

What does
LifeSource
do? Read
about it.

>>10



Women march to honor their sisters whose lives have been lost while struggling with prostitution. (Photo submitted)

'The pain is deep and real,' says Galtier Parent Teacher Organization

Galtier, Jackson schools to close

By JANE McCLURE

After 111 years in the Midway, Galtier Elementary will close its doors at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. So will Jackson Elementary, a Frogtown mainstay since 1880, and three other schools on the city's East Side.

LEAP Academy, a Midway-based high school for English language learners, and Wellstone and Highland Hills elementarys, were spared from the final plan. Still, the closure of five schools and the programs shifts and changes driven by Envision SPPS will impact 2,165 students and an unknown number of staff, faculty and administrators.

On a 5-2 vote Dec. 1, the St. Paul School Board approved a changed version of Envision SPPS after weeks of packed public hear-

ings and meetings between school community and district officials.

Galtier students who live east of Snelling will be bused to Hamline Elementary next fall. That puts into a motion a merger plan the school board voted down in 2016. The school has 207 students.

The Galtier building at 1317 Charles Ave. would be converted into an early childhood learning hub.

Jackson's 268 students will be split up. Its Hmong dual-language students will be sent to Phalen lake Elementary, on the city's East Side. Jackson's general education students will be sent to Maxfield, which is in the Summit-University neighborhood.

GALTIER, JACKSON TO CLOSE >> 11



Galtier Elementary School will close, displacing 207 students.



Jackson Elementary's 268 students will be split up.

SHE BROKE FREE

and now she's helping others

By JAN WILLMS

She has been through it all. The isolation, the grooming and the manipulation, offers of fancy clothing, cars, and a place to live that led her down the path to prostitution.

But Flora Whitfield escaped the life with the help of Breaking Free, an organization dedicated to putting an end to all forms of sexual exploitation. Celebrating its 25th year, the Saint Paul-based program is unique in its practice of hiring survivors.

Whitfield, who went through the program twice, is now the manager of programs and communications for Breaking Free.

"The significant thing that sets us apart is that we do hire survivors," Whitfield said. "The program really helped me recover and helped me with my journey. Relationships are built, broken, rebuilt and built again."

Whitfield said Breaking Free does so much more than end sexual exploitation. "We have a very good understanding of how to meet the survivor where she is at, and we try to do a lot of empowerment. That's why we hire survivors."

"It does not work the same for everyone," she said. She stressed the importance of a survivor connecting with someone when she enters the program. Whitfield said the first time she went through the program, she had been court-ordered to participate. When she graduated, a seed was planted. She returned to the life, but when she came back to Breaking Free, the program stuck.

"My advocate had been in prostitution for 20 years, and she thought she would never get out," Whitfield recalled. "She was 40, and she had only been out a couple of years. She was old enough to be my mom. But I was saved from my own self."

Her advocate told her what she did to stay out of prostitution, and Whitfield followed her advice. She said she learned not to settle with manipulation and all the things that had been normalized in her life. "I didn't even know what was wrong with what I did," she noted.

SHE BROKE FREE >> 2



Mekonnen Dori (left) and Hari Pal (right) are longtime employees of Our Lady of Peace Hospice. Both have continued to work fulltime past the usual retirement age. Pondering his own eventual retirement, Mekonnen said, "I don't know, maybe if Hari retires, then it will be time." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Mekonnen Dori was an elementary school teacher for 25 years in his home country of Ethiopia. An opponent of the military-led communist government there, he spent two years in an Ethiopian jail for his beliefs. After serving his sentence, he knew he had to leave the country.

With passport in hand, Dori went to the border and crossed into Kenya with four of his six children. Because they were so little, the two youngest children were left behind with their grandparents.

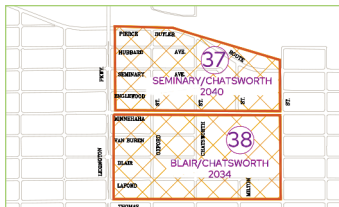
Dori explained, "The year was 1998.

The older kids and I were placed in a refugee camp in Kenya, where we lived for six months. Many people stayed in the camp for years, but we secured a sponsor fairly quickly and moved on."

The Dori family came to America in 1999, and settled in St. Paul. Four weeks later, Dori enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program at the International Institute of Minnesota. He has worked as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and trained medication aide (TMA) ever since.

NO DESIRE TO RETIRE >> 9

Two staff
at Our Lady
of Peace
Hospice
share their
stories



Curious what streets will
be worked on next in your
neighborhood?

PAGE 6



REBUILD REPAIR RECYCLE
RETHINK upcycles old
clothes with style

PAGE 7



Kids with special needs
are facing challenges,
need support

PAGE 13

Coming April 2022 Midway Chamber DIRECTORY

This Directory is the only one of its kind that lists Midway Chamber businesses by category. Connect with your community members who want to support local businesses and non-profits.



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SHE BROKE FREE

>> From 1

Whitfield says Breaking Free offers a place for survivors to go and talk about really horrible things. "I couldn't talk to anybody about these things," she observed.

She said a woman in the life may sleep with 10 men a day, then start drinking and smoking to escape the reality of what she is doing. "It's all a lie," she said, "and everything is geared around sex, promoting sex all the time."

Whitfield said the narrative has changed over the years. "Sex worker is the new term that is used, but it's still the same thing. You can justify it all you want with money, cars and clothes, but I have not met many women who are leaving with that. Instead, they leave with more baggage than they came in with."

"I tell my little sister she doesn't have to go through what I went through, but I don't know if she hears me," Whitfield stated.

She said when women first started coming to Breaking Free, they were brought in by arresting officers. Now there is a lot of street outreach and word of mouth.

Like a family

"We're like a family here," Whitfield added. "We have permanent supportive housing for 36 families, and 20 others off-site through county programs. We walk the women through the process, helping them with whatever they need."

"One great asset is an emergency shelter with four beds," she added. Whitfield said a survivor's advocate will connect her with the help she needs for her recovery, whether it be therapy or clinics or housing. "There is no cookie cutter approach that works for everyone," she said. "A girl who won't follow through may need her hand held."

Men's workshops

Another way in which Breaking Free is unique is that it also offers a men's workshop program. According to Whitfield, it is for men who have been arrested for engaging in prostitution with women over the age of 18. "We get to meet with them, dissect what happened and get them to see the reality of what they did."

"The most powerful piece of the program is when survivors come in to the workshops and share whatever is comfortable," Whitfield said. "We look at the reason why he is at a spot where he feels it's okay to purchase a human being."

Whitfield said the workshops offer a place where people can be genuine and know they won't be judged. "We're all in the room for the same reason, being purchased or you were buying, and you can't talk about it anywhere



Left to right: Bobbi Jo Pazdernik, BCA; Anastasia Kramlinger, Safe Harbors program manager; Tonique Ayler, housing manager (Breaking Free) and Sgt. Kadara Mohamed, Metro Transit HAT team, join the vigil for women who have been lost. (Photo submitted)



The annual march each October is followed by a candlelight vigil to honor women who have died. (Photo submitted)

else."

She said many of the men volunteer their time to come back and assist with workshops. For example, an ex-trafficker comes and shares his testimony, talks about his upbringing and his involvement in the life.

Not like 'Pretty Woman'

Breaking Free partners with numerous other agencies to help the women it serves. The organization has about 12 staff members working as directors, in housing, in women's programs, and in the emergency shelter.

There is also a drop-in center for women who may not need housing, and have a job, but reach out to Breaking Free for support. Whitfield said the situation for many is a generational thing. "We have to start by reprogramming ourselves," she said. "Many of the women feel stuck without any options."

"I have a girlfriend who is doing stuff online, and I tell her that's still prostitution; you're still exploiting yourself."

Whitfield said the women who come to Breaking Free may be walking the streets or doing out-of-state sex tours, but the struggle and trauma is still the

same. Many have criminal records. She said Black and Native women are trafficked at a much higher rate than White women.

"A lot of restoration happens with Breaking Free," Whitfield said. "Mothers and children are being connected."

Whitfield has a six-year-old and an infant, and she said she can now tell her children what she does, and be proud of it.

She said the life of a prostitute is not like "Pretty Woman." Instead there is homelessness, substance abuse, and criminality. "No one could recommend prostitution to their kids. It hurts people."

"But the beauty of the cycle of change does not come instantly," Whitfield noted. "I have been through it, and if you work at it, you can get out of it."

BREAKING FREE

Breaking Free is currently the only survivor-led provider of housing services to victims of sex trafficking and their children in Minnesota. It provides a week-day Drop-In Center and permanent supportive housing for 34 family units. The healing and support groups at Breaking Free, Sisters of Survival, and the Alumni Group meet weekly every Tuesday night at 5 p.m.

More at breakingfree.net

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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.

A SMALL BUSINESS REVOLUTION

If you haven't heard of the TV show "Small Business Revolution," or wondered about it if you saw one of the billboards in the Midway, picture one of the shows that renovates and redecorates a house, but for small businesses. Now in its sixth season, the show can be watched on its website and Hulu (previous seasons are also on Amazon Prime). Like similar shows, you don't need to watch from the first episode to understand an intricate plot or character development. Aside from the hosts, each episode features a different business with different needs.

The show was created by Deluxe as a way to showcase the

stories of small businesses across the United State. Whether or not you've seen any of the older episodes, you should watch the new season because it features small businesses in the Twin Cities, two of which are in the Midway.

The other unique spin for this season is they are all Black-owned businesses. The show spans different neighborhoods in Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Hosted by Amanda Brinkman, Chief Brand Officer at Deluxe, this season also feature former NBA player Baron Davis as the co-host.

Episode 5 features Elsa's House of Sleep, a longtime retailer of furniture and other home

Building a stronger Midway

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



goods at 1441 University Avenue. Now celebrating their 25th anniversary, viewers can learn about the store's history and the original owner, Elsa. The business has been run for many years by her son, Tetra and has seen extensive growth. As someone who has been to Elsa's many times, it was fun to see the new makeover with the brand and physical location. Episodes 3 and 4 feature

newer Saint Paul businesses: Lip Esteem and Taste of Rondo. Lip Esteem tells the story of owner Tameka Jones, who owns a lip stick company located at the Griggs Midway Building (1821 University Ave.) She has received great media coverage in a short time and is definitely an up-and-comer with a great newer business. Opening in 2020, the Taste of Rondo offers southern favorites with a nod to the history of the community. Located at 976 Concordia Ave., the restaurant showed resilience by opening during the pandemic thanks to the support of the neighborhood and other loyal customers.

