Hap Holmgren, the long-time Municipal Athletics Director who officed out of Midway Stadium. It was in 1979, on my first day back from law school out east. I needed a job while I studied for the bar exam, and thought umpiring could be kinda fun. It was 11 a.m. on a Friday, and first thing Hap said, was: “Can you do the



Andy Dawkins with Mary Jo Giblin, later editor of the Biwabik Times.

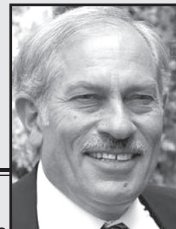
North St. Paul vs. Stillwater game at 1 o'clock this afternoon?” That sounded like the long and the short of the job interview, so of course I said yes, but I didn't have a car, didn't have a ball-strike indicator, didn't have time to go buy a blue umpires shirt. Instead just hopped the bus that took me out to North St. Paul on Highway 36.

Got there in time. I was supposed to be the base ump, but the home plate ump hadn't yet arrived by game time, so I called the opposing managers to the mound and said, “Without a chest protector I will call the game from behind the pitcher. Does anybody have an indicator? I haven't kept up with rule changes – just let me know if something comes up – but I do have excellent judgment. Batter up!”

It was the top of the first. A Stillwater better cracked a deep one to right. I thought it got over the fence and couldn't wait to show I knew the home run signal, circling my right arm in the air. But, unfortunately, the ball didn't clear the fence, and instead the North Saint Paul right-fielder picked it off the wall on one hop and twirled to make a great throw to second base. Meanwhile, the batter saw my signal and broke into his home

Remembering the Midway

By ANDY DAWKINS



run trot. Out at second base on a perfect throw, right? Wrong – ground rule double I ruled. Both managers strolled to the mound and I began hearing derisive remarks from the players and fans. “Thought you said you had great judgment. Son, there's always time to make the home run call. Next time make sure it's over the fence.” Fortunately the home plate ump showed-up just then, saving me from ongoing derisive remarks from the players and fans, and I was happy to be relegated to just doing the bases.

My favorite memory of a music event is the June 1971 Open Air Concert at the old stadium featuring Muddy Waters, John Sebastian, the Allman Brothers, and local musician Tony Glover. Maybe you were there too? And want to tell how much fun it was? Or maybe you saw The Replacements or Bob Dylan at the new (circa 1982 to 2015) stadium?

In 1971, I was 21 and about to start senior year at Hamline. My friends and I couldn't believe it! – a Woodstock happening just two blocks from Hamline! That's me in the photo from that day with Mary Joy Giblin on my shoulders, who later became the Editor of the Biwabik Times. Yeah, I was a total hippie that year.

Andy Dawkins has lived in the St. Paul Midway for the past 50 years. He is a retired attorney who served 15 years in the Minnesota State Legislature followed by four years working for the city of Saint Paul as its Director of Neighborhood Housing under Mayor Randy Kelly.

Share your favorite memory with readers by emailing news@MonitorSaintPaul.com.



Midway Animal Hospital

Offering high quality, compassionate care for your pets.
www.midwayanimalhospital.com

Pete Kelley, DVM & Teresa Nolte, DVM

731 North Snelling Avenue / 651-644-2100
Parking & Entrance in Rear / Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 6 pm, Sat. 9 am - 1 pm



Benita Warns Michael Warns

Mr. Michael RECYCLES BICYCLES
info@mmrbstore.com
651-641-1037

Changing lives one bicycle at a time.
The ultimate bike junkyard.

520 N. Prior Ave St. Paul, MN 55104
www.mmrbstore.com

Bicycles and service packages on sale now!

your Lutheran Church on the corner

Merry Christmas, neighbors!

Submit your prayer requests and view our online worship service anytime at jehovahlutheran.online

Check out our new YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdLy0HeNl3NlwQh-mN7Qjsg>

Jehovah LUTHERAN at Thomas and Snelling

Pastor Joshua Miller
www.jehovahlutheran.org • 651-644-1421

MIDWAY YMCA CHRISTMAS TREES

Celebrate the Holidays with a fresh cut, live tree from the only YMCA tree lot in St. Paul.

Your support goes on to fund Y programs throughout the year.

Visit us at 530 Wheeler St, across from the Midway YMCA.

SOLD OUT FOR THE SEASON - THANKS FOR THE GREAT YEAR!

Most credit cards accepted, along with cash and checks.

AGING WELL

‘All you need is a ball and a wall’

Handball is a lifetime sport for local players



Players stand in front of the wall at Clayland Park. (Photo submitted)

By CAROL MAHNKE

One wall handball wasn't designed for the pandemic. But it's a healthy solution to indoor courts for handball players.

"All you need is a ball and a wall," a player commented.

Without the other three walls, players are sometimes obliged to fetch the ball from the surrounding grass, but that's not considered a hardship.

At Clayland Park in St. Paul an unlikely combination of participants gather Thursday and Saturday afternoons to use their hands to bat the ball against a single wall erected in the middle of what might otherwise have been a tennis court.

The group includes doctors, lawyers and clergy as well as high school and college students and young men – some the children of immigrants to this country. There also are participants who

have served time in prison. And occasionally women play.

"It's a welcoming group," says Steven Tamminga of the Minnesota Handball Association. Anyone coming to the park will be welcomed to play the game.

YMCAs in the Twin Cities have limited play in handball/racquetball courts and some private gyms are open (depending on current COVID-19 restrictions). The Midway YMCA helped get young people started in handball and introduced them to the Clayland court, according to Mitchell Lallier of Kids on the Line/Minnesota Youth Handball.

Lallier's son, Joseph, whose mother is Peruvian, plays most Thursdays and Saturdays. He, Antonio Flores and Isaac Alberg play often. Joseph and Isaac have done well in national tournaments, but Antonio's family doesn't have the means to send



Handball brings together an unlikely combination of participants to use their hands to bat a ball against a wall. The group at Clayland Park includes doctors, lawyers and clergy, as well as high school and college students. (Photo submitted)

him to tournaments,

The two Lalliers, Mitchell and Joseph, teach handball at the Midway Y. They also teach children's swimming.

The wall went up about a year ago after a group of handball players raised the funds for

it and convinced the St. Paul Park Board it would be a good addition to the park.

"If you want to play handball this year," said player Rich Ryan, "this is your best option."

ALL YOU NEED ➤➤ 7

L
LYNGBLOMSTEN

**Healthcare,
Housing, & Services
for Older Adults
since 1906**



St. Paul

www.lyngblomsten.org • (651) 646-2941 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

Life Enrichment Centers • Senior Housing
with Services • Rehab & Transitional Care •
Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Care • Long-term
Nursing Care • Caregiver Support



Have a plan for the ones
you leave behind.

Ferdinand F. Peters Law Firm handles large and small estates, including wills, family trusts, family wealth LLCs (limited liability companies), inheritance dispute resolutions, and all your estate planning solutions.

Make sure your family's future is safe today.
Call 651.647.6250 or find us online at ferdlaw.com

FEELING LONELY?

Isolation in Seniors is high this year as we all try to stay home & physically distance. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota can match you with a Companion who can provide once a week phone visits and no contact grocery & medication delivery.

If you or someone you love would benefit from this service or would like to serve
Call Jacqueline James
at 651-310-9455 or email
jacqueline.james@lssmn.org

AmeriCorps

Summer Camp Guide

BUILD BUSINESS • ADS DUE FEB. 1
Tasha@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 612-345-9998
Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 651-917-4183

Saving a Life from a potential catastrophe
EVERY 10 MINUTES

*I live
alone*

*but I'm
never alone.*

*I have
Life Alert®.*



One press of a button
sends help fast, 24/7, for:

medical • fall • fire • invasion
• CO gas emergencies
even when you can't reach a phone.

Life Alert® No landline? No problem!

For a FREE brochure call:
1-855-848-9920

**Need Help Getting
Social Security
Disability Benefits?
We Can Help!**



**FIGHTING FOR YOUR
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS
FOR OVER 25 YEARS!**

You Could Be Eligible To Receive:



Steady monthly income
depending on your
paid in amount



A lump sum payment of
benefits owed
from back-pay



Annual cost of
living increases

- We simplify the process & strive for quick claim approval
- Starting the process is easy and takes only minutes to complete

**BILL GORDON
& ASSOCIATES**

866-460-1746

Helping thousands get the benefits they deserve

Bill Gordon & Associates, a nationwide practice, represents clients before the Social Security Administration. Member of the TX & NM Bar Associations. Mail: 1420 NW St Washington D.C. Office: Broward County Florida. Services may be provided by associated attorneys licensed in other states.

**WHAT'S
OPEN**

**Get your
word out
for free**

Change your
listing any time

Sign up on our website today!

Monitor
Midway • Como • Fogtown

What's Open is a free public service
available to all businesses.

We'll publish your info on our website so
your customers know how and when they
can do business with you.

**And the basic listing is absolutely
free.** All you do is fill out a simple form.

Want to stand out? Premium listings offer
more details, including downloadable
menus, extended contact info and
premium display. You can offer deals.
We can also publish your info in our print
editions.

www.MonitorSaintPaul.com



"It's a welcoming group," said Steve Tamminga of the Minnesota Handball Association. Anyone is welcome to join the game at Clayland Park. (Photo submitted)

ALL YOU NEED

>> from 6

Jack LaVeille is kind of a renaissance man. He has taught school, raised hogs, worked with nuclear energy – and now is a court mediator. He learned to play with his father some 50 years ago when he was 17.

