



New
Americans
get lift
at IMN
>> 2

Is West Midway becoming place of 'bedrooms and breweries'?

Some neighbors question loss of job-producing land during discussion about former Minnesota Chemical Company property

By JANE MCCLURE

The former Minnesota Chemical Company complex in West Midway could become home to almost 150 households, as a major redevelopment project moves ahead, but the quest to find a new use for 2285 Hampden Ave. has jump-started debate over industrial land in St. Paul, and when or if industrial sites should be re-zoned.

One neighbor who opposed the project questioned the loss of job-producing land, and wondered if the area was becoming a place of "bedrooms and breweries."

City plans have been part of the debate over the project. Both the 2040 comprehensive plan and the 2014 West Midway Industrial Area Plan call for retaining the city's industrial zoned property. But property owner Exeter Management LLC has pointed out that the West Midway plan supports conversion of industrial uses in the area if dictated by market conditions, provided they are high-density and near regional transportation corridors. High density in terms of jobs or housing are conversions that should be considered.

BEDROOMS AND BREWERIES >> 5



SLICE PIZZA OPENS AT DALE & UNIVERSITY

Best friends Adam Kado (second from left) and Hosie Thurmond (second from right) celebrate the grand opening of their third pizzeria on Sept. 15, 2023. Among those joining them were Neighborhood Development Center President and CEO Renay Dossman, Mayor Melvin Carter, and little Hosie Thurmond, Jr. "I was born and raised in St. Paul," said Kado. "This is priceless to me." >> Read more on page 14. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



By TALIA MCWRIGHT

From their Standpoint

Survivors connect with attorneys through free line

Thi Synavone came to the U.S. in 1979 as a Laotian refugee. After living in many states, her family settled in Minnesota in 1988. Synavone said that growing up, domestic and sexual violence was never addressed, and in Lao culture there is no word for domestic abuse. Even now in her adult years, she explained, not a lot of people like to engage in conversations about domestic violence.

"The statistics are high, yet we don't have conversations around it," Synavone said.

Synavone has worked at Standpoint (2324 University Ave. W. Suite 103, St. Paul) for six years.

When she first started working with Standpoint, she focused on doing outreach within the Laotian community, creating spaces for women to talk openly about experiences of domestic and sexual violence. Synavone centered the gatherings around things like cooking, and would ease into bringing up conversations that would engage her community. Synavone wanted to offer women support by communicating a perspective that championed their safety and comfort.

"The message was, if this is happening to you and you feel unsafe, there are people to talk to about it for you to feel safe," Synavone said.

She started at Standpoint as an advocate support program manager, then transitioned to the director of organization and staff development. She is now the executive director of Standpoint. Since the late 90s, she has worked to curb domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking. Her work began in rural southwest Minnesota until 2016, when she moved to the Twin Cities. She has a masters from Metropolitan State University in nonprofit and public administration. A large focus of the work she does alongside the domestic and sexual violence advocacy is finding ways to provide access to resources and



Thi Synavone works as the executive director at Standpoint. (Photo submitted)

AI: stuff of science fiction is now a business reality

Midway Chamber panel talks about how artificial intelligence is affecting business

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Generative AI has captivated the world since the launch of Chat GPT on Nov. 30, 2022, observed Ron Lancaster of Structural, an Augeo company, but AI has been around much longer than that.

It's a part of the customer chats on Amazon, used for facial and speech recognition on cell phones, behind internet

marketing algorithms, and generating the prompts as you type.

"What AI is capable of doing is the stuff of science fiction," stated Lancaster.

During a Midway Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Sept. 20, 2023, Andrew Eklund, the founder of Ciceron, gave a demonstration of ChatGPT. Google gives users a series of results and links, he explained. ChatGPT gives people the answers by scouring the entire internet for them and then synthesizing them.

ChatGPT stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, and is a large language model-based chatbot developed by OpenAI. It enables users to refine and steer a conversation towards a desired length, format, style, level of detail, and language.

ChatGPT is built upon either GPT-3.5 or GPT-4.

Businesses can use artificial intelligence, more commonly referred to as AI, in a lot of ways, according to Michelle Tran Maryns of We Sparkle. We Sparkle Co. is a certified small/minority/woman-owned public benefit corporation based in Prospect Park. They offer entrepreneurs help for buying products, scheduling services, and getting questions answered by one's own AI Assistant. Current businesses using We Sparkle are the Coven, Meet Minneapolis, Neighborhood Development Center, Co-Motion, and Junior Achievement.

AI >> 5

STANDPOINT >> 3



HOME IMPROVEMENT
Artists share tips on how to add art to your home

PAGE 6-7



VOTERS GUIDE
Get informed about who is on the ballot in St. Paul

PAGES 8-9, 11



Frogtown gets greener with 1,000 trees x2

PAGE 10

New Americans get internet lift at IIMN

New Lift Zone offers privacy pods, broadband and laptops

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Thanks to a Lift Zone, new immigrants will be able to attend virtual job interviews and telehealth appointments at the International Institute of Minnesota (1694 Como Ave.).

Part of Comcast's Project UP, the new space includes two Lift Zone privacy pods. There's free broadband access onsite for institute students and clients. Plus, Comcast provided 250 new laptops for newly arrived refugees that will support students.

"We're here to talk about digital equity," observed International Institute of Minnesota (IIMN) Executive Director Jane Graupman during a ribbon-cutting on Sept. 21, 2023.

"As a mayor, there are all these things you want for a community. That's where good partners come in," stated Mayor Melvin Carter. He praised Comcast as a private sector business that "doesn't just do business but invests in our community."

The mayor also pointed to the necessity of good internet for education, jobs and more. "Our relationship with technology has changed," he observed. "The internet is as important as food these days."

"We've been at this a long time trying to close the digital divide," remarked Broderick Johnson, Comcast NBC Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Digital Equity. His wife graduated from Washburn High School in Minneapolis, and his 92-year-old mother-in-law still resides in Edina, Minn.

Instead of saying, "put that device down," it's time to show children how to use it more effectively, he encouraged.



Celebrating the new lift zone and privacy pods on Sept. 21, 2023 are (left to right) Ron Orlando of Comcast, St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, Broderick Johnson of Comcast, Jane Graupman of the International Institute of Minnesota, Chad Kulas of the Midway Chamber and Kalyn Hove of Comcast. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

"That's what happens here," he said as he looked around the new Lift Zone at IIMN. It is one of 115 in Minnesota and 1,250 in the United States. He referenced the Affordable Connectivity Program that provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households, and a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. The federal government set aside \$14 billion for the program.

"We got to work hard to get another 30 million households connected to the internet," said Johnson. He added, "Having access to the internet is not enough. We have to also make sure they have devices."