Other episodes feature the following businesses: in Saint Paul: Gentlemen Cuts, 913 Payne Avenue; in Minneapolis: The

Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, 3744 4th Avenue S.; and Sammy's Avenue Eatery, 1101 W. Broadway Avenue. Other businesses in or near the Midway featured during the season include Urban Lights Music and Golden Thymes Coffee Shop.

After watching these locally owned businesses featured on "Small Business Revolution," I hope it inspires you to support them and to find other Black-owned businesses, too. One great way to meet and purchase from Black-owned businesses is by attending the monthly Black Business is Beautiful at the Lab on the second Saturday of each month.

This holiday season, go in search of new businesses and spread love!

We're setting a new standard for housing justice

By DAVID ZELLER,
Midway homeowner

As a homeowner in the Midway for four years and a resident of Saint Paul for nearly 35 years, I have seen first-hand the effects of rising rents in our city. From suddenly losing friends I played with in the streets of Lex-Ham, to neighbors who play with my son, lamenting the fact that they could no longer afford their home, through no fault of their own.

That's why I was proud to be part of the Keep St. Paul Home campaign, which brought St. Paul residents together across race, income and zipcode to pass one of the nation's strongest rent stabilization policies. While real estate interests and the landlord lobby spent nearly \$4 million on a wildly expensive misinformation and intimidation campaign, more than 30,000 voters provided a clear mandate from renters, homeowners and landlords alike that business as usual – which of-

fers no protections against predatory practices and massive rent spikes – is no longer acceptable.

And our neighborhoods in Como, Hamline-Midway and Frogtown made a big difference, with some of the highest levels of support for rent stabilization city-wide.

What does this means?

Because Black, Indigenous and people of color households are far more likely than White households to be tenants, our most diverse wards voted yes in overwhelming numbers. In Wards 1 and 5, which include Frogtown and Como, nearly two-thirds of residents are BIPOC and close to 60% of voters supported rent stabilization. Because everyone, including White homeowners like me, recognized that this ballot initiative was a clear racial justice issue, Ward 4, which includes Hamline-Midway, also exceeded the city rate of support with 57%

of voters saying yes.

The opposition thought they could divide us by where we live and what we look like. But we showed that organized people can beat organized money, and that everyone should have a home they can rely on. With this vote, we can take pride in seeing through the recycled threats and relentless intimidation of the big landlord lobby and setting a new standard for housing justice, not just in the region, but nationwide.

During the campaign, we heard countless stories from tenants who wanted to stay in their neighborhoods, but were being pushed out by landlords clearly putting profit over people. Like the building on the East Side of St. Paul, where a predatory landlord dramatically increased the rents for Native elders by more than \$500. Or, the renter in the North End who works a well-paid union job but still can't absorb a \$400 increase to her rent. These

are stories that we in the community hear every single day – and the harmful practices that will be eliminated by the rent stabilization policy. The broad, profound and lasting impact this policy will have for renters cannot be overstated.

What comes next?

First, we recognize and name the false urgency fanned by the opposition that spent millions to beat back this transformative step forward. We remind ourselves that the next-day doomsday reactions from developers are entirely predictable. A few anecdotes of developers "pausing" their projects has made headlines and galvanized panic among city leadership, but, like me, I'm sure as you move around the city, attending soccer games or picking up groceries, you see the bigger picture. The policy was intentionally crafted so housing production can – and will – continue. We need to remember that we don't have to choose between economic development and racial justice. We can – and must – have both.

So, in coming months, we need to advocate to our city council members and mayor to implement this policy in a way that honors the will of the voters and relies on data and transparency, not threats and knee-jerk reactions. We need to be vigilant about unscrupulous property owners spiking rents before the annual 3% rent cap goes into effect on May 1, 2022, and support renters who face retaliatory price gouging by landlords looking to pad their pockets before they are subject to reasonable regulations. But, maybe most importantly, we need to continue to have conversations with our neighbors to maintain this community movement to Keep St. Paul Home to everyone, whether we rent or own.

Because of this policy – this movement – I know my kids will have a better chance to grow up with the kids in our neighborhood, all of them, unlike me. Because of the work of hundreds of people who care about this city, we took a big step toward our neighbors being our neighbors for as long as they choose!

ERASE YOUR PARK BENCH PICTURE

It feels like every other hour, you hear the phone ring.

"I can do an intake with you today. I'll stay late if I need to so you can get here," a case manager is overheard saying to the youth on the other end of the line.

The end of the eviction moratorium keeps the phone ringing, again and again. You can't keep up with the calls, flowing in one after another, seemingly endless asks of you. When a space isn't within reach, the cold bites a bit harsher at your ears and nose, a reminder that you get to go home after work while others do not.

Every single evening in Minnesota, over 6,000 youth find

themselves with nowhere to sleep.

Youth in our communities need your support, and Avenues for Youth is one way to support them. Avenues for Youth partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams.

Care, housing, support, partnership. Avenues for Youth (alongside their fellow housing nonprofits) partners with youth in the Greater Twin Cities Metro area, creating a space for youth to call home, whether it be one night or 18 months. Youth have in-home access to a physician, a therapist, and many other opportunities.

While all of this is good

Stop Think Feel

By ABHA KARNICK



and helpful, Avenues sees youth homelessness in a different light. Erase the "homeless youth on a park bench" picture you have in your head and replace it.

Replace it with a picture of the student in your class, getting straight As and holding her head up high.

Replace it with the elite musician, highly advanced and pas-

sionate.

Replace it with the waiter who brings you your food every Tuesday morning at your favorite morning coffee shop.

They mirror the image of yourself, community members with jobs, dreams, aspirations. Nothing sets them apart, so why as a society, do we continue to box them and their experiences in as if we have nothing to do with them?

Understanding homelessness not as a label, but as an experience, a season of someone's life, brings about compassion a world could do with a little more of. Trauma-centered partnerships, such as the ones at Avenues, leads to youth being able to reach their dreams. Homelessness isn't an

experience procured for specific people, rather, a result of many factors, many sad, unwelcome factors.

At this point, society doesn't need another lesson on the cycle of poverty, because we all know that digging yourself out of it is nearly impossible. Avenues doesn't dig youth out, they hold a place for perseverance, learning, and the becoming that a youth wants to do.

To learn more and support Avenues for Youth, visit www.avenuesforyouth.org.

Abha Karnick is a south Minneapolis resident with East Indian roots who graduated from Hamline University in 2019. Her passion lies in storytelling and finding moments to capture.

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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.

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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.

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NEVER FORGET THE POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

A longtime reader of the *Monitor* and community activist reached out to me last month to say hello, and in the course of our catching up, she shared a snapshot of a column I had written 20 years ago which she had saved among her collection of newspaper clippings. While I was touched with the fact that she had considered my column to be worth saving all these years, it also struck me how the power of the written word can be, at times, so enduring.

In my own family, we have a host of written treasures that my siblings and I have saved as tributes to our parents and relatives and the life and times that they experienced. My Mom was a longtime member of the Eastside Writers Club and loved to write poetry. The *Monitor* once published a seasonal poem she wrote under the byline "Sue Donym" (for pseudonym), a byline which she sometimes used in a show of modesty to not call attention to herself. She would often write poetry featuring the people in her life and she would also write poetry as an outlet for stress relief from life's daily challenges.

Another cherished piece of writing was the typewritten letter that my Uncle Bob from Milwaukee wrote to my Dad when my Dad was being inducted into the Korean War. My Dad was the baby of his family, with his three half-brothers much older than him as my grandfather's first wife, who had given birth to the three half-brothers, had passed away. Uncle Bob, the closest to my Dad in age, was still 15 years older than my Dad and very much of a father figure to him.

Uncle Bob's letter was just a page long. Short, poignant, and to the heart. He wrote about my father's faith, his dedication to family and country, and how he knew that my Dad would emerge from this challenging time with his principles and integrity intact. It was such a moving and well-written letter that still brings an emotional response decades later, that it is one of the pieces of my family's history that has been preserved over time. Each time I have read Uncle Bob's letter to my Dad I have always thought that my only wish was that I would be able to find just the right words of inspiration to impart to my own

Stop the presses!

By DENIS WOULFE,
denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com



kids when they needed support, encouragement, or perhaps just a few words of praise for a job well done.

A good friend from high school that I've known since third grade called me a few months ago after his father had passed away as he was sorting through some of his personal effects and keepsakes. He was reading a few lines from postcards that I had sent to him when he was away at Carleton College at Northfield and I was at Hamline University in St. Paul. I was a little embarrassed, as I had completely forgotten that I had even sent him postcards during our college years, but again, also amazed that he found them worth keeping.

I've also saved a few letters

and cards over the years myself. English professor Quay Grigg was my English advisor at Hamline University while I was a student there back in the 70s. He also led an interim trip to the Rio Grande Valley back in May 1977 of which I was a part. Upon my return, I wrote a freelance piece for the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* on our trip to the Rio Grande and Georgia O'Keefe country. Grigg was kind enough to provide a photograph that I could submit, along my manuscript, to the *Pioneer Press*. He also sent along a short, typewritten note which read, in part: "Congratulations on your Pioneer Press budding career. I hope it does indeed bud."

I never pursued a full-time job with the *Pioneer Press* after that other than writing a freelance theatre review on assignment, but shortly after our trip I became the editor of our student newspaper at Hamline and eventually became editor of the *Monitor* in 1979 with Grigg's encouragement. I've saved that short note from Grigg ever since.

I think it's true today that fewer and fewer of us are writing letters and postcards as we did

years ago. We are more likely to send a text or write something on Facebook than send a letter to a friend or family member. I know that I'm as guilty of this as anyone. I'm much more likely to send off a text or write an email to someone than to spend the time to write an actual letter or postcard, put a stamp on it, and send it off in the mail.

I know that times have changed. That it's a different world than it was 10 or 20 years ago. But my wish for all of us is to not abandon the seemingly outdated notions of handwritten or typed letters and postcards. Not everything can be expressed adequately in emojis and cryptic text messages. Sometimes the best felt emotions and thoughts can best be expressed in old-fashioned written communications.

In short, don't forget to write!

And in addition to writing to your friends, family and other people in your life, don't forget to write to your favorite community newspaper, the *Midway Como Frog-town Monitor*. Just like your friends and family we would like to hear what's on your mind. We know it's worth sharing.

AYA: AN ANTHOLOGY OF RACIAL JUSTICE, HEALING AND THE BLACK EXPERIENCE

**Editor's note: Last month, the headline for Dr. Tyner's column incorrectly ran with the text from October. Our apologies for the error.*

Your voice can make a difference. This is the message of hope that Planting People Growing Justice™ Leadership Institute (PPGJLI) shares with our youth leaders. Our youth have faced tumultuous times with the onset of the dual pandemic of COVID-19 and racial injustice. Through our writing and art workshops, we provide youth with a safe place to share about their trauma and pain while finding peace and healing.