LaVeille, Golden Valley, says handball is to racket ball as chess is to checkers. Handball is a refinement of the game, he believes.

Handball leaves out the racket; players hit the ball with their hands. Most play with a somewhat soft ball, but some play with a smaller, hard ball and it takes awhile to get hands calloused enough to play comfortably.

Neighborhood residents were at first puzzled and a little leery of the wall, but the players take care to leave room for neighbors to park around Clayland and they maintain good sportsmanship and relatively quiet play.

There have been other courts

"It's a lifetime sport."

~ Rich Ryan

at Phalen and in Richfield but they have deteriorated. The Clayland wall is poured concrete.

New York has many one-wall handball courts and there are courts at Iowa University in Ames as well as in Fargo, N.D., Springfield, Mo., Portland and Seattle.

"It's a lifetime sport," according to Ryan. Tournaments have age brackets ranging from under 15 to 80.

"It's a path to resilience," he added.

The game goes back to 17th century England when Oliver Cromwell served as Lord Protector, known for ethnic cleansing activities in Ireland. Cromwell's strict rule outlawed many sports so the Irish developed a quickly hidden and dispersed game called "alley cracker" in which a small ball was batted by hand against an outdoor wall, explains Rich Ryan.

The game's ideals focus on

Hand, Heart and Head because the skill involves all three, Ryan said.

The tournament held recently at Clayland Park, sponsored by the Hamline-Midway Handball Club, the Midway Men's Club and the Hamline-Midway Coalition brought some nationally-ranked players to the little park.

Dave Schiller, who learned to play in the Stillwater prison, organized the tournament. He was a finalist in the play, but was defeated by tournament champion Dave Velez of New York.

Sean Lenning of Seattle came to Clayland for the tournament. He has been playing for 19 years — since he was 16. He finds handball players to be "independent minded people," and he enjoys playing outdoors.

Lee Engele of St. Paul has earned national status. She says her sister, Anna, was a better player, earning world titles, before she retired. But Lee has many titles to her credit.

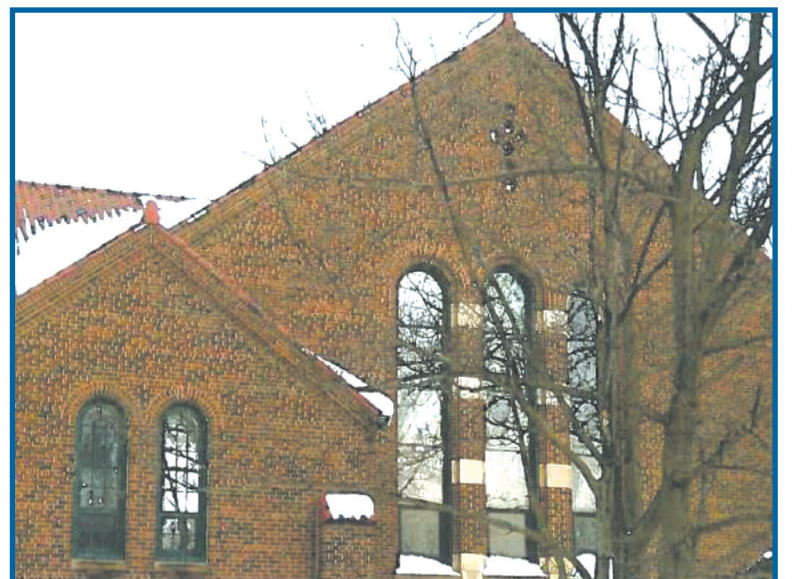
Several of the players said they learned to play from their fathers, and they have good memories of father-son times.

Virtual Open House

Join us on Facebook Live
January 5th at 7:00PM
to learn more about
Kindergarten at
Highland Catholic School

Kindergarten students who
enroll by January 31st receive a
\$150 tuition credit

Learn more at
<http://highlandcatholic.org>



Church of St. Andrew 1927- 2019

Photo by Michael Connolly

$\$ + = \$ + = \% + = \$ + = \% + = \$ + = \$$

DO THE MATH!

It costs **50¢ /piece** to mail a promotional flyer to local residents letting them know about your business, organization or upcoming event. *That does not include design, production, and printing charges.*

For only **6¢/piece** you can have a **4-color** flyer
PRINTED AND DELIVERED
with the **Monitor!**

Contact Denis Woulfe for details
Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
(651) 917-4183

Monitor
Midway • Como • Frogtown



Share Gratitude 2020

We all have reasons to be thankful.

2020 has been a challenging year. Through it all, we have learned about our ability to persevere and keep faith and hope alive – and to find that undeniable attitude of **GRATITUDE**.

Take a moment and share what you're grateful for – health, family, friends, pets or anything else – by using the power of social and local media.

Join the Gratitude Movement!

Tell your friends and family what you're grateful for this holiday season. Post your message on our social media pages using #sharegratitude2020.

Take Your Message National!

Share your message with people across the country and around the world on the ShareGratitude2020 website. Visit ShareGratitude2020.com to post your message and share on social media!

America's
Newspapers

SachsMEDIA
THE BREAKTHROUGH AGENCY.

Creative Enterprise Zone hires new executive director

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Angela Casselton was recently named executive director of the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ), a non-profit organization that attracts and supports creatives of all kinds to "make it here."

Where exactly is here? The CEZ sits squarely between the University of Minnesota and the Midway along University Ave. It's a district that fosters creativity and innovation, equity and environmental health. It has also been the fastest growing neighborhood in St. Paul for five years.

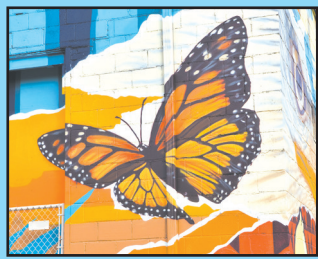
Building on the past

Casselton is keenly aware of the economic challenge brought on by the pandemic, but remains hopeful as she starts her new job. She said, "I've been involved with this organization for years in different capacities. It's important to remember that the CEZ was born during a time of great disruption, when Green Line construction tore up the length of University Ave."

She continued, "We know that our neighborhood is resilient. Even so, there will be changes because of pandemic-related business closures. How it looks now may be different from how it will look next year."

Most people know the CEZ for their work with the Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival in 2019, for which they have earned their moniker, "the mural people." A dozen murals were commissioned by artists from the Twin Cities and beyond two summers ago.

Casselton worked with CEZ founder, Catherine Reid Day, to gather neighborhood sponsors



THE ZONE

The Creative Enterprise Zone includes the area between:

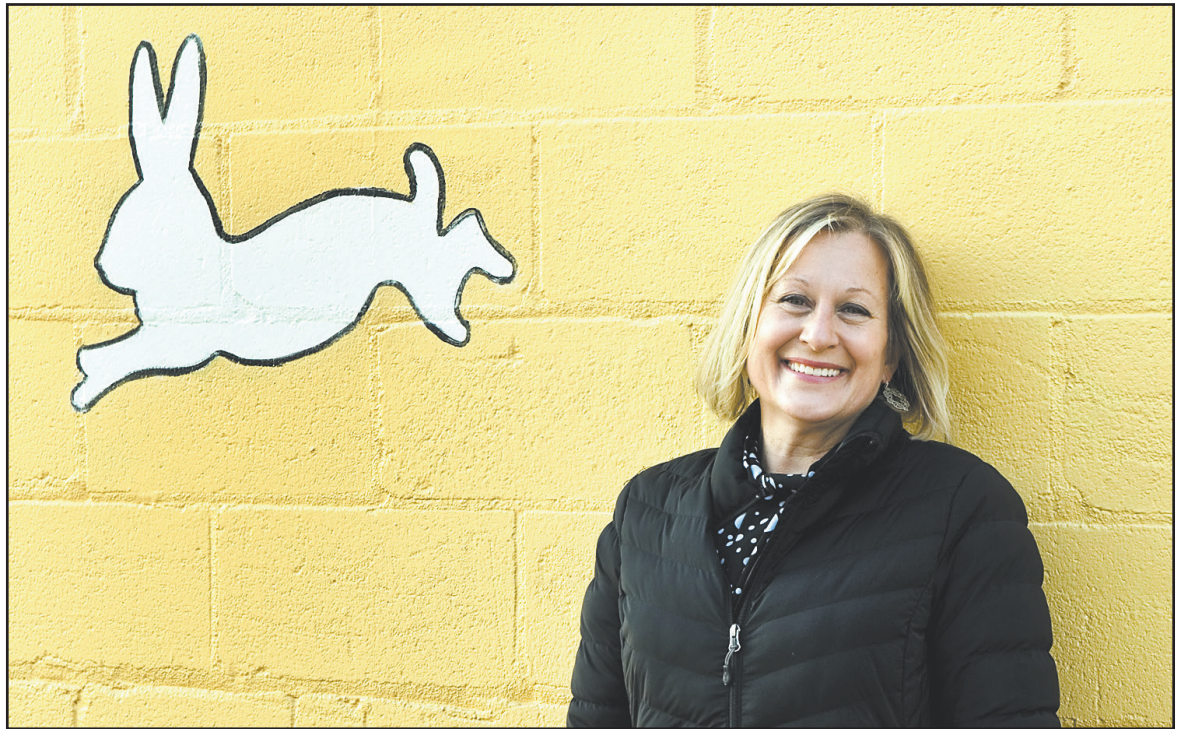
- Emerald Ave on the west
- Prior Ave on the east
- I-94 on the south and
- The railroad yards on the north

for that first-ever event in St. Paul. Casselton said, "I learned about so many businesses in the CEZ through those contacts, and was given an opportunity to help shape that first festival, too."