Comcast's Lift Zones program provides free WiFi, powered by Comcast Business, to enable students, seniors, families, and community members to get online and fully participate in the digital economy. The Lift Zones are part of Project UP, Comcast's \$1 billion commitment to reach millions of people with the tools, resources, and skills needed to succeed in a digital world.

"The tasks of starting a new life in a new country can be overwhelming for refugees and immigrants when they arrive. Digital literacy and lack of reliable internet access can get in the way of applying for work, participating in classes or accessing community services," said Graupman.

WHAT THEY DO AT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

Classes and job training:

Programs include English, community orientation, housekeeper training, cashiering skills, dietary aid, nursing assistant training, college readiness, driver's education, computer skills, money and finance, work readiness and more.

Refugee services:

Refugee resettlement, employment help

Anti-human trafficking:

Staff help find safe, affordable housing, access primary and mental healthcare, obtain job training and job placement services, learn English, and obtain referrals for other social services

"Thanks to Comcast and this Lift Zone partnership, we can make this time a little easier for new Americans who contribute so much to our community."

IIMN offers a variety of training programs, including several in the health field. Through those, 3,000 people have been employed, and, of that, 700 are two- and four-year registered nurses. "New Americans have really changed the landscape in St. Paul and our state because of the important services they provide," said Graupman.

Last year, IIMN opened a renovated, expanded building that included six new classrooms and hands-on job training labs. While they were operating classes remotely, Comcast provided IIMN with funding and donated laptops.

This year, Comcast reinvested in the IIMN refugee services programs providing funding to support sign up assistance for the Affordable Connectivity Program and Internet Essentials to every refugee household IIMN resettled, providing their families with free high-speed broadband in their homes. Over 300 newly arrived refugees benefited from this support this year.



SAINT PAUL COLLEGE
Fit in. Stand out.

Open House

Tuesday, October 24

5-7pm • Saint Paul College

Come and join us for an exciting event filled with games, prizes, demonstrations, immersive simulations, and much more. Don't miss out!





Be sure to let us know you'll be there!
saintpaul.edu/OpenHouse

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



Lloyd's pharmacy
est. 1949
& Compounding Center

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY!


720 Snelling Av. N., St. Paul, MN 55104

Still servicing all your pharmacy needs:

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

Independently owned and operated in the Hamline Midway neighborhood since 1918.

LIVE, LOVE, LLOYD'S



Hours


Monday-Friday
8am - 8pm

Saturday
8:30am - 6pm

Sunday
9am - 1pm

 **Web**
www.lloydsrx.com

 **Phone**
651-645-8636



STANDPOINT >> from 1

services for marginalized communities.

The organization offered training and support for Synavone when she was a legal advocate. She expressed that Standpoint was a huge supporter for advocates in keeping them informed about how updated laws impact domestic violence and sexual violence survivors. She communicated that joining Standpoint was a perfect fit for her.

"Standpoint had always been an organization that I had looked up to and an organization that I knew supported advocates in finding justice for domestic violence and sexual violence victims," Synavone said.

Synavone explained that domestic and sexual violence cases are unique and complex, which is why Standpoint attorneys and advocates are vital as they are able to walk victim survivors through the process of hearings, and the criminal justice system. They explain specific terminology to help inform and empower.

There are many barriers victims have to face, especially those in BIPOC and marginalized communities, Synavone said. These barriers are especially prominent in reporting, in court cases and during trials. She explained that it is important to understand what justice means to each individual person in order to serve them well.

"For some survivors, justice looks like having their perpetrator doing time behind bars," Synavone said. "For some survivors, justice looks like them healing and regaining their ability to be free from that person, so justice looks different for everybody."

Raising awareness for domestic and sexual violence was not the work Synavone imagined she'd be a part of in her younger years. Over time her passion grew and she dedicated time and attention on trying to make a difference in the field.

"When I started doing the work, I started seeing the need."

As a parent, Synavone explained she believes that change starts at home in educating children about how domestic violence and power and control dynamics are learned behaviors. She explained that determining whether someone is going to be tolerant or not of violence starts at home. She actively teaches her kids what healthy relationships look like, and challenges the social and cultural norms of traditional gender roles.

"It's not to say that this is something that happens overnight or anything, but as a parent I was very intentional on how I modeled that message to my kids," Synavone said.



Standpoint staff Ann McFarland (left) and Michelina Lucia (right) help survivors navigate through a complex legal system. (Photos submitted)



ATTORNEY WORK

Ann McFarland has been involved at Standpoint since 2020, and has been the housing and supervising attorney since fall 2022. Before Standpoint she worked at the Volunteer Lawyers Network, and learned of Standpoint from a partnership between the two. Within the housing program, McFarland handles action line housing questions, provides training for system professionals and advocates who provide emotional and social support for survivors and families, and creates resources surrounding housing needs for victims/survivors.

"Standpoint's expertise is the intersection of domestic and sexual violence and the justice system," McFarland said.

Standpoint started in 1984 as "The Family Law Project," and aimed to raise awareness of legal services for women and children in low income circumstances. They also monitored the Domestic Abuse Act in southern Minnesota. In 1986, it was renamed the "Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project," and expanded across the state. In 2016, they became Standpoint. The mission is "to promote justice for domestic and sexual violence victims." Standpoint currently has 15 staff members, and offers assistance with family law, protective orders, housing, immigration and other legal services.

Growing up, McFarland's mother was a social worker and worked often with domestic violence shelters. McFarland expressed that she was very inspired by her mother's work, and over time as she learned more about domestic and sexual violence, she felt called to the work.

"I take so much pride in what we do and I am inspired everyday by the victims/survivors that we work with," McFarland said. "My coworkers are amazing, and I'm inspired by them, too."

A challenge McFarland experiences within the housing program, and with domestic and sexual violence work as a

whole, is a lack of funding. With more funding, she feels that Standpoint would expand, do more in depth work, and provide more training to field professionals. As the need is high, she feels the work is extremely valuable.

Hennepin resident Michelina Lucia began working as an attorney within the Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) grant in 2023. While studying as a paralegal, Lucia worked at a law firm that focused on severe domestic violence family cases. The experience sparked her interest in working with domestic and sexual violence cases. After graduating from the University of Minnesota law school, she worked for Anoka County for three years, and then moved to Standpoint. The LAV grant is primarily for non intimate partner sexual violence in Ramsey County.

"I knew from the start of my work in law that they [Standpoint] were the go to entity for learning the new or current laws of domestic or sexual violence," Lucia said. "They just created a really good name for themselves for the cases that they take on and the work that they do."

Through LAV, survivors can request protective orders. They work with schools and employers to get accommodations, and ensure that systems are following the right steps to protect survivors. Working within LAV and the appellate court brief committee, Lucia often works with children. She expressed that the experience of supporting children and their guardians through the process is very rewarding, and she admires the resilience she witnesses in young survivors. Before becoming an advocate at Standpoint, Lucia wanted to learn more about representing survivors of sexual violence. Working with the attorneys at Standpoint has taught her how to represent survivors well through informed care and representation practices.