Our goal at PPGJLI is to inspire our youth to lead change by lifting their voices for justice.

Writing is a vehicle for achieving this goal. To ignite this passion in our youth to write for justice, we are launching a new youth writing contest called "Aya: An Anthology of Racial Justice, Healing and the Black Experience."

The word Aya is a West African Adinkra symbol represented by a stylized fern. In the Akan language Twi, it means fern and is representative of endurance, resourcefulness, and defiance against oppression. The concept is much like the hardy fern plant that perseveres, grows, and thrives in the most unlikely of places.

The PPGJLI competition is open to St. Paul residents of African American heritage that are ages 13 to 18. The Aya-themed

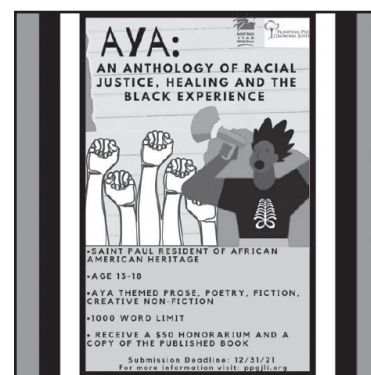
Planting seeds

By DR. ARTIKA TYNER,
dr.artikatyner@gmail.com



contest seeks poems, prose, fiction, and creative nonfiction of up to 1,000 words. Submissions must be original pieces that relate to the themes of "Racial Justice and the Black Experience" or "Racial Healing and the Black Experience."

The young writers' anthology is a companion project to the



PPGJLI's Sankofa Teach-In series and art exhibition. The PPGJLI is utilizing art in various ways to promote change in society and inspire young artists to be the leaders of tomorrow who will tap into the transformative power of Afro-futurism by reimagining and creating our future.

This youth writing competition is made possible through a grant from the Saint Paul STAR Program. Youth authors will be selected by a panel of community judges. Winning entries will

be published in the anthology, receive a \$50 honorarium and a copy of the published book. Entries must be received before midnight on Dec. 31, 2021. Upon publication, the selected authors will participate in public readings and other community-building activities. Entries can be submitted online (<https://www.ppgjli.org/youth-anthology>).

"Aya: An Anthology of Racial Justice, Healing and the Black Experience" is a unique opportunity for young, aspiring writers, authors, and poets to share their experiences, perspective, and potential solutions. For many, it's a way to serve as the social architects who are committed to building a more just and inclusive society.

Through her organization, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, Dr. Artika Tyner seeks to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach.

AMERICA WILL BE AT WAR WITH ITSELF UNTIL IT RECONCILES DISCRIMINATORY LAND PRACTICES

The lingering fear that my home and my land are not truly mine, if someone wants to take them from me, has never completely gone away.

"This land is your land, this land is my land," the patriotic refrain declares. Yet the facts, beginning with how America's so-called "pioneers" laid claim to Native lands, expose this sentiment as mythology, a lie, which resonates throughout this nation's history. It is your land, if you can clear all the hurdles to keep it.

The idea of liberty, and by association, ownership as an irrefutable right, gets called into question constantly by supply and demand. When the housing supply shrinks, the demand that Black land owners surrender their liberty comes to bear. There are unspoken rules for Black land owners who want to keep "their" land. Three post-Reconstruction massacres perpetrated by Whites in Wilmington, N.C., Rosewood, Fla,

and Tulsa, Okla. destroyed livelihoods in Black towns because Black residents built an economic system independent from the one operated by White people.

As the Law and Public Policy Scholar for the Center on Race, Leadership and Social Justice at the University of St. Thomas, I intend to amplify the experiences of my people, the Gullah/Geechee people, related to the disparate and disproportionate impact to our culture that results when public policies thwart our ability to maintain land ownership. Within Gullah/Geechee communities land and culture are inextricably linked. Land is traditionally not an investment to buy and sell. It is a part of our identity. It serves as a source of generational wealth and security.

The narrative of Rondo, the Saint Paul community where Black people were torn from their roots and their heritage for the construction of Interstate 94, res-

Guest column

By GLENDA SIMMONS JENKINS



onates with me. The Florida department of transportation condemned my childhood home. The explanation was that they needed to expand the road, beginning from the interstate, into four lanes. My family's three-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath brick home was lifted from its foundations and taken away for someone else to live in.

My parents fought the DOT and took the condemnation order to court at the state's expense. A family member with legal experience informed them that all such

"takings" required the state to pay fair market value for the property and to pay the owners' legal fees. Only two other Gullah/Geechee families opted to go to court. The others agreed to a settlement and accepted without negotiation the first compensation the state offered. In my parents' case, the court also ordered temporary housing expenses to be paid to cover our rent in an apartment during the months that our new home was being built.

Interestingly, White Fort George Island residents, living at the other end of A1A which continues south into Jacksonville, still live undisturbed along a scenic two-lane road. A long-time resident there told me the St. Johns River prevents road expansion. Whenever I travel that road, I remember my childhood home and I wonder what it would have been like had we been White and left alone.

The legal standard that a dis-

crimination claim must produce evidence of intent puts the burden on victims to substantiate a subjective, intangible concept, all while disregarding all other objective, tangible data supporting the existence of disparity.

Truthfully, this land does not belong to any of us. It has all been stolen. As long as America refuses to reconcile its adversarial relationship with the very liberty it claims to hold sacred, it will continue to be at war with itself and with those who remind it of the truth.

Glenda Simmons Jenkins serves as a Law and Public Policy Scholar for the Center on Race, Leadership and Social Justice at the University of St. Thomas. She is a representative for Florida serving the Assembly of Representatives of the Gullah/Geechee Nation and co-founder of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida.

Street work slows in St. Paul

200 miles need to be redone, work slated for 2025-2051

By JANE McCLURE

In 1986, Ronald Reagan was president. Six astronauts and teacher Christa McAuliffe were killed when the Challenger space shuttle disintegrated 73 seconds after launch. Halley's Comet visited the solar system for the second time during the 20th century. Walt Disney Pictures released the movie "The Great Mouse Detective." And the St. Paul City Council approved a \$300 million plan to separate storm and septic sewers, and rebuild city streets.

That program wrapped up in 1995, and was followed by a second, decade-long effort to rebuild the remaining 200 miles of the city's residential streets. But without outside funding, it may be 2051 before all streets are completed.

The current schedule has one project in 2025, and then a slot for 2026-2051.

Council members discussed the ongoing street project funding issues in November. They'll approve the city's five-year streets plan in December as part of the 2022 budget.

One frustration for council members is that in 2022-2024, no neighborhood street reconstruction projects are planned. Available dollars haven't kept up with need in the St. Paul Streets program, especially since arterial street reconstruction was added.

Council President Amy Brendmoen said that by the time all residential street areas are completed, the city will have to go back and work on the original project areas. She described a project area in her Fifth Ward which is finally slated to start in 2025-2026. Old streets are bowed and in places lack curbs, gutters, sidewalks, lighting and trees.

"We're not getting this done and \$12.5 million a year (for St. Paul Streets) doesn't get us very far," said Brendmoen.

City engineer Paul Kurtz agreed, saying that while the city is able to carry over \$1.3 million from 2019 to 2021, that is not enough to address the need.

The *Monitor* area project, bounded by Lake Como, Arlington Avenue, Dale Street and Maryland Avenue, is slated for 2025-2026. It's the third phase of Wheelock-Grotto work. But other areas, including Pascal-Como, Raymond-Territorial, Thomas-Aldine, Seminary-Chatsworth, Blair-Chatsworth and a big area bounded by Hamline, University and Western avenues and Interstate 94, are in the 2026-2051 time frame.

In some places, the city tears out and rebuilds old, paved streets. In some places the city is replacing oiled streets. Oiled streets appear to be paved but in reality are streets where decades of oil and fine pea gravel have been layered to form a surface for travel. The best clue to see if a street is an oiled street is the lack of curbs and gutters.

Wisconsin sued Minnesota because of river pollution

St. Paul Streets is the replacement for what was originally the Residential Streets Vitality Program or RSVP. RSVP began in 1995 after the city finished its decade-long sewer separation and street reconstruction work.

Sewer separation came about because the state of Wisconsin took Minnesota to court over river pollution. In some parts of St. Paul, Minneapolis and South St. Paul, combined storm and septic sewer led to raw sewage flowing into the Mississippi River.

Not all projects went smoothly. Work along a stretch of University Avenue in 1994 went on so late in the fall that paving couldn't be completed until 1995. That same year, de-

lays in downtown work frustrated business owners, to the point that the owner of the On the Way Café was arrested for losing her temper and throwing muffins at workers.

The last piece of sewer pipe was laid in a ceremony in a Highland Park street that year. But the city still had 200 miles of residential streets in need of work.

Another 25 years to complete street work

When RSVP began, 88 neighborhood project areas were waiting for new streets, curb and gutter, sidewalks, street lighting and boulevard trees. Neighborhoods were allowed to opt out but that isn't permitted any more. Opting out simply moves a project to the end of the list.

Sixty-eight projects were completed between 1995-2020, said Kurtz. Without an infusion of dollars, Public Works estimates it will take another 25 years to complete the last 20 projects.

When RSVP began, the city was able to do three and even four project areas in a single construction season. But costs have risen much faster than available city funding. Some projects are extended over two or more years, and broken into segments.

Another wrinkle is that in 2014 arterial streets were added to St. Paul Streets. That was done after then-Mayor Chris Coleman released a list of the "terrible 20" worst streets in need of repair.

Kurtz said that St. Paul Streets projects are chosen due to condition. Streets are regularly evaluated to see if they need to move up or down on the schedule.

One way the city could add to the life of residential streets is to do mill and overlay work, scraping off the top street layer, making repairs and then putting down a fresh coat of bituminous material, but that isn't something the city currently budgets for.

FIVE YEAR STREET PLAN

By JANE McCLURE

Major improvements to Prior Avenue in the West Midway, changes to the Pierce Butler Route-Minnehaha Avenue intersection in Frogtown, and Safe Routes to Schools improvements for Crossroads Elementary are among area projects in St. Paul's five-year streets plan.

The plan, prepared annually by the St. Paul Department of Public Works, will have its 2022 projects approved this month by the St. Paul City Council.

Council members reviewed the plan in November. The plan includes city street and bridge construction, sidewalks, county projects, city and county mill and overlay work, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and federally funded projects from 2022-2026.

City Engineer Paul Kurtz indicated that projects can change over time. Street and bridge repair needs can pop up. Another game changer is available funding.

St. Paul and the Minnesota Department of Transportation were awarded Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Rondo planning grant will fund a study of transportation improvements within the neighborhood and adjacent areas. District councils reviewed the funding request earlier this year.