Her learned experience will be put to good use in 2021 when the festival returns. Due to the disruption caused by COVID-19, the 2020 Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival was cancelled and sponsors were released from their obligations. Nonetheless, with grant funding from the Knight Foundation and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the CEZ was still able to oversee the creation of six new murals last year.

Strengthening community connections

In addition to brightening the corridor with public art, CEZ staff and board members are working behind the scenes in other ways. Casselton said, "The



The Creative Enterprise Zone's new executive director Angela Casselton. The 18 murals that now grace the mostly industrial spaces of the CEZ are a great way to experience art, especially during the pandemic when museums are closed. View the map of where they are located on the CEZ website at www.creativeenterprisezone.org. (Photos by Margie O'Loughlin)

key to the success of the CEZ as an organization has been, and will continue to be, collaboration."

An example is the US Bank that used to operate at the corner of Raymond and University avenues. The property has been purchased by developer Kraus-Anderson, and will be replaced with a multi-story housing project.

The Kraus-Anderson development team met with a task force that included CEZ staff several times while they were designing that project. Casselton said, "They made a point of bringing us to the table. This kind of collaboration results in a neighborhood that is more cohesive and better functioning."

With the recent installation of Renee Spillum as board president, the CEZ board is prepared to move forward into the world of real estate negotiations.

Spillum is a senior project manager for Seward Redesign, a community development corporation that promotes the health, vitality and self-determination of the Seward neighborhood in Minneapolis. She holds a masters of public policy with a concentration in housing and community development from the Humphrey Institute, and has lived in the Midway area for 15 years.

One of the ideas up for consideration is forming a Community Investment Cooperative, modeled on the one being explored by the Hamline Midway Coalition (with technical assistance provided by CEZ consultant Erin Heelan.) That would give corridor residents a chance to buy into building ownership, preserving space for creative studios and shops.

Casselton said, "The definition of 'creative' includes artists

of all kinds, manufacturers, entrepreneurs with a creative focus, architects, designers, writers, and artisans. Our vision is rooted in the belief that creative work is both necessary and deeply satisfying. A growing number of people make a living through their creative talents. The more vibrant the mix of people and ideas here, the more desirable the CEZ will be to live and work in."

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the staff and volunteers of CEZ continue with their core operations: a monthly newsletter, social media communications, community-driven real-estate work and more.

Questions about the CEZ can be directed to executive director Angela Casselton at info@creativeenterprisezone.org. For newsletter sign-up, visit www.creativeenterprisezone.org.



HAMLIN HEADLINES

Happy holidays from Hamline University!

Give yourself the gift of new career opportunities with a Master of Public Administration from Hamline University.

Apply now to start our low-residency online program in January. Or plan ahead to start in-person evening classes in August. Either way, you'll get your degree in 2 years.

Take your public service to the next level at hamline.edu/MPA.

hamline.edu • facebook.com/hamline
twitter.com/HamlineU • HUNAC@hamline.edu

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY



COMO PARK LANGUAGE AND ARTS PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CENTER

1503 Hamline Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108

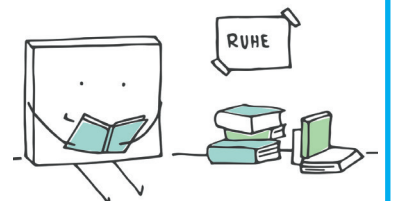
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION

We will begin accepting applications beginning on February 1st.
Please contact us via e-mail at cplapcc@gmail.com
Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all tours will be virtual.
*We currently have five openings available this school year for the 3 and 4 year old room.

1503 Hamline Ave North St. Paul, MN 55108
E-Mail: cplapcc@gmail.com Phone: 651-646-0310

School Guide

Coming in January.
Ads due Jan. 4.



CONTACT US TODAY!

Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 651-917-4183

'Mr. Rondo's Spirit: a story of a man and his community'

Author focuses on ordinary people doing extraordinary things who reached deep down and found courage

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

According to Rondo resident, educator, and artist Ericka Dennis, most children she meets don't know the real story of the historic Rondo neighborhood.

Dennis currently works as a Family Liaison at Barack Obama Elementary School in the Summit University neighborhood. Her job is to facilitate parent education and school programming, to connect families with resources, to mediate concerns, and to develop community connections.

She said, "While most of the students where I work, including Black children, could tell you there's a summer festival in the neighborhood called Rondo Days – they couldn't tell you what the celebration is about. They don't understand what was lost here back in the 1960s."

Old Rondo was once a thriving mix of African American churches, businesses, schools, and homes for more than 100 years. When construction of I-94 began in 1956, its path was drawn to cut right through the middle of the Rondo neighborhood, where approximately 90% of the St. Paul's Black population lived.

By the time the freeway opened in 1968, more than 600 family homes and businesses had been destroyed.

A story to raise awareness

Dennis said, "When kids drive down I-94 between Rice St. and Lexington Ave., they need to understand that Rondo's business district was right here, underneath where the pavement is now. The freeway cut through Rondo's main street, forcing neighborhood stores to close.



Ericka Dennis (pictured left), author of "Mr. Rondo's Spirit," with her son Zaine Dennis at the Rondo Commemorative Plaza at 820 Concordia (Old Rondo) Ave. and Fisk St. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

These miles of roads, built for fast transportation, pushed Black residents into mass migration."

A couple of years ago, Dennis learned of a project to teach children the truth about Old Rondo.

The project was launched by a collective of three St. Paul organizations: the publishing house In Black Ink, Rondo Avenue Inc., and the Minnesota Humanities Commission. Their vision was to start gathering and publishing little known stories of Old Rondo. Writers and artists with direct connections to the Rondo community were sought out, and Ericka Dennis was one of them.

Dennis had grown up in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood, graduated from Central High School, and gone on to work as a professional theatre artist on many local stages as an actor, playwright, and director.

She has been a resident of Rondo since 1995, and has deep roots in the community.

When asked to submit a book proposal on a Rondo theme, she procrastinated because, she said, "Honestly, I just didn't have the time. It also seemed unlikely that I'd get picked, since I'd never written a children's book before."

Dennis laid the request for proposals letter on her desk, and almost didn't submit it. At the last minute she did and, to her surprise, her book proposal was chosen from a stack of others for publication. It was time to add "children's book author" to her already long list of professional accomplishments.

Book character inspired by real lives

Dennis said, "I decided to make the central character a composite of many people's stories. I wanted the readers to feel something while they were learning. The destruction of Rondo is so personal, so much more than a telling of facts. Yes, there was a

lot of information to cover, but it had to be done in a way that was engaging. I chose a rhyme scheme for the story-telling voice, and aimed at fifth-sixth graders for my primary audience."

In "Mr. Rondo's Spirit: a story of a man and his community," the central character is Paul Rondo. He worked as a Pullman Porter for the railroad, and lived in the Rondo neighborhood before Interstate-94 was built. Mr. Rondo tells about his life in Rondo and how it changed over time. Through sheer will and faith, Mr. Rondo and his family found a way to keep the spirit and legacy of Old Rondo alive.

The book has been distributed widely through schools and the St. Paul Public Library by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

The Rondo Commemorative Plaza

Dennis is at work on a different story telling project these

IN BLACK INK

The mission of In Black Ink (IBI) is to create spaces where stories and voices of people of African heritage are celebrated, documented, and archived through publications, professional development trainings/opportunities, and public presentations. IBI fosters a strong culture of literacy via social enterprising and economic support of artists and professionals. The stories of people of African descent are treasured as the wealth their children will inherit, likewise local, national, and global communities. IBI is located at 938 Selby Avenue.

days. She explained, "The Rondo Commemorative Plaza is a public park at 820 Concordia (Old Rondo) Ave. and Fisk St. The exhibits there tell the history of the neighborhood, and were designed to rotate. I was commissioned to write a new panel called "Women in business in Rondo." I've finished with the writing, and the fabrication process has begun. Installation will be in 2021."

Interstate-94 is already more than 50 years old. Its construction took a mighty toll on Old Rondo, but at least the stories are getting told now. According to Dennis, "There is something of a Rondo Revival going on, and it is all about ordinary people doing extraordinary things."

'MR. RONDO'S' >> 11

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

CLOG-FREE GUTTERS OR YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEED!

BEFORE LeafFilter
AFTER LeafFilter

15% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE LEAFFILTER PURCHASE*
Exclusive Offer - Redeem By Phone Today!

ADDITIONALLY

10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

MADE IN THE USA

PLUS!

THE FIRST 50 CALLERS WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 5% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE INSTALL!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!*
*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-844-287-5614

Promo Code: 285
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 210221296 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

RAMSEY COUNTY

COMMUNITY CAREER LABS

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS
Dayton's Bluff, Rice Street, Rondo and Sun Ray libraries

SERVICES OFFERED
Computer access, job search assistance, and digital training for those impacted by COVID-19

CALL (651) 793-1699
OR VISIT sppl.org/career-labs

FROGTOWN

Chestnut trees planted in Frogtown garden

New hybrid brings hope against chestnut blight

By RENNIE GAITHER

The legendary chestnut tree, once dominant in the ancient forests from Connecticut to eastern China and Japan, stands firmly among the pantheon of classic American trees. This forest giant, nicknamed the bread tree, was a wildlife staple and generous source of timber, food and income for Americans during the 18th and 19th centuries.