Lucia, like Synavone, had not originally imagined herself working in the field, but views the work as necessary due to

the amount of cases and survivors in need of support and representation. Her work, especially in working with child survivors, bears a lot of emotional weight. Lucia expressed that it is important that she actively cares for her own mental and emotional health.

"Standpoint is very good at encouraging and modeling healthy habits to make sure that you can continue to work in this field," Lucia said.

GETTING INVOLVED

During the early stages of the pandemic in 2020, Standpoint experienced an increase in calls to their action line, which operates from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. The organization did not have to shut down their services during the pandemic as this system allowed them to continue doing their work remotely. The lockdown also inspired the organization to create a text line, as many were forced to live with their abusers. As the number of callers increased, the amount of Standpoint staff increased as well to accommodate the need.

"With the growth of our organization, we're able to participate more and provide more of our insight, experience and Standpoint's expertise around domestic violence and sexual violence and bring that voice to our collaborations and partnerships," Synavone said.

Despite increased awareness of domestic and sexual violence, Synavone said that the numbers of victims/survivors has not decreased. She expressed that funding of resources is a large issue, and that for the most part in Minnesota domestic violence shelters are full every day.

"We [Standpoint employees] say, 'This is a job that we want to work ourselves out of,'" Synavone said. "I've been doing this work since 1997, and I don't see us being able to work ourselves out of a job. It is an issue that continues to happen and there's still a lot of work to be done."

Synavone encourages people to call local domestic and sexual violence organizations to find out how they can get involved. Most organizations need volunteers, she said, and there are many ways to get involved, including donations of time, funds, and advocacy. Tickets are available for Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Day Block Center (1103 Washington Ave, Minneapolis) as Standpoint is hosting its annual "Stand with Standpoint" fundraising event which celebrates the work of their advocates, attorneys and professionals. The event features live entertainment, a silent auction and "Journey of Hope" awards ceremony.

Businesses seek STAR program funds

By JANE MCCLURE

Project sponsors are lining up this month for their Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) Program interviews. The 69 sponsors who are meeting with the Neighborhood STAR Board are seeing the first major changes to the program.

The 2023 requests total \$4,277,063.58, and include several asks from area neighborhoods. Most are for commercial improvements.

Board recommendations go to the mayor and city council for approval by year's end. The St. Paul Planning Commission also reviews requests for consistency with approved city plans.

The 1993 Minnesota Legislature approved the STAR program, which has neighborhood and cultural components, as well as support for RiverCentre. In June, neighborhood guidelines underwent their first major revisions.

Applicants can only seek grants. The loan program was dropped. Grants requests have to be at least \$5,000.

Requests of more than \$50,000 must be matched on a minimum 1-1 basis. Eleven of the 69 requests this year are for more than \$50,000. The largest request,

for \$400,000, is from African Development Center for a citywide small business loan program.

More than 50 of the proposals are for commercial or mixed-use property improvements. Others are residential or institutional requests.

In 2022, 70 requests totaling \$6.194 million were submitted. The 2023 field was originally at 70 requests but one proposal was withdrawn. Most requests won't be met as the program typically has about \$2 million available.

Twenty-four projects are in Ward One, with 13 in Ward Two, three in Ward Three, 10 in Ward Four, one in Ward Five, seven in Ward Six and two in Ward Seven. The rest are citywide, district council or business district focused.

Three submissions involve city-owned buildings. Nonprofits affiliated with a building can make such requests under program guidelines. Mosaic on a Stick, the longtime tenant in the Hamline Park Playground Building, is seeking \$50,000 to make repairs to a staircase and retaining wall at 1564 Lafond Ave.

Other area requests include:

- 751 TDC LLC, 766 Englewood Ave., \$18,131 for parking lot repair.

- African Economic Development Solutions, \$200,000 for interior and exterior business loans for African entrepreneurs.

- Bartholomew and Stella Enterprises LLC, \$50,000 to improve commercial and residential spaces at 931/933 University Ave.

- Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave., seeks \$31,120 seeks funding to renovate its stage and make other improvements.

- Cocoon House, 2367 University Ave., seeks \$49,000 to make a variety of building improvements.

- CR 89 Inc. seeks \$50,000 for kitchen upgrades at 88 Oriental Foods, 291 University Ave.

- Doge Pizza seeks \$50,000 to make kitchen and building improvements at its restaurant at 629 Aldine St.

- Five Star Academy, Inc, seeks \$200,864.03 for improvements to a building at 651 University Ave.

- Hmong Cultural Center of Minnesota seeks \$49,200 to make improvement to its cultural center and museum at 375 University Ave.

- Life Juices, 450 N. Lexington Parkway, seeks \$27,000 to convert a former Dairy Queen building into a juice and smoothie bar.

- PAIKKA, 550 Vandalia St., seeks \$50,000 to build out its bar and restaurant space.

- Rayz R Cuts seeks \$50,000 to improve its barber shop and community space at 593 N. Snelling Ave.

- SC Upholstery seeks \$140,094 to improve its commercial building at 641 N. Snelling Ave.

- Star Ocean Food, 121 Pierce Butler Route, \$100,000 to mill and overlay the parking lot and make building improvements.

- Stellar Grounds LLC seeks \$50,000 for various exterior improvements at 766 Englewood Ave.

- Turf Club LC, 1601 University Ave., seeks \$21,350 to make needed exterior improvements.

- Udo's African Food Store, 1459 University Ave., seeks \$90,000 to build out grocery store and restaurant space.

- Unique Early Learning Center 719 N. Dale St., seeks \$50,000 for a new playground and fence.

- Union Park District Council seeks \$30,000 to install 35 custom bicycle racks through its neighborhoods in District 13.

- Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St., seeks \$49,723 for a bandshell and outdoor stage.

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 tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com.

Planting People Growing Justice celebrates 7 years of growing futures

PLANTING SEEDS

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



Planting People Growing Justice™ Leadership Institute (PPGJLI) is commemorating its 7th anniversary with a community fundraising event and award ceremony. The celebration will take place on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, from 8-9 a.m. at the Woman's Club of Minneapolis, located at 410 Oak Grove St. in Minneapolis. The goal of this year's fundraiser is \$50,000 which will be used to support our Leaders are Readers Program and youth writing competitions.

CREATING NEW PIPELINES TO SUCCESS

I founded this nonprofit organization with the goal in mind of promoting reading and diversity in books. This is critically important since we are facing a reading

crisis across the United States. Our organization is committed to growing futures – one book at a time and one child at a time. This is personal and important to me because as a civil rights attorney, many of my clients learned how to read in prison. This is unacceptable but somehow, we created a Rule of 4:

- One in four American children are not reading at grade level by 4th grade
- If you are not reading at grade level by 4th grade, you are four times more likely to drop out of school

And here's the connection, you are also three and a half times more likely to be arrested during your lifetime. This is unacceptable. This is an opportunity for change. Where we can create new pipelines for the future and work to end mass incarceration.