City officials are also waiting to see what federal infrastructure dollars will bring. The recently approved funding is being given to states, which will pass it down to local units of government.

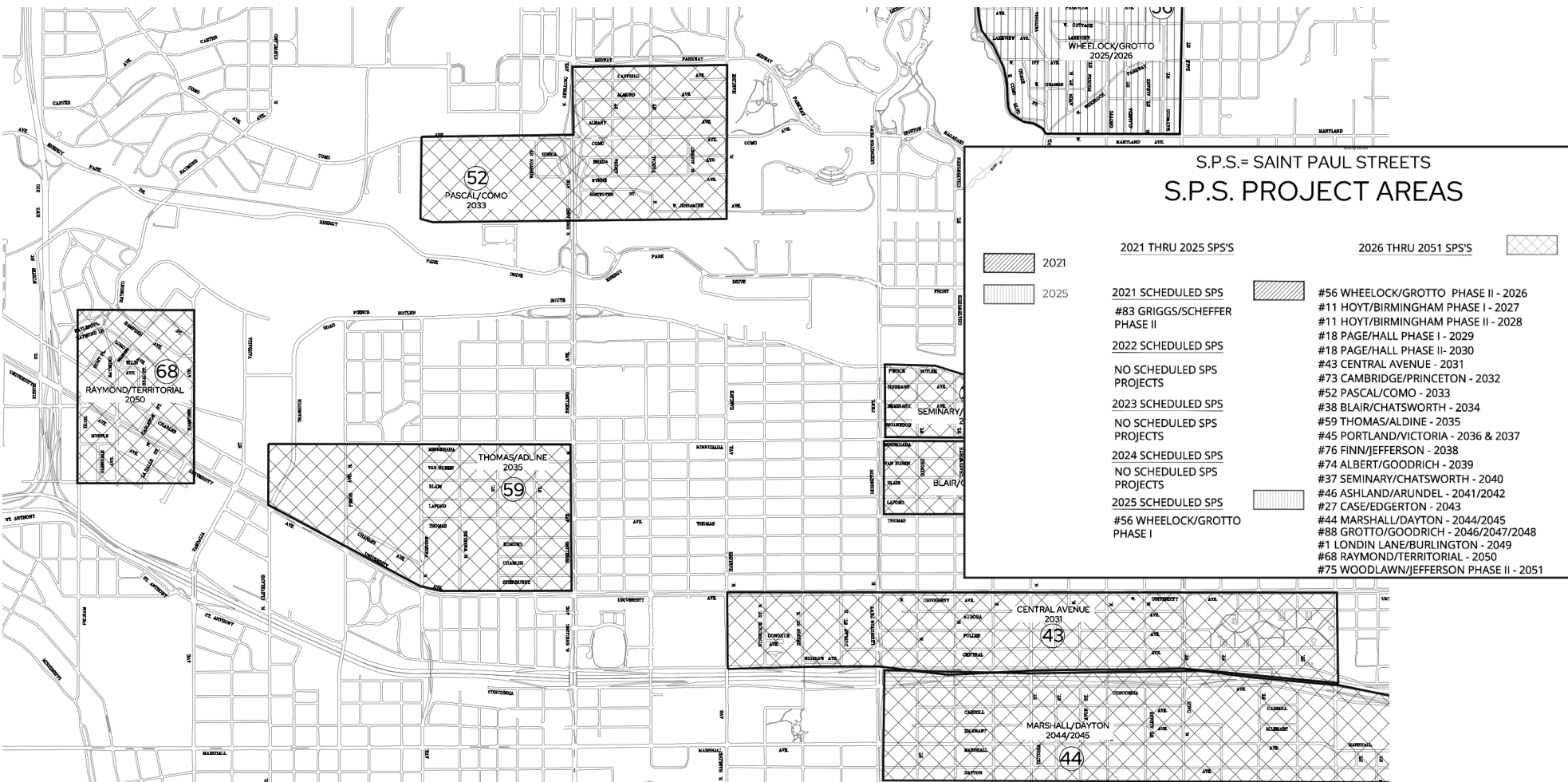
The lone St. Paul Streets area project is Wheelock-Grotto Residential Street Vitality Program work, with \$8.325 million in 2025 and \$12.6 million in 2026. (See related story.)

Several projects are penciled in for Municipal-State Aid or MSA dollars. Those include a rebuild of Prior Avenue from St. Anthony to University avenues, at \$4.5 million, and improvements to the Pierce Butler Route-Minnehaha Avenue intersection at \$200,000. The Frogtown intersection is a Ramsey County project, with the county contributing \$835,000.

MSA projects for 2023 include sidewalk work on Larpenteur between Dale and Farrington (\$500,00) and between Hamline and Victoria (\$240,000). Ramsey County will match each of those amounts. B Line bus improvements are slated for \$250,000, as a contribution to a Metro Transit project.

Mill and overlay work is also part of the five-year plan. The Interstate 94 frontage roads are targeted in 2023, with Concordia and St. Anthony avenues between Snelling and Marion getting needed work. About two dozen other projects listed as potential candidates for work for the remainder of the plan. Those will be winnowed down as street conditions warrant. Kurtz noted that just one winter can make a big difference in a street's condition.

The lone capital improvement bond project in the area is a Safe Routes to School project for Crossroads Elementary at 546 Front Ave. It has a cost of \$465,760.





It takes about 2,000 gallons of water to produce one pair of jeans. RETHINK offers Visible Mending classes that will extend the life of a well-loved pair of jeans. Honor the most used part of your jeans (shown at left). Learn to use a running stitch over and over again, and graft the stitches together with visible mending techniques (shown at right). (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

RETHINK upcycles old clothes with style

"In a world of fast fashion, we offer a different option for shopping: mend your wardrobe, shop your closet, shop the consignment/vintage stores, don't give up on those family hand-me-downs, and build your wardrobe with pieces that will stand the test of time."

~ RETHINK founder/owner Kristen McCoy



RETHINK owner Kristen McCoy in an upcycled denim blazer. She explained, "To upcycle is to add value to something in the processing. We're able to take a worn garment and turn it into something new. We take jeans that are no longer wearable and cut them into denim squares. The result is a reversible blazer that still has a lot of wear. It's on sale at the shop, and is size fluid (small to large). (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)"

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Artist and business founder Kristen McCoy has been rethinking the future of fashion for years. Along with her staff at RETHINK Tailoring & Sewing Lounge (3449 Bloomington Ave. S.), she offers an alternative to the cheaply produced, poorly made clothing found abundantly in so many stores. The clothing for sale in her shop has all been upcycled from garments that might have otherwise been thrown away.

McCoy said, "At RETHINK, our mission is to keep as many textiles out of landfills and incinerators as possible. The average American adult throws away 80 pounds of clothing each year."

"To counter that, we tailor and upcycle used garments – and we empower others to repair and sew their own wardrobes through our classes and other gatherings at our Sewing Lounge."

The real cost of fast fashion

According to McCoy, "Fast fashion is disposable fashion, and it's the second worst polluting industry in the world. Only the oil industry is more toxic to the environment. The fashion industry is responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions. That's more than air travel and maritime shipping combined."

"As consumers, we need to rethink the actual cost of each garment – because the rise of fast fashion has created an environmental nightmare. Along with the cheap price tag comes a reliance on plastic fabrics, an

enormous carbon footprint, and the increasing ill health of people who work in this industry. On average, a piece of clothing is worn only 4-7 times before it is discarded."

A long thread

McCoy grew up on a Minnesota pig farm and started sewing when she was eight. She taught herself how to use her grandmother's old Singer sewing machine. Because the nearest fabric store was 20 miles away, she figured out how to repurpose her worn clothes into purses. She said, "I learned my work ethic growing up on the farm, and I learned how to make money stretch."

Eventually she enrolled in the Apparel Technologies Program at Minneapolis Community and Technical College where she studied garment construction, draping, pattern-making, alterations, and how to work with specialty fabrics.

In textiles classes, McCoy learned that polyester fabric has the same chemical makeup as plastic water bottles. She thought, "We recycle plastic water bottles, why can't we find a way to recycle plastic fabrics?"

"The discarded clothes sit in landfills where they don't decompose for generations, or they are burned in incinerators. Many garments aren't made to last on purpose. The clothing industry has developed a disposable mentality because it pays."

McCoy made a decision early on in her training: moving forward, she would make all her clothes out of pre-used or dead-stock fabrics.

Keep calm and sew on

In 2015, McCoy launched RETHINK Tailoring from her home with the goal of making recycled clothing a legitimate shopping option. After her daughter was born that year, Kristen took a pause from tailoring to develop a new concept: resizable baby clothing. A second child was born three years later and in 2019, McCoy began the buildout of her storefront at 3449 Bloomington Ave.

She said, "We had our grand opening on March 14, 2020, and closed the next day due to the COVID-19 lock down. My design and tailoring philosophy has always been to get creative when a project seems impossible. Opening and closing in one day was crushing, but once I got out of the fog, we sewed masks, and

made tutorials to help with the community mask-making efforts. We donated hundreds of masks to hospitals, shelters, and other organizations in need. We also took on an emergency project upcycling 200+ hospital gowns for a nursing home facility hit hard by COVID-19.

"Our focus had to change many times to best meet the needs of the community. We are still building our business back to our original vision, but it takes time. We are currently hosting daily classes (following CDC guidelines for health and safety), and upcycling more designs for sale."

Classes are the focus

McCoy is reflective about the times. She said, "These last couple of years have been strange and challenging, but I feel hopeful. In this polarized world,



Laura Poehlman teaches the "Meet your Machine" class at RETHINK. She said, "I research your machine ahead of time and customize your session to make sure you cover what you want to learn." Poehlman is also a graduate of the Apparel Technologies Program at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and has decades of sewing, design, and teaching experience. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

there's value in having safe places to gather. Our shop is a place where people can get together and do something creative – we can all use a bit of that."

There are classes on Visible Mending, Invisible Mending, and Reweaving (where you learn to repair holes in t-shirts and other knit garments). There are Learn to Sew machine classes, and classes for more experienced sewists on alterations, design, and upcycling. Private lessons are available, as well as small group lessons. There are options to learn from home with virtual classes, Q&A sessions, tutorials, private lessons via Zoom, and more.

The regularly scheduled Feminist Stitch and Gab is a pay-what-you-can meet up. Anyone can come who is feminist-minded, as long as they wear a mask and practice social distancing. Email info@rethinktailoring.com with questions about any of the classes or gatherings. Holiday gift cards are also available for purchase. They can be applied toward class tuition, or upcycled clothing and jewelry for sale in the onsite Green Boutique. Visit the RETHINK website at www.rethinktailoring.com for more information.