However, a devastating fungus introduced from imported Japanese chestnuts had other plans.

The American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), capable of growing to a height of 80 to 100 feet and a diameter of nearly 10 feet, has endured an epic bumpy ride over the last century. And the tree has now dropped new roots in Frogtown.

The chestnut blight, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, first noticed in 1904 at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, whipped across the east and central midwestern states. An estimated 4 billion trees perished in just 25 years.

Today, most generally consider the American chestnut tree virtually extinct in the wild, despite occasional sightings of "living dead" stumps. Present-day orchardists continue to grow American chestnut trees commercially through careful copicing, or cutting the tree down to ground level, hoping for new shoots. Such commercial tree management can keep trees alive and growing for approximately 15 years before they succumb to blight.

Historically, the chestnut proved a bounteous stalwart. Consistent crops of wild American chestnuts once covered the forest floor of the Appalachian Mountains. Deer, raccoons, squirrels, opossums, skunks, chipmunks and other rodents foraged on this favored nut. There's a long history of livestock grazing on the nut. Chestnut leaves and flowers sourced food and nectar for over 100 species



Frogtown Green volunteers planted the chestnut seedlings around the perimeter of Frogtown Green's Our Village Community Garden at Pierce Butler and Milton avenues. (Photo submitted)

modification promises a path toward successful reintroduction of American chestnut trees with nearly 100% original genetic makeup.

This past October a donor gifted 14 chestnut tree seedlings to Frogtown Green, a 10-year-old, resident-led and volunteer-powered community organization.

The hybrid trees came from Badgersett Research Corporation in Canton, Minn. Badgersett describes them: "Our hybrids now contain American and Chinese species most frequently, with varying amounts of Japanese, European, and Seguin chestnut."

Frogtown Green volunteers, along with the grounds crew at Terrybear, Inc., planted the seedlings around the perimeter of Frogtown Green's Our Village Community Garden at Pierce Butler and Milton avenues. Volunteers subsequently enclosed the seedlings in 0.5-inch mesh hardware cloth for protection against rabbits and other mammals. Terrybear crew later added wood chips as a surface mulch.

It's hoped that these chestnuts will add needed diversity to Frogtown's tree canopy, along with a host of other benefits such as mitigation of climate change. If these trees are able to establish themselves and succeed through harsh Minnesota winters, they should bring some much-needed cheer in spring.

Discover more about Frogtown Green tree plantings: <https://tinyurl.com/y6s5ow2n>.

Learn about other Frogtown Green opportunities: frogtown-green.com.

GREENER IN 2020
What Frogtown Green Did This Year

We grew and gave away 73 fruit and shade trees to homeowners and renters.

We maintained 6,000 feet of pollinator gardens at our neighborhood park.

We kept 60 community garden beds open and growing food for families.

Want to know more?
frogtowngreen.com
651-757-5970



Reach our online readers with new ad options.
www.MonitorSaintPaul.com



Broken Window?
We fix them fast!
Windows
Screens
Insulated glass
and great
repair advice!

ACE

Kendall's
Ace Hardware & Paint

978 Dale St. N., 651-489-3210
840 Payne Ave., 651-776-6996
kendallshardware.com • kendalls@acehardware.com
The friendliest stores in town. Free popcorn!

NeighborWorks® HOME PARTNERS

One stop for all of your homeownership needs.

BUY	FIX	KEEP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare to buy a home • Improve your credit • Learn-to-buy workshops • Down payment programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable home improvement lending with flexible terms • MHFA Fix Up loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free and confidential foreclosure intervention counseling • Refinance counseling

Get started at nwhomepartners.org

NeighborWorks Home Partners
533 Dale Street N, Saint Paul MN 55103
651-292-8710 nwhomepartners.org

NMLS# 363923

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

FROGTOWN

I wish you hopeful, healing and prosperous shining 2021

*All shall be well,
And all shall be well,
And all manner of things
shall be well.*

~ Dame Julian of Norwich

Peace bubbles

By MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com



Season greetings, Monitor readers,

This has been the most strangest, weirdest, and craziest Leap Year I have experienced since 1984; instead of having national leadership in deep denial of HIV/AIDS, we currently have national leadership deep in non-accountability of COVID-19; instead of the Rainbow Coalition, we have Black Lives Matter; and instead of voting to keep the same status quo, this Leap Year we chose a different path forward and not voting to stay in denial or not being accountable to all people regardless of being blue, red, purple, or another color or culture.

Thank you to all first time voters and to our young and older courageous Social Justice Champions!

Today, I send us all a cheerful holiday message and good tidings of Hope, Wellness, Joy, Compassion, Abundance, Healing, and Gratefulness. I end this unbelievable year with Hope that All Will Be Well going into 2021. My hope is not pretending that everything thing is okay Behold Underlying Truth, believing that talking, working, playing, and dancing together (all colors and cultures) things and our way of being will be well. Yes, we still have months and months of challenging times

ahead; however, every day we are learning more and connecting dots. For instance, more and more people are calculating COVID-19 and the I Can't Breathe killing of George Floyd to understanding and acknowledging the link of climate change and Black Lives Matters to the negative historic impacts of remaining silent, following rules to receive benefits and privileges and allowing injustice to happen to First Nation, Black, Brown and Mixed People and to our environment.

Mother Earth and her children cannot breathe because of an outdated and out-of-control toxic system of man-isms and we are dying and have been senselessly dying for generations. Please, let us take some time during this season of light to breathe, ponder, and start/continue unpacking our outdated mental files and fear-based beliefs and act and behave as appreciative adult children to our green planet and all creatures, great and small.

We can start locally with supporting and standing with Red Lake and White Earth Nations'

common sense, rational, and wise demand to stop violating and destroying their and our nurturing sacred living space we call Earth/Minnesota! Pipeline workers can transition into clean and green Earth-workers. Let's learn the lessons of the past and stop breaking treaties and spreading diseases, in order to master the land and People of All Colors.

In short, in America/Minnesota when we start honoring, listening, and respecting indigenous wisdom and practices we will begin to eradicate man-made diseases and restore a healthiness that was before the arrival of the Mayflower.

Part of denial or keeping a dysfunctional status quo in place is saying "don't get political." This is not about politics; it's about living in a healthy, fair, and regenerative manner. We are the vaccination for COVID and we are the immunization for a better, just, healthy, and peaceful world. Our biggest challenge is ourselves.

I have hope that we can and will overcome our challenges and obstacles by working, struggling,

and celebrating together.

On behalf of all the great people and organizations I have the pleasure of daily struggling, working, playing, singing, dancing, and planning with, in particular, the Community Peace Builders (formerly the Peaceful Love Warriors), the Urban Farm & Garden Alliance (UFGA), Bethel University FSU Community Partnership, the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC), the UMN Place-Based Approach (PBA) Team, the Art of Food In Frog-town and Rondo, and my faith-based and community allies, I wish the *Monitor's* readership a blessed and compassionate ending of 2020 and a hopeful, healing, and prosperous shining 2021.

Be safe, be well, and be at peace. All is well and all shall be well.

May Peace Prevail Be In Rondo, Frogtown, & Hamline/Midway Communities

May Peace Be In Our Homes & Communities

May Peace Prevail On Earth (MPPOE)

'Mr. Rondo's Spirit'

>> from 9

Dennis considers herself one of those ordinary people. She said, "I have had to struggle with self-doubt, like most people, but I do have something to say – something to share."

She concluded, "In these times especially, I want people to believe in themselves. Children think that when someone does something notable, that person is somehow different from them. But they're not; they've just reached deep down in themselves and found some courage."

Author, actor, educator, activist, and mother Ericka Dennis (left), with her son Zaine Dennis, has been a resident of Rondo since 1995, and has deep roots in the community. She is also working on a new panel at the commemorative plaza called "Women in business in Rondo." Dennis said, "We must dare to speak the truth to power in our homes, in our work spaces, in our communities, and in our world." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Frog Food by Z Akhmetova



Flu and COVID-19 viruses are spreading this winter.
Protect yourself and others from the flu.

It is not too late to get your flu vaccine!

m DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

www.mdhflu.com

Pet Matters

Coming in February.
Ads due Feb. 1.



CONTACT US TODAY!

Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 612-345-9998

Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 651-917-4183

Serving Pre-K-12th graders in St. Paul Metro



St. Paul City School District

Looking for a small, supportive school community?

We're enrolling! Call 651-225-9177

or visit www.stpaulcityschool.org to learn more and schedule a tour.

St. Paul City Primary School
260 Edmund Ave., St. Paul

St. Paul City Middle School
643 Virginia St., St. Paul

River's Edge Academy High School
188 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul

- Free public charter school
- Small class sizes (25 or fewer)
- Full day pre-school and kindergarten
- Emphasis on community
- Environmental Ed / Experiential Learning programs
- Free school busing in St. Paul for Pre-K-8th grade / Free Metro Transit passes for 9th-12th grade
- Free breakfast & lunch available
- Special education services
- English language learning services
- School culture that emphasizes relationships, community building, leadership and character growth.