The PPGJLI fundraiser is an opportunity to connect with like-minded people who are passionate about making a difference, helping PPGJLI grow, and empowering youth through literacy, leadership, and diverse books.

Since its inception, PPGJLI has donated over 19,000 books locally and inter-

nationally. The organization has reached more than 6,000 children through its Leaders are Readers program.

The organization continues to inspire, equip, provide tools, and foster future leaders through the arts, humanities, education, workshops, seminars, and school visits. The organization has instituted a variety of initiatives that includes youth writing competitions, read-aloud events, and teaching about STEAM leadership and careers.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

During the fundraiser, several esteemed community members will be honored with the PPGJLI Excellence in Education Award. We will recognize the many contributions of individuals within the community. Excellence in Education honorees are:

- Honorable LaJune Lange, retired judge
- Kiya Edwards, KARE 11 reporter
- Nasra Noor, Educator
- Ella Beard, artist, Vibe Art
- Rev. Carl Walker and Grant West, founders of Walker-West Music Academy

In addition, PPGJLI will honor six individuals with the nation's prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award. The award is presented in recognition of exceptional volunteer commitment. PPGJLI will celebrate the volunteerism of:

- Dan Livengood
- Samuel Kofi MacCaulley
- Kathryn Schleich
- Warren Buckhalton, Sr.
- Majeste Phillip
- Ray Wiedmeyer

The PPGJLI (<https://www.ppgjli.org/7-year-anniversary-fundraiser>) 7th anniversary celebration and fundraiser on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, is a unique opportunity. Individuals and businesses can demonstrate their support for community youth, literacy, and PPGJLI's many youth-oriented programs by becoming an event sponsor: (https://givebutter.com/ppgjli_sponsorships_2023).

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.

By ANTHONY T. EATON
Saint Paul resident

The City of Saint Paul, Minnesota, is known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and diverse community. However, beneath the surface lies a growing concern among its residents – the neglect of critical infrastructure like sidewalks and streets while allocating substantial resources to projects like underutilized bike paths and bus-only lanes. In a city facing escalating social problems such as homelessness, drug abuse, and crime, it's time to question whether the city's priorities are in the right place.

THE NEGLECTED INFRASTRUCTURE

One of the most noticeable issues in Saint Paul is the deteriorating state of its infrastructure. Sidewalks with gaping cracks, pothole-riddled streets, and aging bridges are common. Pedestrians and motorists alike face safety hazards daily, with accidents and injuries occurring as a result. Residents have repeatedly voiced their concerns about these issues, yet they seem to fall on deaf ears at City Hall.

THE NEGLECTED STREETS

Saint Paul's streets, once lauded for their quality, are now in a state of disre-

MISPLACED PRIORITIES: The decaying city

pair. Potholes are a constant menace, causing damage to vehicles and posing risks to drivers and cyclists. Patch-up jobs provide temporary relief, but the underlying issues persist, and the cost of maintenance keeps rising. Neglected streets can also have a negative impact on property values and overall quality of life for residents.

THE NEGLECTED SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks in many neighborhoods are not faring any better, especially downtown. Cracked and uneven sidewalks pose a significant risk, especially to the elderly and disabled. For those who rely on walking as their primary mode of transportation, the lack of safe and accessible sidewalks is a daily struggle. Neglected sidewalks also deter potential economic development, as business owners and residents prefer areas with well-maintained infrastructure.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

While the city's existing infrastructure crumbles, it is puzzling to observe the allocation of millions of dollars towards

projects like underutilized bike paths and bus-only lanes. These projects, while well-intentioned, raise questions about their effectiveness and the allocation of resources.

UNDERUTILIZED BIKE PATHS

Saint Paul has invested heavily in expanding its bike path network, yet these paths often remain underutilized. While promoting eco-friendly transportation is essential, the city must strike a balance between encouraging cycling and addressing the pressing issues with existing infrastructure. Many of these bike paths also seem disconnected from practical transportation routes, making them less accessible for everyday commuters.

BUS-ONLY LANES TO NOWHERE

Similarly, bus-only lanes have been implemented in various parts of the city. However, their effectiveness is questionable, given the limited reach of Saint Paul's public transportation system. These lanes may benefit some routes, but their construction should be scrutinized against

the backdrop of more pressing needs, such as repairing roads and sidewalks.

SOCIAL CHALLENGES, NEGLECTED PRIORITIES

In addition to its crumbling infrastructure, Saint Paul is grappling with serious social challenges. Homelessness, drug abuse, and crime are on the rise, demanding immediate attention and resources. Neglecting these problems while pouring funds into less critical initiatives sends the wrong message to residents who expect their city government to prioritize their safety and well-being.

CONCLUSION

The City of Saint Paul stands at a crossroads. It can choose to address its neglected infrastructure and prioritize the safety and well-being of its residents, or it can continue to invest in underutilized projects while turning a blind eye to pressing social issues. As a community, it is crucial to hold local officials accountable and demand that they reallocate resources to tackle the urgent problems facing the city. Only then can Saint Paul truly thrive as a vibrant, inclusive, and safe community for all of its residents.

LETTER

MINNESOTA PEACE ACTION COALITION HOLDS OCT. 12 PROTEST AT WEAPONS MANUFACTURER

This May, the State of Minnesota quietly announced that \$1.3 million Minnesota taxpayer dollars would be handed over to the weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin, incentivizing it to open a facility in Saint Paul. The facility, Forward-Edge ASIC, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin. This handout takes

the form of a forgivable loan. If Lockheed Martin meets certain criteria, the loan becomes an outright grant.

We want our money back.

Lockheed Martin reported \$66 billion in sales in 2022. As Governor Walz must know, that was more than the budget of our entire state last year. The people of Minnesota demand investment in our needs, not corporate giveaways to weapons companies worth tens of billions of dollars. The \$1.3 million could have been used for housing, healthcare, education, or public transport.

The state has boasted that Lockheed Martin "will connect with local universities... to recruit and train new employees." This is nothing to celebrate. STEM students have tremendous, positive things to offer the world in fields like green energy, healthcare technology, and public works. Funneling students into the weapons industry saps our state's ability to serve its own people.

Taxpayer dollars funding militarism is not "good news for Minnesota," as Walz wrote in his statement announcing these giveaways.

Nor is it good news for millions of people across the world who are suffering from armed conflicts fueled by the weapons Lockheed Martin manufactures. 40% of weapons sold around the world each year are sold by the United States.

The Minnesota Peace Action Coalition is holding a protest outside the Forward-Edge ASIC facility at 2340 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, on Oct. 12 at 4:30 p.m. We will extend our unwelcome to the corporation and demand No MN Money for Weapons!