McCoy concluded, "People can get overwhelmed by the challenges of being environmentally conscious. As far as clothing goes, I like to say that any change in the right direction is positive change. Go to clothing swaps, shop for used clothes, and repair what's already in your closet."

"A starting point is something to build from – you don't have to do everything at once."

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SIMPLY Life

INDOOR MARKET

The Hmongtown Market is located at 217 Como Avenue in Frog-town. Fresh, reasonably priced garden produce arrives daily at the garden stalls. There are Asian varieties of vegetables, such as the cucumbers shown here, not typically found in other farmers markets. Try them fresh – or pickled. Market hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week.



>> Photo series by Margie O'Loughlin

Monitor in a MINUTE

By JANE McCLURE

Transit lines suspended

Longtime area bus Routes 16 and 84 are among 16 Metro Transit bus routes that suspended service as of Dec. 4. Many other routes throughout the Twin Cities transit network will have reduced trip frequency and schedule changes. Changes come as transit ridership has declined regionally and nationally. It's expected the trends will have implications for current services going forward and for transit services on the drawing boards.

Metro Transit typically makes bus, rapid bus and rail schedule

changes quarterly. More changes are possible in 2022.

Route 16, once one of the busiest bus routes, used to connect the Minneapolis and St. Paul downtowns via University Avenue. The opening of Green Line light rail in 2014 meant cutbacks to Route 16, which most recently ended at Fairview Avenue.

Route 84, which connects south Minneapolis destinations to Roseville, follows much the same route in area neighborhoods that A Line bus rapid transit has followed since 2016.

One issue driving the current schedule changes is the challenge in hiring bus drivers. "Over the past couple months in particular we've had difficulty hiring bus operators, which is a challenge when you need to have 1,100 to 1,200 operators," said Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington said. The transit agency

has stepped up hiring incentives including signing bonuses.

"Right now we're about 80 operators short of where we need to be," said Harrington.

About five percent of existing service hours will be reduced as Metro Transit seeks to improve reliability of service, said Harrington. Many of the routes being suspended are parallel to existing rail or bus rapid transit lines.

Another issue Metro Transit officials are trying to balance is that of equity among neighborhoods.

Read a detailed review of changes at <https://www.metrotransit.org/quarterly-service-changes-begin-saturday-dec-4>

Como gets \$2 million in funding

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory got a key boost Nov. 3 when the St. Paul City Council accepted

\$2.910 million in state funding.

The funding goes to the Department of Parks and Recreation, which oversees the Como facilities. It is from the state's Legacy Amendment Arts & Cultural Heritage fund. The funding requires a grant agreement with the state, and an indemnification agreement between the state and city.

The money will be used for various programmatic development and preservation projects, including educational and inclusive programming, special exhibits, garden preservation and habitat renewal that would not be possible to offer guests as part of Como's base funding. The funds are for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

New tobacco rules set

Stringent new regulations on tobacco products take effect in December, with unanimous St. Paul City Council approval Nov. 3. The

ordinance is hailed by anti-tobacco and health advocates as another step in protecting public health and deterring use of tobacco products by youth and communities targeted by the tobacco industry.

Foes of the measures said the council is overreaching and with one regulatory change, contradicting state law.

St. Paul regulates vaping and e-cigarette products in the same way it regulates tobacco products, so those items fall under the ordinance.

The ordinance reduces the number of available licenses for tobacco sales to 150, from about 190 in place today. Businesses can retain their license but the numbers will be winnowed as business close and licenses are given up. It could take years for a license to become available under that scenario.

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NO DESIRE TO RETIRE

>> From 1

Formative years

After working at Episcopal Homes for five years, Dori was hired by Our Lady of Peace Hospice in the Merriam Park neighborhood. The hospice facility is unique in that it provides end of life care for all – regardless of ability to pay. Hospice workers often feel a sense of calling to their work, and Dori is no exception.

Describing his upbringing in Ethiopia, he said, “My mother never went to school, but she taught me a lot of things. Most importantly, she taught me to help everybody. My parents raised me in a positive way. One very important thing my mother told me was, “When something bad happens to you, it’s not the end of the world. It may be the beginning. Take things as they come.”

“As for working in a hospice setting, death doesn’t scare me. I don’t get benefits from negative thinking. Our staff is here to provide everyday care for our patients. Our top priority is to make sure they aren’t in pain, and that their last days are spent peacefully.”

Seeing through a different lens

Until he came to America, Dori didn’t know what a nursing home or a hospice facility was – they didn’t exist in Ethiopia. He said, “In my country, children are expected to take care of their aging parents. This was a ‘must’ when I was growing up. If there are sons, the responsibility falls first to them and it is seen as a privilege. Ethiopian people are very light-hearted. If someone has two of something, they will give one away. They are generous

with their time, as well as their belongings.

“I wasn’t able to care for my parents as they aged, because we had to leave Ethiopia. I’m almost 72 now, and I haven’t even thought about retiring. When I feel that I can no longer come to work, then it will be time to retire. I’ve worked here for 16 years, but that time hasn’t come yet.”

Like extended family

Saying goodbye to a loved one is a daily occurrence in hospice care. Patients enter into hospice when they are believed to have less than six months to live, and sometimes they occupy a hospice bed for only days.

Hari Pal has been a CNA at Our Lady of Peace for 33 years. He left his parents and family behind when he immigrated to America from the Fiji Islands in 1979. Saying goodbye to a loved one is not something he takes lightly.

Pal has a well of empathy for families whose loved ones pass in his care. He said, “Caring for patients makes me feel good. The things I do every day in my work, these are the things I would like to have done for my parents. In a sense, I feel I am paying my dues when I care for our patients here.”

As CNAs, Dori and Pal share many of the responsibilities for patient care: they assist with feeding, bathing, mobility, and all

other aspects of daily care giving. In addition, Dori is certified to dispense medications. Pal is able to cut men’s hair. Both say they feel deeply appreciated for the way they interact with patients, which adds to their job satisfaction.

Our Lady of Peace celebrates 80 years

The 80th anniversary of Our Lady of Peace Hospice was celebrated with an outdoor candle light ceremony on Dec. 7. Public relations spokesperson Kari Logan said, “More than 25,000 patients have passed away in the care of Our Lady of Peace staff since the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne opened the doors on Dec. 7, 1941. Their mission was to serve the poor as their founder,

Rose Hawthorne, had done on the streets of New York in the late 1800s.”

Logan continued, “A lot of organizations can’t keep CNAs, especially right now. Mekonnen Dori and Hari Pal’s stories really touched me. For two people to work such a long time for one employer, it’s unheard of. Both of them are loved by their colleagues, and by the patients they serve; they bring their own cultural perspectives and a very strong work ethic to their jobs every day.

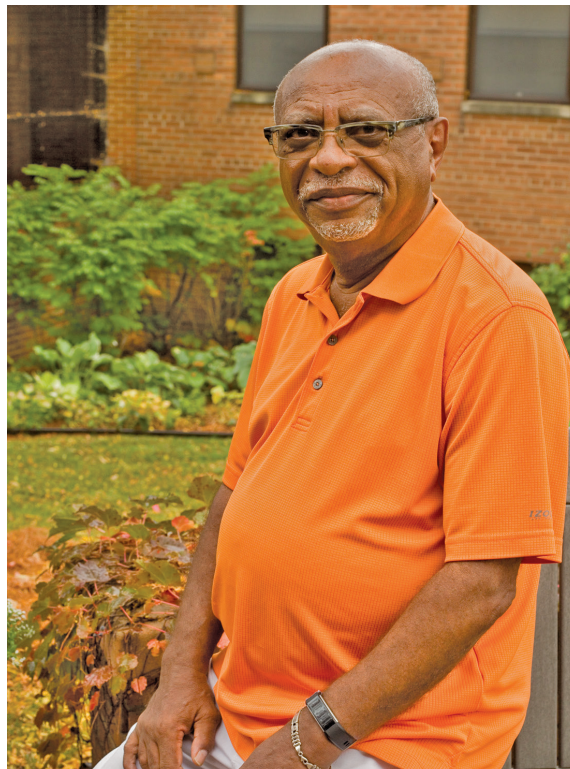
“Mekonnen and Hari are good at what they do, and their work brings them joy.”

Our Lady of Peace Hospice is located at 2076 St. Anthony Avenue in St. Paul. Learn more about their hospice services at www.ourladyofpeace.org.

“When something bad happens to me, it’s not the end of the world. It may be the beginning.

Take things as they come.”

~ Mekonnen Dori



Mekonnen Dori emigrated from Ethiopia in 1999, in a time of deep civil unrest. An early graduate of the Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program at the International Institute of Minnesota, he has worked as a CNA and a TMA ever since. (Photo by Margie O’Loughlin)



Hari Pal emigrated from the Fiji Islands in 1979. He grew up in a family of 10, and has recreated a sense of strong extended family in 33 years of working at Our Lady of Peace Hospice. (Photo by Margie O’Loughlin)

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LEARN ABOUT LIFESOURCE

"Now I'm the villain in your history...I should've known the world was wide enough for Hamilton and me." ~Aaron Burr

"Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier." ~ Colin Powell

Hello Monitor readers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day celebrating gratefulness in your own way with friends, families, and/or with strangers. Although, we are in December, I'm still feeling November's appreciation energy. I recall Saturday Night Live having an episode in November featuring Dionne Warwick singing "What The World Needs Now (Is Love)." Now, it seems that I keep hearing that beautiful sweet song. I also remember an excellent broadcast of a Veterans Day ceremony that was very inclusive and colorful in acknowledging and honoring all veterans; it was a meaningful and inspiring event.

However, it was General Colin Powell's Farewell Service, "Honoring A Patriot" that struck a chord deep in my heart and set the tone for my November Gratitude Month that is stretching into my December Joyful Month. The Farewell Service had great speakers who knew and loved General Powell. However, his son, Michael's loving and multi-layered expressions was compassionate, powerful, and penetrating. The son shared truth and wisdom about his dad. He also reminded folks that his dad's story is our story, as well as it is the American Story. I felt Michael's words were telling of my father's story. I'm grateful that my dad was a Colin Powell-type of dad; and I have no doubt that

General Powell strived to be like my dad and many other American dads, particularly, being a Black man living in Jim Crow America. Likewise, I strive to have and live the values and attributes of my father, the Rev. Robert Benjamin Giles, Sr.

LifeSource

This month I asked a Rondo resident and friend to share about her organization's life-saving work. I'm happy that Katie accepted my invitation to share about a gift that we all can give and possibly might need some day.

In a season where we celebrate both gratitude and generosity, it is an honor to say something about donation and LifeSource in this issue of the Monitor.