HAMLINE MIDWAY / COMO

We're making our list of best holiday decorations

The Como Community Council is looking for the best holiday decorations in the neighborhood. Here's how it works.

1. Now: Sign up your house or a neighbor's by filling out the form at www.district10comopark.org/holidays.html. Get us the entry before 8 a.m. on Monday Dec. 14. (Entries must be within District 10 – which is the parts of Saint Paul from roughly Larpen-teur on the north, Dale on the east, Pierce Butler on the south, and Aldine on the west.)

2. Beginning Dec. 15: We'll turn residents loose to choose their favorites. Check the Como Community Council's website and Facebook pages to find a map of all the nominated houses! Take a stroll or ride, and enjoy our community's creativity.

3. Dec. 15-30: Vote for the Neighbor's Choice Award (we'll link to the ballot from our web page when all nominations are in).

4. Thursday Dec. 31: We'll announce the neighborhood's favorites – who get bragging rights, celebratory cookies, fame, and more.

Recognition where it's due

Know someone who makes

District 10 Como Community Council

By **MICHAEL KUCHTA**,
Executive Director
district10@district10comopark.org



the Como Park area a better place to live, work or play? Nominate them for the District 10 Neighborhood Honor Roll. The Honor Roll pays tribute to everyday people who make a sustained and lasting impact in our neighborhood or the city.

Submit your nominations by email to: district10@district10comopark.org. Make sure we receive them no later than Thursday Jan. 14. Tell us who you are nominating and why. The Como Community Council board then selects three of your nominees at its January board meeting recognize for 2020.

Make a meal out of this

The Como Community Council, in partnership with the Sanneh Foundation, is distribut-



Thanks to the astounding generosity of Como residents, 150 seniors in the neighborhood and 50 homeless youth at Booth Brown House received freshly made Thanksgiving meals. Como residents donated more than \$2,300 to make it happen, and nearly 50 volunteers delivered the meals in person. Here, Joan McKernan picks up meals to deliver from Molly Fitzel, executive director of the North End-South Como Block Nurse Program, who helped the Como Community Council coordinate the effort. (Photo submitted)

ing free meal boxes on selected Friday afternoons for Ramsey County residents dealing with financial hardships because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The boxes hold ingredients and recipe suggestions for

two meals (6 servings each). The boxes contain locally sourced food, including lean proteins, whole grains, fresh produce, spices, and pantry staples.

Distribution will be on Fridays Dec. 11 and 18, beginning

at 1:30 p.m. Distribution will be in the north parking lot of Niem Phat Buddhist Temple, at Como and Front. The site is served by the 3A and 65 buses.

Reservations are highly recommended: Sign up at www.district10comopark.org/mealbox.html. Walk-up distribution will be available while supplies last.

Call or link into D10 meetings

Pandemic or not, renters, homeowners, and other community members are always welcome to participate in District 10's board and committee meetings. You can join either by video conference or by phone.

To obtain links, phone numbers, or other access information, send a request by email to district10@district10comopark.org. Or, call 651-644-3889. Upcoming meetings:

- Board meeting: Tuesday Dec. 15.
- Neighborhood Relations: Tuesday Jan. 5
- Land Use: Wednesday Jan. 6
- Environment: Wednesday Jan. 12

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Whenever possible, agendas and other relevant documents are posted in advance in the "Board News" section of District 10's website: www.district10comopark.org

Teens serve as election judges

During the intensity of the 2020 General Election, many Como students took it upon themselves to participate in our democracy. Very few high school students are eligible voters, the exception being a handful who turn 18 early in their senior year.

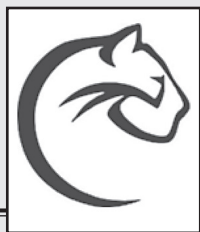
However, 10 current Como seniors became Ramsey County student election judges and served alongside veteran judges at precincts across St. Paul on Nov. 3. Online training programs prior to election day prepared the students for a 15-hour shift in which they helped carry out tasks needed to ensure fair and legitimate elections.

Senior Fiona Hatch, who worked at North Dale Rec Center, shared that the experience has been valuable in connecting her, and those like her, to the democratic process.

"I think that young people – especially those who have not yet had the chance to vote in an election – can really benefit (by serving as an election judge) be-

Como Park Senior High School

By **ERIC ERICKSON**
Social studies teacher



cause it makes politics and current events feel real," Hatch said.

"I found that while serving, I've been so much more invested in keeping up with our country's policies and affairs because of my time as an election judge".

Several Como alumni who were election judges in 2019's off-year elections and 2020's presidential primary also returned to duty at St. Paul precincts.

Two members from Como's class of 2020 continued internships with the St. Paul League of Women Voters (LWVSP) that



Como seniors Kalid Ali (left) and Nag Poe have taken an active role in promoting political participation as interns with the League of Women Voters. (Photos submitted by Eric Erickson)



Two seniors in Como's class of 2021 also began internships with the LWVSP doing census outreach last summer. Nag Poe and Kalid Ali produced materials in Karen and Oromo to distribute within their respective communities. In September, they made presentations about political participation to senior U.S. Government classes at Como via Google Meets.

"I want my community represented," Ali said. "Since I couldn't vote this year I felt like registering others to vote was another way I could participate in our democratic system."

Conference title

The Cougars football team wrapped up the St. Paul City Conference Championship before all Minnesota State High School League activities were put on pause. Como finished 4-0 in the abbreviated season, making memories during the challenges of the pandemic which will last a lifetime. It was the first conference title for the football team since 2009.

{ Monitor in a Minute }

By **JANE MCCLURE**

Hamline Park playground funds

New playground equipment for Hamline Park is getting a boost in the form of a grant. On Nov. 18, 2020, the St. Paul City Council authorized the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept a grant of \$79,122.36 to reduce the cost of play equipment for the park at 1564 Lafond Ave.

The park was chosen for an update using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars, based on a ranking done regularly by parks staff. Staff look at issues including condition of current equipment and neighborhood need. The project went through the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget process.

Minnesota-Wisconsin Playground was recently selected by parks staff to provide the new playground equipment valued at \$237,933.64. The firm is a Minnesota company and an industry leader in supplying and installing new play equipment products and components that include best-selling play structures and components nationwide.

The project is getting help from the playground equipment company GameTime. GameTime has a grant program which will reduce the cost of the equipment. City Council action is required to accept the grant.

Energy study on tap for Como

A geothermal feasibility study of the Como Zoo/Conservatory

Campus has obtained an \$8,114 from the city's Energy Conservation Loan Fund. The St. Paul City Council approved the allocation, which will cover the city's 25 percent share of the study costs.

The remaining costs of \$24,342 will be covered by Xcel Energy. A local company, Darcy Solutions, is also involved in the study.

The intent is to find a replacement for an old steam boiler system at the conservatory and zoo. The city is trying to reach a goal of carbon neutrality in municipal buildings during the next decade. Geothermal systems use groundwater to heat and cool buildings. They are preferred not just for long-term cost savings but also for reduction of carbon emissions.

The study is expected to be completed next year and should inform city leaders as to issues including which aquifer to use and

how a system would be set up. The city will then look for ways to pay for a new system.

The Energy Conservation Loan Fund was established by the mayor and City Council in the 2008 city budget as a means of financing energy projects that support sustainable economic, social and environmental development through the implementation of energy efficient and renewable energy measures.

Business among honorees

A pandemic cannot keep St. Paul city leaders from honoring small businesses. The St. Paul City Council in November presented its annual St. Paul Business Awards.

Businesses are nominated by the public and chosen by a committee of past award winners. Businesses are typically honored in person, with awards and a reception,

but that couldn't happen this year. A video tribute was prepared for the businesses.

Council members said it's especially important to honor businesspeople during what has been a very challenging time.

Flannery Construction, which is located in Snelling-Hamline neighborhood at 1375 St. Anthony Ave., was given the Good Neighbor Award. This award is for business that has shown dedication to improving the community, and working with community partners. Flannery is a second-generation business, getting its start in 1980.

Other businesses honored are Candyland in downtown St. Paul, West End business Jandrich Floral and the East Side's Karibu Grocery & Deli. Businesses are honored as newcomers, longtime community establishments and in a people's choice award.

Mapping Prejudice brings light to history's structural racism that impacts today's community

BUILDING UPON OTHER WORK

Mapping Prejudice is based in the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota. In 2016, the founding members of the project team joined forces to create the first-ever comprehensive visualization of racial covenants for an American city.

Mapping Prejudice was inspired by groundbreaking work in Seattle and Virginia that show how digital tools can illuminate structural racism and transform our understanding of the past.

Segregated Seattle was the brainchild of the Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project at the University of Washington, which assembled a database of racial covenants that has become an important resource for historians, legal researchers and activists trying to understand how ideas about race shaped real estate law and housing policy.

Mapping Inequality was conceived by the University of Richmond's Digital Lab, which digitized New Deal redlining maps to illuminate how federal policy makers "used racial criteria to categorize lending and insurance risks." Historians have long understood the importance of redlining. Yet by using digital mapping software to organize, analyze and display historic data about this practice, this project retold the story in way that made it accessible for a popular audience.

4. That no building shall be left with paper exposure or with the exterior incomplete.
5. That the said land or buildings thereon shall never be rented, leased or sold, transferred or conveyed to, nor shall same be occupied exclusively by person or persons other than of the Caucasian Race.
6. The forgoing covenant and restriction shall run with the land and shall bind the grantee herein and the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of said grantee until the first day of January A.D. Nineteen hundred and Forty.