Andrew Josefchak

Monitor

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

612-345-9998

MonitorSaintPaul.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/monitorsaintpaul/>

Instagram: [midwaycomomonitor](https://www.instagram.com/midwaycomomonitor)

News for you!

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

Story ideas always welcome.

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

Owner & Editor:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-235-4464
Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183
Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
Sandra Mikulsky, 612-260-7967
sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com

Design & Layout: Tesha M. Christensen

Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

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



Delivery:

612-235-7197, delivery@tmcpub.com
Mail subscriptions are available at \$40 a year.

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jane McClure, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Terry Faust, Chad Kulas, Amy Pass, Talia McWright, Aamira Redd

Members of Midway Chamber Area of Commerce, Minnesota Newspaper Association, and Midwest Free Community Papers. Sister publications: Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Southwest Connector.

The Monitor is for profit and for a purpose – and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We

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

All rights reserved. The contents of the Monitor cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2023.



BEDROOMS AND BREWERIES >> from 1

The stretch of Hampden eyed for the project is in what is called a “vulnerable land use edge” where any new development should consider design details to reduce residential/industrial use conflicts.

The former industrial property would be redeveloped as a site for a 149-unit apartment building, with a small commercial space, green space and children’s play area. The building would have 5,761 square feet of first floor commercial space. It would have a mix of one, two and three bedroom apartments, offered below market rate.

The St. Paul Planning Commission Sept. 29 approved needed project variances, on a split vote. The commission earlier in September recommended that the property be rezoned from light industrial to industrial transition use. That recommendation goes to the St. Paul City Council for final action this fall.

The Planning Commission’s Zoning Committee debated the variances at length, laying them over one meeting because the committee couldn’t reach agreement.

Thomas Nelson, a principal with Exeter, explained that Exeter has struggled with plans for the 1.7-acre West Midway property. Exeter bought the site in 2017 with the idea of adaptive reuse and then tried to sell it. When various plans didn’t materialize the company decided to take on the development. Minnesota Chemical moved to Arden Hills several years ago.



The project for the former Minnesota Chemical Company site includes a mix of studio, one, two, and three-bedroom apartments, a patio, green space, and a playground. Exeter is seeking a variance for having less commercial/retail space than required.

The project would meet demand for housing in an area that is close to Green Line light rail and other transit, said Nelson. The project is also seen as consistent with how the area has developed, with old industrial and warehouse properties repurposed into more than 1,000 units of housing.

But getting the project pushed through city process hasn’t been easy. In May the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) rejected needed variances. While BZA members praised the project, the board members said it didn’t meet needed findings for approval.

Exeter appealed that decision to the city council but withdrew the appeal and decided to seek approval through the planning commission, with a rezoning and variances. The current light industrial zoning doesn’t allow residential uses on

the first floor, while the transitional industrial zoning does.

Three variances were sought. Two are related to how first floor building space would be used. Exeter has cited the challenges in finding commercial tenants as a reason for having less commercial or retail space than required.

One is a variance of the minimum percentage of first floor devoted to non-residential principal use. A minimum of 50 percent of non-residential space is required, with 15.4 percent proposed. The second is a variance of maximum percentage of first floor space devoted to residential use. A maximum of 50 percent is required, with 84.6 percent proposed.

The third variance is to reduce the front yard setback for a portion of the property from 25 feet to 9 feet. This is sought to have parts of the building line

up with nearby buildings.

The project would include a mix of studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartments, 13 surface parking spots, 137 structured parking spots, a patio, green space and a playground. The apartments will be offered at some level of affordability.

City staff recommended approval of the zoning change and variances, as did St. Anthony Park Community Council. Several residential neighbors oppose the requests and the project, saying it will create added traffic and parking issues for the neighborhood. The site is in an area that is a mix of housing types, commercial and industrial properties.

One factor neighbors raise is the amount of industrial truck traffic residents of the development would face. Another issue they cite is the loss of more industrial land.

Neighbor Thomas Kellen said that while he supports the need for affordable housing, the redevelopment of West Midway properties also has an economic impact. Saying that the neighborhood is coming a place of “bedrooms and breweries,” Kellen said, “We desperately need new jobs.”

Planning Commission members agreed with the concerns about loss of industrial land. “I really struggle with replacing job-bearing land with housing of any kind,” said Commissioner Jake Reilly. Reilly opposed both the zoning change and the variances, saying the project might be a better fit elsewhere. Other commissioners said they could support the zoning change, saying it does preserve some form of industrial land over the long term.

AI >> from 1

“Our AI is trained with information businesses typically get asked,” said Tran Maryns. It can be used as a widget on a website or run through Facebook Messenger. “You can use an AI assistant to schedule appointments for you. We very narrowly define it for your business.”

Large organizations are currently spending millions of dollars on AI development, pointed out Lancaster. He anticipates things changing a lot within the next couple years.

“Use the free tools and get that experience as quickly as possible. The change is coming fast,” said Lancaster.

Among the tools suggested by speakers were ChatGPT, DALL-E, Canva’s AI options, Midjourney (available in Discord), and the options in Bing.

Some have voiced concerns about AI replacing people and existing jobs. “History repeats itself,” according to Eklund. People expressed these same concerns when the Internet started. Then when computers were created, they said it would replace jobs.

“That didn’t happen,” Eklund said. “Think of it as a smarter set of tools.”

He added, “This is not just a better search engine.” Large language models (LLM) are being used by businesses like Tesla for self-driving cars. AI has the ability to interpret what is happening on the road and predict what will happen.

AI can do tasks to help where there are needs, such as with the nursing shortage. “There’s a lot of things happening in the world converging all at once,” said Eklund.

AI can pass bar exams and medical certification tests – and can now earn higher scores than humans. It’s been trained off very set and specific data sets in

“

Whether you like it or not, AI is already in the world.”

Michelle Trans Maryns



Representatives from local businesses, (left to right) Andrew Eklund of Ciceron, Michelle Tran Maryns of We Sparkle and Ron Lancaster of Structural, chat about the pros and cons of artificial intelligence on Sept. 20. The event was organized by the Midway Chamber and held at the Wilder Foundation. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

an industry. Eklund believes that this can be useful for businesses, as AI assistants can be personalized to add scale. AI can be used for “work that no human enjoys, period,” he said. “Why not outsource that and have the human do something that is fulfilling?”

AI could be trained to look at mammograms, to triage what scans need further evaluation by a human and which don’t. The important piece to remember is that AI isn’t “making the decisions but prioritizing whether to look at humans,” said Tran Maryns.

AI can be used to increase productivity by substantial amounts, and has been shown to in various studies, according to Lancaster.

BEWARE OF BIASES

ChatGPT can be useful to generate content for a website or speech, but Lancaster urged people to be careful about putting the information out there as though it came from an expert when it didn’t. It still needs to be checked by an expert.

AI can generate amazing images, but they can give biased results.