So often when we think about donation, we think about recipients whose lives have been transformed and saved by donation and the incredible science and medicine of transplantation. This perspective is how I came to know this community, working in a local transplant center. Every day, I heard from patients waiting about what the gift of life would mean for them and their families. I had the unspeakable privilege of seeing many of these patients' post-transplant with restored hope of graduating high school, seeing kids grow up, returning to work, giving back. While transplant is a treatment that requires diligent care for life, it truly is a second chance at life. Tissue and eye donation similarly restore mobility, sight, and the ability to participate in the most valued aspects of life.

Before lives are transformed by transplantation, donation is first a celebration of the power of generosity and community. A spotlight shines on generosity when peo-

Peace bubbles

By MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com



ple "check the box" to register as a donor when they renew their driver's license or on an online registry. A spotlight illuminates generosity in the midst of tragedy, when families saying goodbye honor their loved ones' spirit by saying yes to donation. Independent of saving and transforming lives, saying yes to donation is saying I choose generosity. I choose community.

This was very much the story with my dad. We knew we could count on a phone call every time our dad renewed his license. With predictable joy in his voice he would say, "Guess what I did at the DMV today? I checked the box!" I think dad would have been proud to be a tissue and eye donor at the time of his death several years ago, but that's not what it was about for him. It was about living into generosity and community without knowing what the outcome would be.

Donation is rare. Because only a small portion of those who register will be able to donate, it truly takes a village of many to meet the needs of those waiting. Regardless of whether they ultimately donate, everyone who registers – everyone who says yes to generosity – is part of this incredible community.

LifeSource is the organization that manages all aspects of organ, eye and tissue donation. We support donor families, who inspire our work every day. We engage with communities and medical professionals about their role in the life-saving process of donation. We came to know Melvin through Mary's generosity through donation, so emblematic of their generosity in so many forms throughout their lives. We cel-



Katie McGee of LifeSource talks about their program. (Photo submitted)

brate Mary and Melvin's legacy of generosity, as we express our gratitude for deep community.

The Monitor is a pillar of community – connecting ideas and people; taking a village approach to projects, advocacy, improvement; all while providing timely, relevant information about topics that are important. Our hope is that the expression of generosity through donation is one of those important topics that we can continue to engage in conversation. I would be so honored to connect with anyone who would like to have conversation about communities of generosity, to share how we can partner or do better, or simply to learn more about donation. Katie McGee, info@life-source.org

Be respectful stewards

I end with the same words I've been sharing all year: please be grateful and respectful to the stewards of Mother Earth and send a holiday note to our Governor and Lt. Governor to halt

and stop operations of Pipeline 3. We have wiser and better productive ways of providing energy and employment for Minnesotans other than using outdated, destructive, and depleting methods for business practices and utilizing natural resources. The trees and plants, sun, wind, and rain and snow love to cheerfully nurture us freely for recreation, business, and for healing our minds, bodies, emotions, and souls.

Keep the positive vibrations flowing and stay optimistic!!!!

May Peace Be In the Rondo, Frogtown, Hamline/Midway, Como, & Surrounding Communities...

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GENERATE TRASH? PAY MORE IN ST. PAUL.

Compost, recycle and practice zero waste? Pay less.

By JANE McCLURE

Generate more trash? Your trash rates will go up in 2022. Opt to recycle and compost more, and practice zero waste? Your costs will increase slightly.

St. Paul residents who generate more garbage will pay more in 2022, under rates unanimously adopted Nov. 17 by the St. Paul City Council. Residents who use smaller trash carts or every other week collection will see smaller rate increases. Quarterly fee increases will range from seven cents to \$5.58, depending on cart size and collection frequency.

"I heard very, very loud and clear from the council members and from residents that folks who are working hard to reduce the amount of garbage they are generating should pay a smaller amount," said Susan Young. She manages resident and employee services for the St. Paul Department of Public Works.

Garbage collection in St. Paul has been a controversial issue for years. The 2021 increase drew objections from several residents, who said the city wasn't doing enough to provide incentives for those who reduce waste.

The 2022 changes drew only two public comments. Both residents want city officials to do more to reduce costs for those who generate less trash, saying they are subsidizing people who throw away more trash.

St. Paul has four service lev-

els for one to four-unit residential properties:

- Small trash cart removal every other week goes up seven cents or .1 percent, from \$59.23 to \$59.30.

- Small trash cart weekly collection will increase 77 cents or 1.1 percent per quarter, from \$69.04 to \$69.81.

- Medium trash cart weekly collection will increase \$1.69 per quarter or 1.8 percent, from \$94.87 to \$96.56.

- The greatest increase is for households with large carts and weekly service. Quarterly fees will increase 5.5 percent or \$5.58 per quarter, from \$101.23 to \$106.81.

Each rate plan includes varying number of large or bulky items that can be disposed of at no additional charge.

Young said opt-on fees won't increase in 2022. Those in-

clude added bulky item charges, yard waste subscriptions, one-time yard waste collections and charges for extra bags of garage.

The city's program administrative fee will increase slightly, from \$27.12 per residential unit in 2021 to \$28.08 in 2022.

Calculating the fees follows a set process, Young said. The city negotiates the fees with the garbage haulers' consortium. Fees are affected by factors including state and county charges, fuel costs, billing costs, the consumer price index, rate of inflation, tonnage collected over the past year and the entrance or tipping fee charged for use of the disposal facility in Newport. One measure driving the increases is that the trash tonnage increased 1.16 percent from July 2020 to July 2021.

All of the trash generated in St. Paul's organized collection program goes to Newport. Ramsey and Washington counties built the Newport facility in the 1980s to generate refuse-derived

fuel for power plants.

The tipping fee is \$87 per ton for 2022, up \$3 from the 2021 charge. Young cautioned that a tipping fee increase to \$99 per ton is projected for 2023 to pay for facility improvements.

One set of improvements is for the long-awaited residential curbside composting program, expected to start in late 2022 or early 2023. Residents will get specially designed bags that can be filled with compostable items and then placed inside trash carts. The bags will be separated from garbage at Newport.

Young said that the rate increases, on top of county and state taxes, will result in an additional \$683,000 being collected in 2022. Another factor driving that increase is slight uptick in residential trash customers. The number of active garbage collection accounts grew roughly one-half percent to 72,126.

Galtier, Jackson schools to close

>> From 1

Parents feel ignored

The vote capped weeks and hours of hearings over the controversial Envision SPPS plan. The hearings drew hundreds of people, ranging from small children who pleaded to keep their schools, to elected officials, former school district administrators and members of the St. Paul and Minnesota NAACP.

While Galtier lacked the sheer numbers of supporters that LEAP, Highwood Hills and Wellstone Elementary turned out, Gator parents and students were no less committed to saving their school. "It's been a great community," said parent Nate Roisen. "It's tied to our neighborhood." He urged the school board to dedicate its energy to bringing families back to public schools.

"Closing schools should be a last resort," he said.

Galtier parents Vichheka Khiev-Clarke and Clayton Howatt spoke of how Galtier has been deprived of resources. The school has had a revolving door of principals, teachers and support staff. Teachers have been there for five or fewer years. Howatt questioned whether that would be allowed at other schools.

"It's like there are two different school districts," he said. Howatt and other school supporters have put in thousands

of hours advocating for equity among schools, and proposing ideas, but they feel ignored.

Khiev-Clarke said she is the person she is today thanks to a St. Paul Public Schools education. She has two children at Galtier and asked the school board to consider providing more resources to the school instead of closing it. "I see us as diamonds, all of us. We have not all been polished ... Make us shine like the stars we are," she said.

A 'Black' school at start, 13 languages spoken now

In a Facebook post, the Galtier Parent Teacher Organization said, "Galtier served kids continuously through WW1, the Great Depression, WW2, and more ...

"The destruction of the Rondo neighborhood, and one of its elementary schools, pushed Black St. Paulites further into Midway and Black children into the White working class Galtier. White flight began and by the time the new building opened, Galtier was already seen as one of the 'Black' schools in St. Paul. From the time of the destruction of Rondo to this day, Galtier has remained a proud majority African American school.

"Today Galtier serves children from all corners of the world. At last check there were 13 home languages represented by our student population. Sadly, all

things must come to an end ...

"We will make the best of our last year, but the pain is deep and real. Thank you to all the students and families that have made Galtier what it is, both now and the generations that came before us."

Frustration, disappointment and distrust

School board members aid they appreciate the difficulty Envision SPPS will cause, but said it is needed to keep schools and the school district viable. Roughly 2,165 students are affected by the changes.

John Brodrick, who is leaving the school board at year's end, said even the amended plan doesn't address the cries for transparency and clarify he has heard from district families. He and board member Zuki Ellis voted against the plan. Brodrick and Jim Vue were the only two votes for a proposal to not close any schools.

Brodrick said he expected to hear sadness after the school closings and changes were announced but he was sad to hear so much "frustration, disappointment and distrust" from so many people.

"I'm not proud of this vote," said board member Yusef Carrillo. He is also leaving the board. But Carrillo and other said the district must address enrollment declines.

Envision SPPS is a response to ongoing declining enrollment, driven largely by increased competition from charter schools. St. Paul Public Schools are down about 3,500 pupils over the past three years. The district has about 16,000 elementary students, with room for 8,000 more.

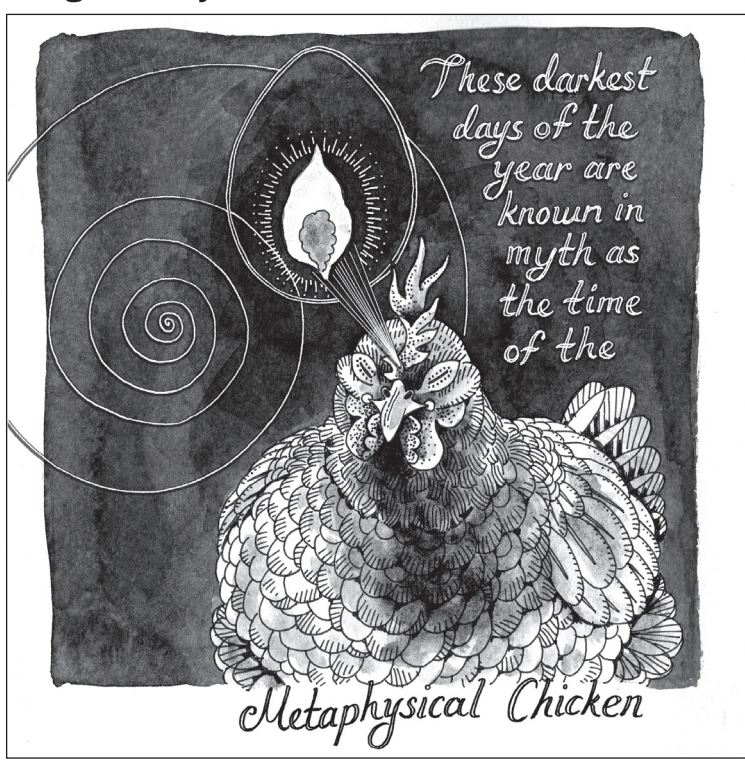
Envision SPPS was touted by school administration as creating larger elementary schools, with more specialists and support staff.