>> from 1

The exhibit aims to counter the idea of Minneapolis as a "model metropolis" so that as a city, it can begin to recognize its past. More about her exhibit can be found at dpike.dash.umn.edu/owningup.

"While we make no policy proposals, we hope that the exhibit encourages visitors to think critically about their neighborhoods and the future of the city of Minneapolis," Pike said.

She co-curated the exhibit along with Kacie Lucchini Butcher after their first year in the Heritage Studies and Public History Master's program at the University of Minnesota. They worked closely together with Mapping Prejudice. Their goal is to create a visible representation of the systematic racism that's happening.

According to Pike, Minnesota is ranked highest in racial disparities and residential segregation in a predominantly White area. She believes that these covenants aren't just things of the past, but that they impact the community today and will in the future, as well.

"It puts into perspective just how wide-spread and destructive racially-discriminatory policies were to communities of color. In

order to make reparations in the present day, we must fully understand the damages we are dealing with," Pike said.

'White public doesn't realize full extent of disparities'

Areas that had racial covenants placed on property are still some of the most predominately White areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The areas that people of color were allowed to live in are still areas with the highest population of color. Despite racial housing discrimination being illegal for over 50 years, there are still long lasting patterns of segregation. Notable is the gap in homeownership rates. While 78 percent of white families own homes in the Twin Cities, only 25 percent of African-American families have title to their dwelling.

"Minneapolis and the Twin Cities see themselves as very progressive places but, I think that a large portion of the White public don't realize the full extent of racial disparities here," Pike said.

She also believes that the segregation of housing, in part, has to do with the current Uprising. Mapping Prejudice is for the purpose of giving people a deeper understanding of how ingrained structural racism is in

Minneapolis. It is a tool to connect the dots between housing, policing, health and school disparities among others.

"I think the Uprising we are seeing locally is due in part to initiatives like Mapping Prejudice, which builds on the work of anti-racist activism," Pike said, "Communities of color have known and lived this history and have been fighting back against structural racism all along, I think where this data has had the most impact, is in White residents."

During her time with Mapping Prejudice, Pike said she has learned a lot. Through this, she has been able to have many conversations with community members. She and her co-curator met with educators, students, historians, politicians and real estate agents. They had personal discussions about how the exhibit and racial disparities in housing have impacted them. But, Pike thinks that more can be done. She hopes to encourage an ongoing conversation, like the ones she had around her exhibit, on local and present day structural racism.

"As a public historian I want to make those connections between past and present so that we can move forward towards a more equitable future," Pike said.

What are covenants?

During the twentieth century, racially-restrictive deeds were a ubiquitous part of real estate transactions. Covenants were embedded in property deeds all over the country to keep people who were not White from buying or even occupying land. In Minneapolis, the first racially-restrictive deed appeared in 1910, when Henry and Leonora Scott sold a property on 35th Avenue South to Nels Anderson. Covenants remained commonplace in much of the nation until 1968, when the Fair Housing Act made them explicitly illegal.

Why covenants matter

Covenants divided cities by race. These residential segregation patterns persist today. And this physical segregation undergirds contemporary racial disparities. Covenants did more than steer people to certain neighborhoods. They also determined who could buy property.

Today Minneapolis has the lowest African-American homeownership rate in the country. And since most families amass wealth through property ownership, this homeownership gap continues to feed the contemporary racial wealth gap. Wealth is built through generations, with one generation passing resources to another. Thanks in part to the racial biases that have been baked into the real estate market over the last century, the average White household in the United States has 10 times as much wealth as the average Black household.

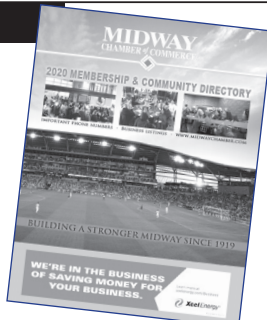
The racial wealth gap makes it hard to erode residential segregation. And it contributes in every way to the racial disparities in education, health outcomes and employment facing our community today.

From mappingprejudice.umn.edu

CELEBRATE 102 YEARS OF CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

2021 Midway Chamber DIRECTORY

Monitor
Midway • Como • Foghorn



Let your customers know you're building a stronger Midway

And support the Midway Chamber of Commerce while you're at it.

✧ Ad Space Reservation: Feb. 1, 2021 ✧ Distribution: April 15, 2021

For advertising information, contact your sales rep: Denis Woulfe • Denis@monitorsaintpaul.com • (651) 917-4183
Tessa Christensen • Tessa@monitorsaintpaul.com • (612) 345-9998



THE LEARNING GARDEN

Nurturing Young Minds

High-quality care and education
Ages 6 weeks to 12 years

- Open 6 am to 6 pm year-round
- Diapers and wipes provided for infants and toddlers
- All meals included in tuition and there are no activity, field trip or curriculum fees
- Saint Paul Public Schools Early Childhood Partner
 - Parent Aware star rated
 - Highly trained teachers

www.thelearninggarden.us

COMO LOCATION

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool
670 W. Wheelock Pkwy.
(651) 489-8186

HAMLIN LOCATION

Toddlers, Preschool, School Age
1514 Englewood Ave.
(651) 645-1225

No enrollment fee if you mention this ad. Save \$100.



defining you
PILATES & FITNESS

Virtual Special!

Looking for a supportive fitness community? Try our 1-Month Unlimited Virtual membership for...

\$49

Regularly \$69, our Intro Group Class Package includes online Group Fitness: HIIT, Yoga, Barre, Strength, Equipment Cardio & Mat Pilates and 30-day access to our amazing Zoom library of recorded classes!

Visit us at
DefiningYouFitness.com
and scroll to our Shop Small Offers!
Use code VIRTUALINTRO

Contact us at
651-769-5712 or
definingyoufitnessdesk@gmail.com

*Introductory Offer expires 1 month from purchase. Can be purchased as a gift, or for those who have never tried DVF's monthly membership offer. Good through 12.31.20.

www.DefiningYouFitness.com

HEALTH & WELLNESS



ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION ON ALL THINGS....

that make up wellness in our minds, bodies and spirits – coming in the January 2021 edition.
Deadline Jan. 4.

CONTACT US TODAY!

Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com | 651-917-4183
Tessa@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com | 612-345-9998

Marketplace

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Jan. 4 for the Jan. 14 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Place your ad via our new web site at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Monitor Classifieds*, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@monitorsaintpaul.com, or call 651-917-4183. You can also place the ad via our website.

ATTORNEY

Creative Solutions with a Personal Touch. Legal Services in the areas of: Small Business, Wills and Trusts, Probate, Real Estate, and Family. Kirsten Libby, 855 Rice Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN, 651-487-1208. www.libby-lawoffice.com. B-20

AUTO STORAGE

Secured auto and boat storage near Snelling and University. Short term or long term. Heated and unheated available. 570 Asbury Street. 651-641-0166. hamlineparkstorage.com. 12-20

CRISIS HOTLINE

Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a dangerous relationship or needs to create a safety plan. B-20

GET BUSY. GET A CLASSIFIED.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Best buy ever! Stucco, 3 BR, gar., \$149,900. Contract for deed. 651-488-0561. DeLisle Co.

OFFICE SPACE

Quiet, professional office space with free, attached parking. Single offices up to 10,000 sf. Building information available at hamlinepp.com. Contact Eric with Colliers at 952-837-3087.

12-20

EMPLOYMENT

Virtual Connections with LSS Companion Services

Trusted support. Ongoing, friendly phone or video visits with a trained companion can help in this time of social distancing.

Volunteer opportunities

- Make a difference from home via phone or video chat by providing companionship.
- Support kids who have fallen behind next school year – in person or virtually.
- Earn a stipend, plus mileage. Virtual training is provided.

To learn more contact Jacqueline James 651.310.9455 OR Jacqueline.James@lssmn.org



HOME MATTERS

STUMP GRINDING

612-724-6045

Merriam Park Painting

- Exterior & Interior Painting - Enameling
- Ceiling Texturing
- Wallpapering
- Free Estimates



Call Ed 651-224-3660



40 Years of Professional Service
Owner/Operator
Cleve Volk
Licensed & Insured
1849 E. 38th St.
South Mpls.

We accept
612-724-6045

Tree trimming • Tree removal
Stump grinding • Chipping
www.atreeservices.com



A-1 VACUUM

- Sales, Service & Supplies
- Free Estimates
- Bags, Belts & Filters
- Trade-Ins Welcomed
- Dyson, Miele & Riccar etc.

2575 Fairview Ave. N. | Roseville, MN
651-222-6316

9-5 Mon & Fri | 9-6 Tues-Wed-Thurs | 10-2 Sat

www.A-1Vacuum.com

YOU'RE
NOT ALONE.



domestic abuse project

D A P

First Call for help
612.874.7063



Young people help at Midway YMCA tree lot

Again Gary Ales and the Friendship Club turn out to help the Midway YMCA Men's Club unload Christmas trees to help raise money for the Y programs. Over 50 people showed up the make hard work easy.

The 50 people came from seven high schools (Central, Humboldt, OWL, St. Paul Academy, Visitation, St. Thomas Academy, Eagan High School and four colleges (Concordia Women hockey team, St. Kate, St. Paul College, and Inver Hills Community college). Gary said that Nikki Schilling started coming out 15 years ago as a ninth grader at Humboldt High School and now she is a fifth grade supervisor at Bruce Vento School.