“I worry about things like bias,” said Tran Maryns. She acknowledges that “trash in” is “trash out,” and welcomes conversations about how to manage the

evolution of AI. It’s important to take it with a grain of salt, she advised, and consider what data has been plugged into the AI.

ChatGPT has only been around about a year. “This is very new technology,” said Eklund. “Who is behind the AI and what is their bias?” And while the original AI was free and open, now there are large companies with shareholders building their own systems, such as Microsoft, Facebook and Google.

THE FUTURE OF AI

What might AI look like in the future? By analyzing genetic code, it could diagnose cancer earlier enough to save a person’s life, observed Eklund. “I don’t know if we will call that AI.” He mused, “I think a lot will happen in ways that are not called AI.”

“I think there will be a lot of tension as AI grows,” stated Trans Maryns. “I am overall positive about AI and what it can do. I worry about us coming together as a society.” Among the ethical concerns she has is who gets higher priority and what happens to others? AI is trained to mimic human intelligence, and the potential is there for it to know so much about the natural world that could be used to reverse climate change.

Five years ago, it couldn’t see as well

“

AI is an incredible skill leveler that can be used to bring people up. I think that is truly transformative and revolutionary.”

Ron Lancaster

as humans. It couldn’t speak as well as humans. It couldn’t hear as well as humans. It can now. Five years from now, things can change dramatically again.

There’s an open source model out that can create music. AI is being used to create realistic-looking photos.

“There’s still a place for humans,” said Lancaster, who sees a place for both AI-generated art and human-made art.

There is a concern about how AI will impact the creative economy, observed Tran Maryns. AI can scrap information and then not offer credit. This brings up moral and ethical concerns. With a background in music, Tran Maryns said, “I believe we as a society need to come together.” Currently, Getty Images is suing an AI image creator. There is the possibility of adding watermarks for intellectual property or using block chain. “I’m really interested in these kinds of solutions,” said Tran Maryns.

“I believe in the near future, art and music specifically will be tailored to taste,” said Lancaster.

Eklund is a musician who views this as a deeply moral issue. A listener will be able to alter music by a favorite artist; another artist will be able to use music that originally came from AI and build on it. Stations like KQRS are already using AI to generate playlists, he pointed out. Using a tokenized currency would enable artists to be paid for their work being used by others. “Bitcoin is not dead,” he said.

“Whether you like it or not, AI is already in the world,” said Tran Maryns.

“I don’t think we have to look very far into the future to adopt it in our everyday lives,” said Lancaster. “AI is an incredible skill leveler that can be used to bring people up. I think that is truly transformative and revolutionary.”

WANT TO REACH 47,000 PEOPLE? YOU CAN —WITH EACH EDITION OF THE MONITOR.

How to add art to your home

Local artists share tips on how to find pieces that complement your home best

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Longfellow mosaic artist Chris Miller believes that art is like jewelry for your home.

"I made this piece in glass a few years ago and I display it each September during LoLa Art Crawl. It says 'Earth without art is just eh.' I believe that!" said Miller, of shatterandglue.tumblr.com.

Miller makes a variety of different size mosaic items, including light boxes that can be set in a living room and treated like furniture and windows.

He encourages people to consider the light in their homes when they think about what kind of art they'd like to have.

"One of the best things about art in my opinion is that there is no right or wrong. I may fall in love with a style that another person can't stand. That's OK. That's how art works," stated Miller.

"Art can turn a house into a home," agrees fellow Longfellow artist Bob Schmitt of Laughing Waters Studio. "Selecting art to hang or have in your home is a simple way to surround yourself with pieces that can say something about yourself. Bringing art into your home can also energize a space, calm a space or turn a dull space into one of interest."

For art lover and painter Suzie Marty, adding art to a home brings a personal touch both from the artist and art appreciator. "Original art holds an energy and soul like none other," she observed. "It evokes a feeling, an expression, and a sense of connection. It can make a bold statement or quietly coexist. Either way, it can be a beautiful extension of your home and you."

"Art works are very personal because they usually provide a direct communication from the artist to the purchaser, which creates a certain feeling or memory in the viewer," remarked painter Calvin deRuyter, who formerly owned the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor and currently serves on the Lake Region Arts Council Board. He earned his bachelors in fine art from Hamline University, and creates abstract watercolors. "People who buy original artwork have a feeling of connection to the artwork they buy. It may 'match the couch,' but you still don't go out and buy just any old painting with those colors in it... people want more than that."

HOW DOES ONE BEGIN?

"In terms of starting out, it's easy. There are so many artists in this city, in this neighborhood," remarked Schmitt, who has been using ink and brush in the manner of Asian brush painters for over 60 years. "Pay attention to what gets your attention."

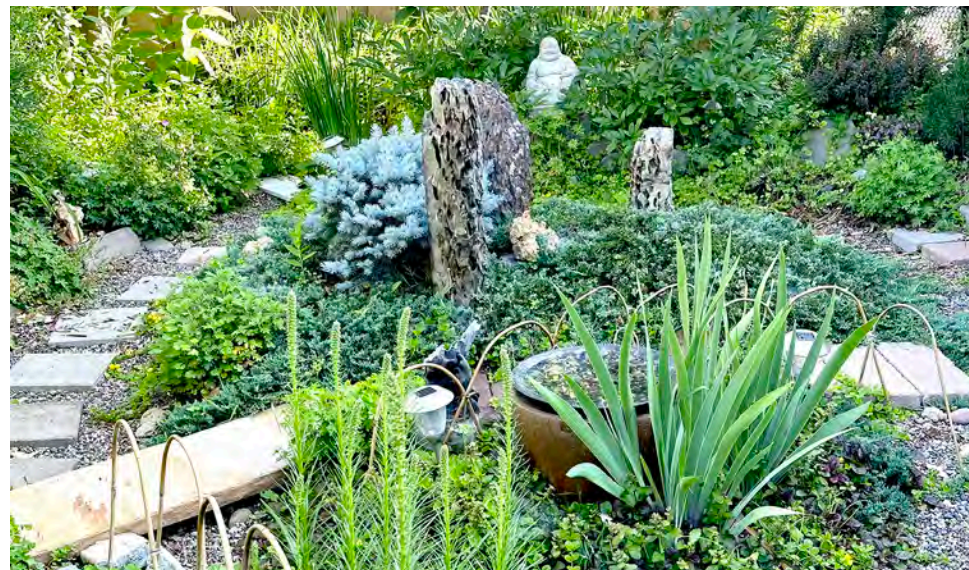
Schmitt added, "Art crawls like LoLa, buildings like Northrop King, The Casket Arts Building, The California Building offer many opportunities to both see what is out there and also to actually meet the artist. When considering purchasing art, the goal is not to impress someone else, but to feed yourself."