Other schools closing at the

end of this academic year include Parkway Montessori Middle School, which will be repurposed as the middle school for Phalen Lake's Hmong studies students; John A. Johnson Elementary which will merge with Bruce Vento Elementary; and L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion's lower campus.

Obama Elementary will close in fall 2023 and be renovated to house Montessori students from Cherokee Heights and JJ Hill in the future.

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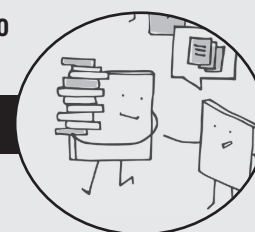
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CAREER PATHWAYS CENTER SUPPORTS STUDENTS

Como Park Senior High School



By ERIC
ERICKSON
Social studies teacher

With all Como students back in person this academic year, the Career Pathway Center has been a busy place under the guidance of Ms. Bridgette Kelly.

College representatives have been able to host sessions for interested students, as well as schedule individual visits. Kelly offered a "College Knowledge Night" during parent teacher conferences which had a turnout of 75 students and parents. Attendees were provided an overview of the college application process, resources to navigate it, and even assistance for seniors starting their college applications.

Beyond college planning, the Career Pathway Center is also the information base for certificate programs, internships, work opportunities, and employment training projects.

"Our goal is to support students as they decide what comes next after high school," Kelly said. "There are so many incredible opportunities to choose from, which can be overwhelming. We want students to know that they are not on their own. That they can come to the Career Pathway Center and get the support they need to turn their goals into achievements."

JROTC Drill Competition

Marine Corps JROTC cadets hosted the Devil Dog Drill Competition at Como last month. Seven schools, including one from North Dakota and one



A University of Minnesota admissions representative visited with Como students in the Career Pathway Center during College Knowledge Month. (Photo courtesy of Bridgette Kelly)

from South Dakota, came to participate in the annual weekend event that promotes positive energy through physical and mental challenges.

Como took second place overall. Cadet Corporal Ve Ah Ree Shar was selected as the Ironman. The Knowledge Bowl Team took first place led by Cadet Corporal Alex Le. Cadet First Lieutenant Nayblut Kasuh was the Knockout Drill Champion. Cadet Major Aliser Paw, Como's Commanding Officer, won first place for the Uniform Inspection Team.

"The teamwork and morale of all the cadets was critical to our success," said Sgt. Major James Kirkland. "Their example of good sportsmanship to more than 300 visitors to Como during the weekend was a high point and will leave a lasting impression."

Theater Club

Creative Como students who casually collaborated on skits this fall ended up putting on a production in the school's forum on Nov. 18.

After starting with weekly meetings, theater games and acting drills, the club members were inspired to write original skits. An enthusiastic and supportive audience was treated to four short one act plays.

The fun and entertaining storylines were focused on a goth principal and their interpreter, a unique take on a Freddy Fazbear Pizzeria, an unruly customer at a drive through, and a scheme where teachers unite to get back at a "naughty" student.

Thanksgiving

Como staff member Donnell Gibson has been running his Gibson Foundation since 2015. Every year at Thanksgiving, Gibson hosts a Thanksgiving meal at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center for those who may not otherwise have one.

In pandemic times, Gibson has delivered hundreds of cooked meals to East Side families on the holiday. "I was always taught the greatest thing a man can do is feed a person's soul," Gibson said.

MONITOR DEADLINES 2022

Publication typically second Thursday. * Some exceptions	Deadlines typically last or first Monday.
Publication date	Deadline date
Jan. 13	Jan. 3
Feb. 10	Jan. 31
March 10	Feb. 28
April 14	April 4
May 12	May 2
June 9	May 27 (Friday)
July 14	July 1 (Friday)
Aug. 11	Aug. 1
Sept. 15	Sept. 2 (Friday)
Oct. 13	Oct. 3
Nov. 10	Oct. 31
Dec. 8	Nov. 28

SPECIAL SECTIONS CALENDAR 2022

JANUARY due Jan. 3

Health & Wellness
School Guide

FEBRUARY due Jan. 31

Summer Camp Guide
Wedding

MARCH due Feb. 28

Home Improvement
CSA Guide

APRIL due April 4

Home & Garden
Drive & Ride

MAY due May 2

Home & Garden
Summer in the City

JUNE due May 27

Summer in the City

JULY due July 1

@ University Ave.
Summer in the City

AUGUST due Aug. 1

Back to School
Summer in the City

SEPTEMBER due Sept. 2

Back to School
- Health focus

OCTOBER due Oct. 4

Home Improvement
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month

NOVEMBER due Oct. 31

Food & Drink
Shop Small/Buy Local

DECEMBER due Nov. 28

Paws and Claws
Shop Small/Buy Local

QUARTERLY

AGING WELL/LIVING 50+

March - Housing | June - Activities
Sept. - Medical | Dec. - Money

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SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS AND COVID-19

Families facing new challenges and need to find support

By JAN WILLMS

The impact of COVID-19 on special needs children and their parents is immense.

Jerrold Brown, a Concordia professor who is the program director for the Master of Arts degree in human services with an emphasis on forensic behavioral health, has done most of his professional work around autism, developmental disorders, people on the spectrum and those with traumatic brain injury.

"If you are raising a child with special needs, and you don't have the resources, it can be very stressful," he said. "These families have been very impacted."

He said a special needs child may not understand why wearing a mask is beneficial. "Also, most individuals with neurodevelopmental issues have sensory deprivation, and it's a struggle for them to wear masks."

Brown added that for some special needs children, being at home and out of school has been good. For others, it has been very stressful. "In some cases, the children have lost some of their verbal development. Anxiety and depression are very common."

According to Brown, if all

these topics are brought together, including children not sleeping well, having low energy and having a difficult time staying focused, the difficulty of raising special needs children during a pandemic cannot be over-emphasized. "You also have to take into account adults with neurodevelopmental disorders, who may be chronologically older, but function at the age of a six-year-old," he said.

"Making good decisions is challenging for parents and teachers," Brown acknowledged. "When these kids grow up, in some cases they may live in a group home, which can present a lot of challenges. The child may run away, which is dangerous enough. But now the child could run away without a mask and bring COVID-19 back to the group home and infect others. We are in uncharted territory."

Brown said that at Concordia, a graduate program offering a series of classes on "Trauma, Resilience and Self-Care Strategy" is digging into research in this area.

Connections

He said there is a lot of isolation for special needs children during the pandemic, and parents may wonder how their children can connect with friends. "Do you allow them over? How

much connection do you do online?"

Brown cited other concerns for parents. Do they send their child back to school or have the child stay home and do online learning?

The stressors may be different if the household has two parents or a single parent, according to Brown. "The key is to create some balance, because parents are burned out, exhausted and more vulnerable. The healthier and more resilient the parents are, the more they can support their child."

There are associations in the Twin Cities that can provide support. Brown urged parents of special needs children to find a network. "It is totally okay to say you need help," he said. "Some parents may feel alone and isolated, and they need to realize these feelings they are experiencing are shared by others."

Involving child without special needs

Brown also expressed concern over the child in the household without special needs. "Parents often dedicate the most time to the child with special needs, and the other child may feel left out," he noted. "Evidence shows this can cause problems for the other child, and you may want to get support for the whole



"If you are raising a child with special needs, and you don't have the resources, it can be very stressful," said Jerrod Brown, a professor at Concordia University. "These families have been very impacted." The university has started a program for an online graduate certificate in trauma, resilience and self-care strategies that is open to professionals in a variety of fields. The course addresses things that are COVID-19 related, and trauma. (Photo submitted)

family system."

He said that families may enjoy sports activities together or gardening or equine activities. "Go for a walk as a family, even if it is just once a week," he stated. "If you focus on the stress day in and day out, it is so hard."

Brown said that winter will find more families spending time

inside, but there are also things to do as a family during the cold weather. "Find outlets on TV, find some hobbies you can work on and get your kids involved with decision making on the hobby, if it's age appropriate."

Consider a coach or therapist

Staying current on the research coming out and how COVID-19 can affect child development can be very helpful, in Brown's opinion. He suggested that if parents are short of time, they hire a coach who understands this information, or a therapist, seek education outlets or check some of the videos on YouTube. "It is good to be more aware and more able to deal with this complex issue," he said.

He said the graduate online courses on "Trauma, Resilience and Self-Care" are open to so many people: professionals working in social services, criminal justice, with runaway youth or homeless populations. "Students who just completed a degree, someone making a career change, or someone who has been in the field and wants to enhance their career can sign up," Brown said. "Some things in the courses are COVID-19 related, some things deal with trauma. And what do we do about it?"

Editor's note: This is the third in a three-part series with professor Jerrod Brown on the psychological impacts and trauma associated with COVID-19 that is affecting members of the helping profession. Find parts one and two on our website.

Next up: figuring out rental control ordinance

Can the city make amendments, such as exempting new construction?

By JANE McCLURE

Rent control for St. Paul was approved, 53 to 47 percent, by the voters. Now the challenge of figuring out the ordinance and what it means begins.

The measure places a three present cap on maximum rent increases for all landlords. It doesn't exempt new development or small landlords. Nor are there exemptions for landlords who wish to further raise rents after tenants move out of an apartment.

Elected officials are trying to sort out what they can and cannot do. Rent control advocates continue to celebrate the Nov. 2 ballot box win and outline their next steps. The Housing Equity Now St. Paul (HENS) coalition held an online update session Nov. 17 to celebrate their win and outline what's ahead. Members are waiting to see more details about how the city will implement the measure.

Affect on projects?

Projects that are underway are being completed. That includes apartments going up at University and Raymond ave-

nues, University and Hampden avenues, and University and Fairview avenues.

But developers and investors are putting other projects on hold, including the massive Highland Bridge project at the former Ford Motor Company plant site in Highland Park neighborhood. Multi-family residential projects there that are under construction are being completed but projects that haven't broken ground are sidelined. That's true in many other parts of the city.

Developer Alatus hasn't announced the fate of its mixed use apartments near University and Lexington Parkway, which won city approval earlier this year.

Developer Reuter Walton is wrapping up work on its affordable housing apartments at University and Fairview, and is preparing for a 2022 start on a five-story mixed-use project at 695 Grand Ave. that is being built with the Kenefick family. Ari Parritz of Reuter Walton said that as of now rent stabilization isn't forcing any changes to the design or construction of the Grand project.