When Joseph Lallier (senior at Eagan High School) was asked why he had been doing this for the past four years, he said that beside being fun it was a way a young person could give back to his community. Dave Dominick, the director of the Midway YMCA, was so thankful to all the persons that turned out to help unload the Christmas trees this year.



"Leadership in our community comes by being servants to others. To finding a need and filling it, by taking your gifts and sharing them with others, taking what you have plenty of and giving to others. By being active in your community and demanding the best from everyone," observed Mitchell Lallier. "What a fun way to start the season by giving to others."

Someone brought bell necklaces and wrist bells to ring as they worked. A group broke out singing Jingle Bells and everyone joined in.

In Brief

Recycle broken holiday lights

Got any broken strings of lights this holiday season? Don't throw them away – recycle them! Saint Paul Public Library locations will be collecting holiday lights for recycling through Jan. 22, 2021. Look for the "Holiday Light Recycling" bin at your local library. Visit stpaul.gov/recyclingholidaylights to find a drop-off location.

Accepted items: Holiday lights, electric cords, telephone cords.

Prohibited items: Cord adaptors, battery packs, plastic rope lights, CFL lights.

Rep. Rena Moran honored

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) presented St. Paul Rep. Rena Moran (District 65A) with a Legislator of the Year Award at its annual conference, held online on Nov. 14. The award recognizes a legislator who has been an outspoken advocate for children and adults with mental ill-

ness and their families.

NAMI's board president Carrie Borchard said, "Representative Moran has focused much of her energies on ensuring that children receive the support they need to succeed. This has led to her authoring bills to support trauma informed schools, changing child protection laws, promoting early and effective childcare, and funding culturally competent mental health care. She has also worked on police reform, and expunging eviction records so they don't become a permanent barrier to housing."

"NAMI greatly appreciates her advocacy on children's mental health and wellbeing and her work to make our mental health system more accessible and culturally competent," she said.



**Affordable
Easy
Still popular**

Just \$1/word

Email or mail your listing today



Marketplace

Faith Matters Pets Matter
Health Matters Home Matters
Jobs Matter Money Matters

Pick your category or let us. Be sure to include contact information and how long you'd like to run.

denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
5139 34th Ave. S. #17097
Minneapolis, MN 55417
651-917-4183

>>IT MATTERS/MARKETPLACE AD FORM<<

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Ad text 10 words for \$10 _____

(\$1 each additional word) _____

IDEAS: Thank a teacher. Recognize a neighbor. Promote your side hustle.
Make checks payable to TMC Publications.

ATTENTION BIG & SMALL BUSINESSES

Get word out for free about opening, fundraisers Change your listing any time

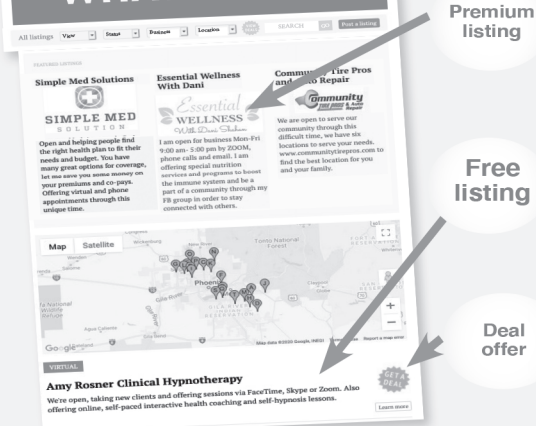
You're working hard to keep your business going. But your customers may not know that. We can help. What's Open is a free public service available to all businesses. We'll publish your info on our website so your customers know that you're still working hard. And the basic listing is absolutely free. All you do is fill out a simple form.

Want to stand out from the crowd? • Premium listings offer more details, including downloadable menus, extended contact info and premium display
• You can offer deals that we'll promote • We can also publish your info in our print editions

Sign up on our website: www.MonitorSaintPaul.com



WHAT'S OPEN



Premium listing

Free listing

Deal offer

Trash fees increasing

>> from 1

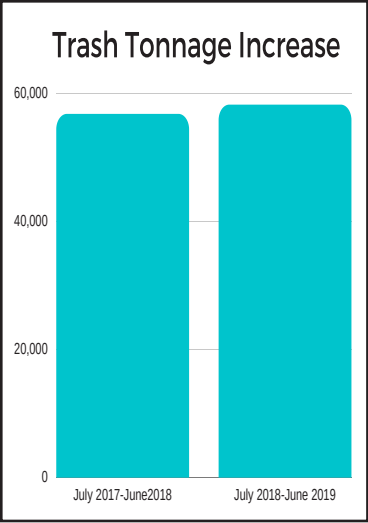
Summit Hill resident and landlord Alisa Lein expressed frustration that despite promises by the city council to improve the system, nothing has changed. “Our supposedly protected tenants are still forced to pay garbage overcharges mandated by the city’s no-sharing and no opt-out policy,” she said.

Lein is asking that more be done to let multi-unit building share fewer carts or have a dumpster. Buildings are required to have one cart per dwelling unit. She’s also asking that multi-family buildings not have to pay the city charges and pay on their own.

“My family alone currently has 16 mandated trash carts collecting dust in basements. Sixteen carts ready to be used versus making more. We are not the only property owners storing, and paying for, unused carts.”

Ward Seven Council Member Jane Prince agreed that the council needs to look at the issues raised by Lein and other multi-family property owners. But that will have to wait until the city and haulers’ consortium can renegotiate the contract.

Others said any increase is too much or asked the city to do more to acknowledge those who work to live zero-waste lifestyles through recycling, composting and making purchases that generate less trash.



The trash charges have to be set by ordinance, using a formula that factors in fuel prices, the Consumer Price Index, taxes, tonnage collection history and the tipping fees at the Ramsey/Washington counties’ facility in Newport. The tipping fee for 2021 will be \$84 per ton, up \$2 from the 2020 charge.

The tonnage increase is based on program history, from June 2018 to July 2019, during which 58,214.15 tons of trash were collected. That’s an increase of 1,445.48 tons over the period July 2017 to June 2018. City staff expect the next reporting period to see a significant increase as more people have stayed home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City staff worked with a consortium of trash haulers, using the formula, to set the fees. There is one less hauler in the group, as

the company Advanced Disposal was recently purchased by Waste Management.

Three sizes of carts and four collection options will still be available in 2021. Small carts, which are collected every other week or weekly, hold 35 gallons. Medium carts hold 64 gallons and large carts hold 96 gallons.

For a small cart collected every other week, the 2020 quarterly rate is \$57.60. The proposed 2021 quarterly rate is \$59.23, or a \$1.63 increase. The annual increase is \$6.51. There are 5,074 small carts collected every other week citywide.

For a small cart collected weekly, the 2020 quarterly rate is \$67.29. That increases to \$69.04 in 2021, for a quarterly increase of \$1.75. The annual increase is \$6.99. There are 17,584 small weekly carts collected citywide.

For a medium cart collected weekly the 2020 quarterly fee is \$93.09. That increases to \$94.87 in 2021, for a quarterly increase of \$1.78. The annual increase is \$7.11. There are 29,147 medium carts citywide.

For a large cart collected weekly the 2020 quarterly fee is \$99.45. That increases to \$101.23, for a quarterly increase of \$1.78. The annual increase is \$7.11.

All rates include state and county taxes, which don’t show up on the bills but are paid separately.

The 2021 rates are still slightly lower than what was charged for 2018-2019.



Kids learn about saving and spending money at credit union

SPIRE Credit Union has received both the Adult and Youth Desjardins Awards, recognizing outstanding financial education efforts from the Minnesota Credit Union Network (MnCUN) and Credit Union National Association (CUNA). SPIRE’s Building Financial Freedom program was developed in in 2007, and since its inception has reached 13,600 adults and youth over 1,700 classroom hours. In 2019, 843 youth were educated over 35 events in the areas of fraud, auto buying, budgeting, housing options, credit management and more. (Photo submitted)

There is still free walk-up service for people who cannot move their carts to the alley or street curb. Service holds will continue to be offered for people who are gone for four or more weeks.