"Buy things that you love. That may help tell the story of who you are. If you need more energy, bring a high energy piece into your home. If you need calming from the world outside, look for something that relaxes you." He pointed to www.LoLaArt.org as a great place to visit to see the range of choices available.

Marty, who owns Everett & Charlie art gallery in Linden Hills, and also sells newspaper advertisements for TMC Publications CO, agrees that selecting art can be simple. "Let the art choose you," she



These small lightboxes made by Longfellow artist Chris Miller can brighten tables and shelves. Other larger ones function as furniture. (Photo submitted)



During the annual LoLa art crawl every September, Longfellow artist Bob Schmitt invites people into his garden. The design and decor complement the artwork he creates in the manner of Asian brush painters. (Photo submitted)

recommended. "If you work too hard to find the perfect piece based on the right size, color, medium, or price, you may be disappointed. Relax. Let it speak to you. You'll be pleasantly surprised."

TIPS FOR SELECTING ART

For LoLa artist Lisa Arnold, adding art to a home helps one feel alive. "I let my art find me. When I feel that 'zing,' I know I have to have it," said Arnold. "Buy what you like. Find room for it. Constantly move stuff around."

Art in a home enriches all who live and visit there, observed LoLa artist Kenneth Wenzel. "Choose what you respond to and keep open to learning more about art to develop your sense of taste," he suggested. "Pick out a wall for a painting/print/photo and/or a space/shelf for a piece of sculpture and start there."

Know the spaces in your house where art would be desired, advises deRuyter. "Knowing your space is the most important part before you actually start your search for art." Don't forget the 'odd' spaces in your home that may be used, i.e. the space above the thermostat, the narrow space between that window and a door, or on top of a corner glass case that would be perfect for a piece of sculpture or a lit glass vase.

Ask, do you want one piece that just dominates the space and makes a solo statement? Or, do you want multiple pieces that you love in a "create a gallery" kind of feeling in your home?

"And don't forget that art comes in

all forms and sizes to cover walls, sit on the floor, cover at table or a desk, or even hang from the ceiling... Art belongs everywhere," said deRuyter.

"Of course, many people love to look at art, decide they love it, and then 'make' the space in their home to place it - that is the sign that you are moving from being a home designer, to an actual collector of art. A few times in my career, when I have asked someone who is seriously considering one of my paintings if they had a place in mind, and the response was 'Oh, the living room (or bath or bedroom), but we are choosing the art we love first and then building the rest of the room around that.' Now, that is the very most perfect complement to any artist."

Marty sees people come into her gallery, fall in love with a piece immediately but then debate whether they have any more wall space. They may also not know exactly why they like the piece as it isn't their typical style. When they come back and tell her that the piece has been "haunting" them and they can't stop thinking about it, "that's when we both know they are meant to be together and give the piece a 'Forever Home.'"

She features only Minnesota artists in her gallery. "Minnesota is so lucky to be overflowing with talented artists," she observed.

"Buy local art and stay in touch with the artists who have made it," urges Wenzel.

"In the Twin Cities there is a thriving artist community with all kinds of art

TIPS FOR SELECTING ART

- "Start with an open mind and be willing to look at pieces of art you didn't think you'd like. Ask questions. Sometimes there is a hidden connection unveiled between a piece of art and the client that triggers the selection. That's fun to watch! Another approach is to move towards what makes you comfortable and happy. Art can be an investment and may be in your home for years so you want to be sure you get along with each other." - Suzie Marty of Everett and Charlie art gallery

- "Pick out a wall for a painting/print/photo and/or a space/shelf for a piece of sculpture and start there." - Kenneth Wenzel, www.kennethwenzel.com

- "Buy what you like. Find room for it. Constantly move stuff around." Lisa Arnold, www.instagram.com/xola_arts

- "As a practicing artist, I create many original pieces in a year. But over the years I find that many people are not ready to make a major purchase for their home. Many artists, like myself also offer prints of their original work. I have found that a lot of people can start with a print or even just a note card to begin to put beauty into, bring life to their own environment. Some of these early purchases can lead on to creating a personal connection with a particular artist. There are few things that are as personal as choosing art for your home. There is no right way to do this. Start small. Start local." - Bob Schmitt, www.shopatlaughingwatersstudio.com

- "When someone comes to my studio to purchase art, it is not unusual for them to go through every piece I have, narrow it down, and then slowly whittle it down to the one they like best. The happiest people are the ones that come back and who become a "collector" of my work - I have collectors who have purchased multiple paintings, several who have purchased upwards of five or more if they have large homes. I have two collectors who have purchased more than 10 paintings. I also have purchasers who return to the studio tour every year, and talk about the single piece in their home that they have treasured and enjoyed for many years. You know they are happy with it. The only unhappy people are those who have looked at a piece, considered purchasing, and then wanted to think about it... only to come back days or weeks later and find out that the one they want has been purchased by someone else." - Calvin deRuyter, www.calsportfolio.net

- "For someone who would like to start buying art for their home I would encourage them to hit several of the art shows held throughout the year. This is a great way to get a feel for what is out there. One can easily attend a few of these and start sorting out what they like and don't like. Then when comfortable doing so, begin making purchases. One of the best things about art in my opinion is that there is no right or wrong. I may fall in love with a style that another person can't stand. That's OK. That's how art works." - Chris Miller, shatterandglue.tumblr.com

shows, studio tours, and artists who are willing to open their studio for people to look and talk with," agrees deRuyter. "There are smaller tours or art fairs, and there are bigger events. During an event like Art-A-Whirl (in May) or like Art Attack (in June), you can check out literally hundreds of artists in one building - certainly more artists than anyone could visit in a weekend." These art crawls enable people to ask themselves if they want art that is abstract or realistic, landscape or still life, impressionist or non-objective. Do they want art that screams or art that calms?

Don't feel pressured to fill a space right now, said deRuyter, or you might get something that won't speak to you for long. "Take the time to find the pieces that ... survive in your mind and heart the longest, and just enjoy the journey as you look," he stated.

HAYES WINDOW RESTORATION



Storm Windows

Upgrade to tight-fitting wood combination storm windows for instant curb appeal and improved energy efficiency.

Sash Cord Repair & Weatherstripping

Repair your frayed and broken sash cords and install true-to-era permanent weatherstripping to improve operation and reduce winter drafts for decades to come.

Full Restoration

Restore your original windows through our full restoration process. Address deferred maintenance while improving energy efficiency and regaining smooth operation.



612-259-7855
HayesWindows.com

We guide homeowners on the path of old home stewardship by offering lasting and affordable options for original window maintenance.

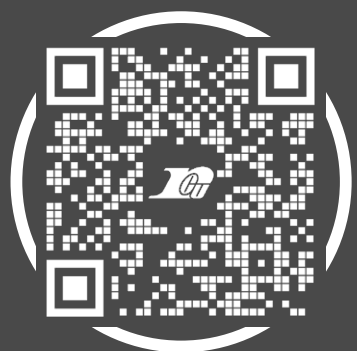
MN Lic. BC750502

Contact us today to schedule a free consultation. Mention this ad for 10% off Sash Cord Repair and Weatherstripping projects installed November 2023-March 2024.