The rent control ordinance is likely to have some impact on projects' rental rates, said Parritz. Rents haven't been finalized for either project.

Exemptions?

Parritz is hoping for amendments to the ordinance. "We're hopeful that the mayor and council find a way to exempt new construction from the policy as quickly as possible, and add other common sense features including vacancy decontrol and inflation adjustments that most other cities have as essential components of their policies," he said.

That may be easier said than done. Under the city charter, the rent control ordinance cannot be changed for a year. The ordinance is in effect, according to the city attorney's office. The city isn't expected to have staff in place to implement it until May 1, 2022. That date was cited in the ballot language and enabling ordinance.

It's not clear what will happen to other Midway projects that are on the drawing boards. At least one project on Marshall

Ave. at Fry Street in Merriam Park neighborhood is moving ahead, as houses on that site were demolished in mid-November. Dean Cummings, who cochairs the Union Park District Council land use committee, said that group is trying to sort out which projects are moving ahead and which are on hold. About half a dozen projects are in the pipeline in that planning district alone, most on or near Marshall Ave.

Housing justice = racial justice

Rent control advocates are watching any proposed changes closely. "We did our job, we put it on the ballot and we won," said organizer Tram Hoang. She noted the group won six of seven wards, including winning 78.6 percent of the votes in a Ward One precinct that is part of the historically diverse Rondo neighborhood.

"Housing justice is racial justice," Hoang said.

HENS' focus going forward is to reach out to tenants who may face steep rent increases between now and May 1, 2022. Margaret Kaplan of the Housing Justice Center emphasized that the city's rental situation is being watched closely. "We're asking people to report rent hikes," she said.

Hoang and Kaplan also

pushed back on the concerns raised by the development community and investors, and the argument that voters didn't really know what they were approving. Both called the development delays and shelved projects "a fear-based disaster narrative."

Can they make amendments?

For their part, elected officials disagree as to what they can and cannot do. Before the election Mayor Melvin Carter voiced support for the measure but also called for amendments. He wants city council members to work with him on exempting new construction from the measure.

In a letter to council members, Deputy Mayor Jaime Tinch said exempting new construction is a priority for Carter. She also said a webpage explaining the ordinance will be posted soon. A page was posted the day after the election but quickly taken down because it raised more questions than answers and irked city council members.

Council members question whether they can make amendments now. Under the city charter, any amendments couldn't be brought forward for a year. They are pressing Carter's administration for more specifics saying they need to see proposed amendments.

2 days added to winter break

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is adding two days to its winter break, which will now be two full weeks. "We need to acknowledge the stress and challenges both families and staff are facing due to the pandemic. We want to give our students, school

staff and their families a longer break," says Superintendent Joe Gothard. "We also encourage everyone to use this time to get vaccinated or get your booster shot if you are eligible."

The district's winter break had been scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Dec. 22, with stu-

dents returning on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. Today's announcement means there will be no classes on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 20-21. Winter break for students will begin after classes end on Friday, Dec. 17.

The district's Discovery Club child care program will be offered

on Monday, Dec. 20, for currently enrolled families but will not operate on Tuesday, Dec. 21. Monday, December 20, will be a professional development (PD) day for school staff. This day will be a regular workday for all other SPPS staff. Tuesday, December 21, will be a non-school day for all stu-

dents and school staff. This day will be a regular workday for all other SPPS staff.

In order to allow for this change to the school year calendar, April 15, which had been scheduled as a professional development day for school staff, will now be a digital learning day.

Wondering what we do?

Hamline Midway Elders is here to support our neighbors 60+ in the Hamline Midway and western Frogtown area. Our service area is within Dale Street on the east; University Avenue to the south; Transfer Rd to the west and Pierce Butler Route to the north. Call, email, or make an appointment at our office, a coffee shop, or your home for any of the following. There is no charge for our staff's time, although donations are always gratefully accepted. We promise to keep your business just that, and maintain confidentiality.

Volunteer Coordination: Request a prescreened volunteer for simple home repair, chore help, or friendly visiting – one-time or ongoing, individual or group as we are able.

Hamline Midway Elders

By LAUREL COLLINS
laurel@hmelers.org
651-209-6542



Rides: First, call or visit and introduce yourself so we can get to know you and your ride needs. Then call 3 working days' in advance (with exceptions for sudden needs) to schedule a ride by a volunteer, or staff. Drivers can provide extra TLC in the form of managing walkers, dropping you at the door, etc.

Resource and Referral: We know some great people and organizations. If our staff or volunteers don't do a service (such as electrical, Meals on Wheels, providing a wheelchair loan, cleaning or taxes), we very well may know someone in the neighborhood who does, affordably.

We maintain our Aging Well Resource List available upon request for just this reason. We have helped people obtain no-cost ramps, home repairs, and work with Trellis to select their Medicare plan, for example.

Caregiver Support: Caregiving is important, and challenging. Let us help you identify the resources you or your loved one may need, and/or provide some encouragement for you as well. Tasks such as applying for County or VA support can feel overwhelming without some support.

Office/Clerical Tasks: Not everyone has a "home office." Let us help you use the internet to apply for programs, shop for something special, fill out paperwork, fax something, or make up to 10 copies at a time. Our staff, and resources, are available to help individuals.

Shopping Help: Our volunteers can shop for, or with, elders, up to twice a month.

Navigating Homecare Options: If you or your loved one

is homebound and has need for homemaking, home health aides, skilled nursing, or PT, we can help you start the process of pursuing the homecare you need. Did you know that a fall, with or without injuries, may qualify you for a round of Medicare-funded physical therapy in your home to work on strength and balance?

TRY US! Let us know what has you worrying at 3 a.m. Chances are you're not the first, or only neighbor to deal with whatever it is. If we can't help, we'll work with you to identify who can.

Documentary series returns

On Beauty
Filmmaker: Joanna Rudnick
(Total running time: 31 min.)
Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 1 p.m.
Hamline Library
Jody Huber, film aficionado and all-around great person, hosts this monthly group with a curated short documentary, and discussion after. All ages are welcome, so bring your friends, fam-

ily, and neighbors.

High-end fashion photographer, Rick Guidotti, puts his money where his mouth is, when he ups and leaves the industry, because of their model-esque standards. Instead, he redefines what is beauty by photographing – with dignity and respect – those who'd never fall within a model's guidelines. And in fact, routinely endure cold hard stares or are ostracized. Find out how much this single act changed their lives.

This program is offered by Hamline Midway Elders and the St. Paul Public Libraries.

Ongoing:

- Knitting & Crochet: In-Person & Zoom, Mondays, 1-3 p.m.
- Chair Yoga with Karen Little, Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., In-person and on Zoom, Jan. 13 - March 17
- Tai Chi for Health with Carl Wilson, Mondays, 11 a.m. to noon, In-person and on Zoom, Jan. 24 - March 21

PLAN IT

'Birth, Sex and Abuse'

World Without Genocide will host an online program in December. "Birth, Sex, and Abuse: Women and Children under Nazi Rule" will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m. Register at worldwithoutgenocide.org/women. This program commemorates the 73rd anniversaries of the signing of the UN Genocide Convention on Dec. 9, 1948 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10, 1948. This is a live webinar and a recording will not be available.

Roseville High Theater

Roseville Area High School (RAHS) presents an unconventional look at our surprisingly interconnected lives in the musical "The Theory of Relativity," which will be staged Dec. 16-19 at the school's brand new John J. Thein Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available at isd623.org/rahsdrama, rahsdrama.ludus.com or at the box office. Curtain time is 7 p.m. for shows on Dec. 17 and 18 (Friday and Saturday) and 2 p.m. on Dec. 19 (Sunday). Friday's performance will also include a dedication of the new performing arts center.

BRIEFLY

Center for Social Justice

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities has received a grant of \$1,000,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish a Leadership Center for Social Justice that will prepare pastoral leaders to involve their congregations strategically in constructive actions that move their communities toward holistic justice.

Hiway named finalist

Hiway Credit Union's Roseville branch was recently named a Finalist for the Future Branches: Outstanding Branch Design award. The branch, which opened in the spring of 2021, offers innovative features and perks for members. With plenty of space in the 17,000 square foot facility for a tenant, Hiway partnered with one of the United States' fastest-growing quick-serve brands, Dunkin'. Fully staffed ITM technology helps members handle basic transactions at Roseville, a first for Hiway and an offering that's still rare in the Twin Cities market. In addition, Hiway added several safety and sustainability features to the branch, including solar panels, automatic

lighting, touchless bathroom fixtures, AtmosAir ionization technology, and free-to-all EV chargers.

2 days to winter break

A group of Ramsey County community leaders has launched The School of Leadership for Public Service, a new public charter school where challenging classes are the foundation for careers in public service. While students learn core subjects from licensed teachers, they will see right away how people use these skills each day at work.

Families with children who will be in grades 6 to 10 in the 2022-2023 school year will be the first to enroll. The school will be in Ramsey County. Families who are interested in more information may contact Donna Swanson, the school's start-up coordinator, at 651-492-5487 or get more information online at <https://www.leadershipforpublicservice.org>.

The School of Leadership for Public Service is led by a nine-member Board of Directors, along with support from a five-member Advisory Board.



'Altitude' unveiled at YMCA

YWCA St. Paul will display and house an art piece commissioned by St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter reflecting the city's People's Prosperity Pilot, an economic program initiated in 2020. People's Prosperity Pilot supports St. Paul's low-income families of color with a goal to create a model that addresses monetary inequities. As part of the People's Prosperity Pilot, Carter selected Alan and Nicole Milligan, owners of the Milligan Studio, to create a piece of art reflecting the intention of this economic program. The work aligns with the YWCA mission of eliminating racism. "We are excited to have been selected to share this beautiful artwork, Altitude, with our community," said YWCA St. Paul Chief Executive Officer Gaye Adams Massey. The artwork will be on display permanently in the window on the second floor allowing people to view this as they walk through the neighborhood. The Milligan Studios had Danny Diamond, a friend and musician, compose and play a musical piece to accompany the art. A QR code will allow viewers to hear this melody simultaneously. (Photo submitted)

Volunteers 55+ Needed

Earn a tax-free stipend, mileage reimbursement, training, recognition and pride know you are making a difference in your community by helping seniors stay independent and active. Opportunities also exist working with children in schools as a Foster Grandparent. To learn more, contact Jacqueline James at 651.310.9455, Jacqueline.James@lssmn.org.



SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

The Twin Cities is full of fun for kids.
Find it here in our popular guide.

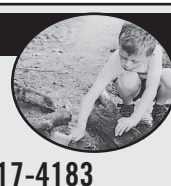


Coming February. Deadline Jan. 31.

AD TIPS: What sets your camp apart?
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