The organized collection program will also continue to offer collection of two to three bulky items as part of the property owner’s base rate. Yard waste collection can be handled for an

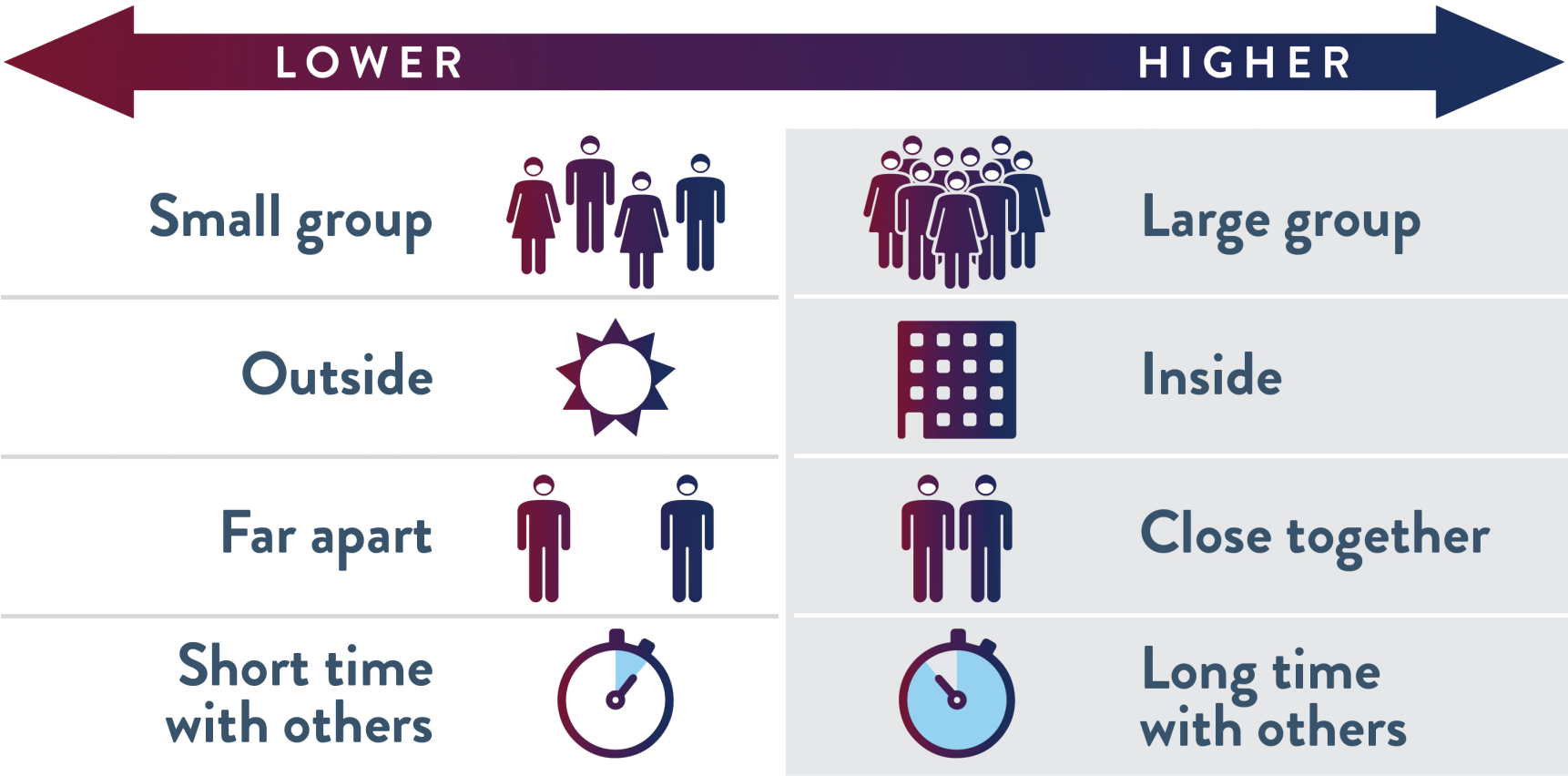
extra charge of \$41.20 per season. That charge doesn’t change from 2020.

Nor will additional service fees change from 2020 to 2021. These include charges for cart size changes, off-day service pickups, additional bulky items, yard waste bags without an annual yard waste subscription, and additional garbage bags placed outside of a cart.

Have you checked us out online lately? www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

LOWER YOUR RISK OF COVID-19

Wear a mask in public spaces, wash your hands, and stay 6 feet away from others.



m MINNESOTA | STAY SAFE MN

Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000 | Contact.health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format. 8/12/2020

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION 94.1FM www.WFNU.org STREAMING ONLINE

REBUILD REPAIR RECYCLE



Astrophotographer Mike Shaw uses a sturdy tripod for his night photography, and a wide-angle lens to capture the full dome of sky overhead. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

IN SEARCH OF DARK SKIES



"Comets are amazing night sky objects to observe. They are relatively rare, and absolutely striking. Comet Neowise, pictured here, was the brightest comet seen from Earth in the last 20 years." At right, photo of Aurora Borealis. (Photos submitted by Mike Shaw)

Photographer Mike Shaw on exhibit at the Bell Museum soon



By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Between the months of March-September on a clear, moonless night, it's easy to find astrophotographer Mike Shaw. He will be in his car heading north.

In August 2019, he was doing just that. Pulling in to the last parking lot on the Gunflint Trail near midnight, he was disappointed to see what appeared to be wisps of fog in the sky over Gull Lake. Shaw set up his tripod and camera anyhow – and his disappointment turned to joy.

Through the camera, the grey wisps weren't fog after all but bright green, shimmering shafts of light. The Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, had come earlier than predicted. It was, Shaw remembered, "a phenomenal night."

Shaw is one of four artists-in-residence currently working with the Bell Museum of Natural History. During his residency, he spent 50 nights under the stars all across Minnesota. The photographer, author, and workshop leader captured night sky images in locations both iconic and unknown.

His photo exhibit of Minnesota's treasured night skies was scheduled to open Nov. 25, 2020 at the Bell Museum, but has been postponed until further notice. Museums across the state are closed until at least Dec. 18, in an attempt to quell the spread of COVID-19.

Formerly a Ph.D. research scientist and a tenured college professor, Shaw combines a deep understanding of science with his

passion for astrophotography. The images he made for the Bell Museum exhibit will help viewers experience Minnesota's night skies at varying levels of darkness: comparing the effects of light pollution in different parts of the state and its effects on being able to view the Milky Way.

Bad news, good news

According to Shaw, "Minnesota has some of the darkest night skies on the planet but even here, it can be hard to find a naturally dark night sky. Light pollution is the term used to describe the spread of scattered light from streetlights, buildings, and vehicles – and it's spreading globally at a rate of about 2% per year. The night sky is a valuable natural resource that is under threat from light pollution."

The International Dark Sky Association works to protect the night sky for present and future generations. Shaw is a Delegate to their organization, and supports their recommendations for reducing light pollution.

He said, "Protecting the

dark night sky begins at home. We need to turn lights off when they're not in use, and remember to light only what's needed. Outdoor lights, especially, should point down, not up."

"Ironically, the proliferation of LED light bulbs that started a decade ago has been problematic. It's important to know which LED light bulbs to buy. Those that emit light in the blue spectrum really mess with the perception of living organisms to distinguish between night and day. Choose LED light bulbs that have warm orange tones, similar to the quality of the incandescent bulbs we used to buy."

Shaw added, "It's important to note that, unlike other kinds of pollution, light pollution is 100% reversible. How can we fix it? On both a large and small scale, we can turn off our lights!"

Intro to star gazing

The brighter night skies in the Twin Cities are actually a benefit to star gazers just starting out. Shaw said, "Any place in town is suitable for observing

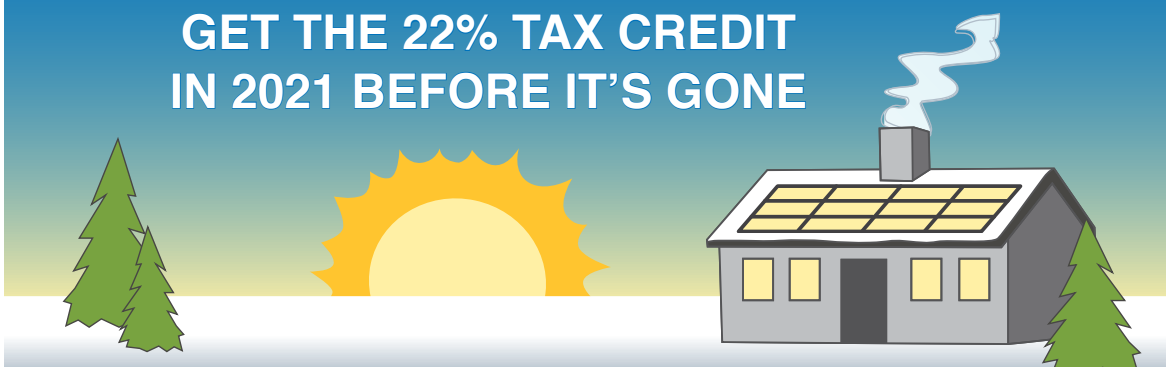
the night sky. I could make out planets, stars, constellations, and the moon in all its phases from places as brightly lit as the stairs of the State Capitol. Light pollution blots out the dimmer stars, so only the more prominent sky objects are visible."

For starters," he suggested, "see if you can find the Big Dipper, which is part of the constellation Ursa Major (the Big Bear). From the Big Dipper, with a little help from the internet, you should be able to find the North Star. The stars of Ursa Major (and many others) are called circumpolar stars, because they never rise or set below the horizon in Minnesota. That means you can find them all year long."

We care for what we see

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Northern Minnesota was recently designated a Dark Sky Sanctuary by the International Dark Sky Association. At just over one million acres, the federal wilderness area is the largest Dark Sky Sanctuary to date: it is the first in Minnesota.

**SOLAR INCENTIVES
ARE SUNSETTING
GET THE 22% TAX CREDIT
IN 2021 BEFORE IT'S GONE**



**ALL
ENERGY**
| SOLAR |

AllEnergySolar.com

651-401-8522

1264 Energy Lane, Saint Paul MN

Green Living. Good Living.
Advertise in this monthly feature to reach young readers.
Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 612-345-9998



MN license #4593

612.729.7608 • www.buck-bros.com

**We design & build
in your neighborhood**

*Kitchens, Baths, Additions
Restorations*