SWITCH TO ROYAL AND GET \$250*

Getting Your \$250 Is Easy!

- 1 Open your new checking account by November 15
- 2 Receive two payroll direct deposits
- 3 Get a \$250 bonus!



Open your account today at any Royal office or visit rcu.org/CheckingOffer2023



800-341-9911



ROYAL CREDIT UNION

*Receive a \$250 bonus after opening a new checking account between September 15, 2023 and November 15, 2023 and receiving two direct deposits. Membership qualification required. Business checking accounts are not eligible. Recipients with existing Royal checking accounts or with a previous Royal checking account in the last 12 months do not qualify. New checking account must receive two qualifying direct deposits of at least \$200 each from a paycheck, pension, Social Security, or government benefit electronically deposited into the account from an employer or outside agency. First deposit must occur within the first 60 days from account opening; second deposit must occur within 120 days of account opening. Account must remain open for six months. Must open and be primary on a Primary Base Savings account. Incentive will be deposited into the qualifying Member's Primary Base Savings account within 10 days after the second qualifying deposit. Royal reserves the right to withhold or reclaim incentive if qualifications are not met based on Royal's sole discretion. Limit of one account per Member may be included in promotion. The incentive is subject to federal and state tax requirements, which are account holder's responsibility. Royal reserves the right to end this promotion at any time. Offer cannot be combined with any other Royal checking account offers. No minimum balance to open a checking account. Fees could reduce the balance and earnings on the account. Other conditions or restrictions may apply. Refer to our disclosures and service fees for more information. Insured by NCUA.

VOTER GUIDE 2023

The Monitor partnered with the League of Women Voters this year, and we're reprinting items from www.vote411.org. Here are the responses of the candidates who responded by our print deadline.

WARD 1

Vying for this position are Anika Bowie, Yan Chen, Travis Helkamp, James Lo, Lucky Tiger Jack Rosenbloom, Omar Syed, Suz Woehrle, and Jeff Zeitler.

ANIKA BOWIE

anikabowie.com

YAN CHEN

www.chen4ward1.com

Please describe your qualifications.

As an immigrant and research scientist, I have sharpened my problem identification and solving skills ever since I arrived in America 34 years ago. Our society is stressed with problems but elected officials haven't been clearly assigned specific tasks, therefore, they can't be accountable for the failure. Let's change that. We need to hold the elected officials accountable for their particular responsibilities and ask them to solve particular problems in order to divide and conquer problems.

If elected, what are your top priorities? How will you measure success?

My primary priority will be crime reduction. I will measure my success by a reduction in crime statistics when comparing before and after taking the office. My second priority is to work with the Public Works department to strengthen its services so that there would be a drastic reduction in complaints. Finally, I want to increase our stocks of condos and townhouses so that renters could have an opportunity to become homeowners when they can demonstrate that they have been responsible renters.

As a council member, you have a responsibility to both your specific ward and the city as a whole. How do you intend to manage competing priorities when they arise?

I intend to manage competing priorities by using resources fairly rather than excessively. Of course, if I identify a gross neglect towards our Ward in the past, then I will ask for fair investment to be made for the past mistakes. I don't believe money can solve all the problems, but I do believe a combination of money and effort can go a long way. I will put effort into every step for our Ward with the hope that if our Ward does better, our City will do better too.

What specific strategies would you propose for creating affordable, sustainable housing opportunities for those who are currently unhoused?

I will have a two-pronged approach to solve this problem. As a City, we have to have a healthy stock of affordable housing for everybody who wants to be a part of a broader community. For currently unhoused people, we need to be ready to help them when they are ready to be transitioned. I will work with the State and the County to have more street workers so that the unhoused people have an opportunity to be housed when they are ready to join the broader community.

Please describe a time when you stood up for a cause, idea, or policy you believed in, even in the face of popular opposition.

As a scientist, I had ten destitute years because I didn't believe in the direction my field was going. I thought my field was trying to fly before it knew how to walk. Before properly understanding the basics and making sure the controls were solid, we were



trying to jump into a new direction. After ten years of struggle, I managed to prove a massive gap in our current understanding. That experience taught me how to sustain isolation and rejection without losing my conviction of what is right.

If elected, how will you intentionally work with BIPOC communities and center their needs in any policy-making efforts?

I first acknowledge that this community has faced unprecedented biases through American history. We also have to acknowledge that whatever the policies that have been implemented haven't worked very well. In fact, the racial poverty gap is wider in our state than in the south even after all the investment. We shouldn't double down on the old strategies but it is time to analyze why the policies haven't worked well and devise new strategies with the BIPOC community.

TRAVIS HELKAMP

No website

JAMES LO

jameslo.org

LUCKY TIGER JACK ROSENBLOOM

No website

OMAR SYED

www.omarward1.com

Please describe your qualifications.

My name is Omar Syed. I am a father and husband, a St. Paul small business owner, renter, and community leader. I am running to bring your voice to city hall.

My candidacy brings a unique experience and much needed voice on the council. As a St. Paul Planning Commissioner, I'm the only Ward 1 candidate with city-level experience working on local issues like zoning and transportation. As a small business owner, I understand the needs of small businesses across our city and will ensure they are supported. If elected, I would be the first Somali American on the St. Paul City Council and will help the city deliver better services to meet the needs of immigrants and refugees I'm committed to building a city where every voice matters.

If elected, what are your top priorities? How will you measure success?

Affordable Housing - As a member



of the Zoning Committee on the St. Paul Planning Commission, I know how to bring in good development, protect renters, and make housing more affordable. Public Safety - We need a public safety plan for St. Paul that includes community investments, better police relations, stronger municipal presence on the Green Line, and improved accountability. Community Engagement - I will be a responsive and accessible council member to all the communities of our diverse Ward 1.

As a council member, you have a responsibility to both your specific ward and the city as a whole. How do you intend to manage competing priorities when they arise?

Ward 1 - with Rondo, Frogtown, and Cathedral Hill - is the most diverse ward in Saint Paul. We deserve a council member who will be responsive and accessible to all of us. I will be a leader who always shows up, listens with an open mind, and ensures your voice is heard in our policymaking. I will always be an independent voice on the council, someone who will bridge divides, and will make the tough decisions after hearing from all sides.

What specific strategies would you propose for creating affordable, sustainable housing opportunities for those who are currently unhoused?

As a member of the Planning Commission, I worked with communities to build more affordable housing units across St. Paul. As a renter, I know what it's like when your landlord is unaccountable. I'll take these experiences to ensure we build housing that is affordable for everyone. My plan calls for looser zoning, aggressive redevelopment of vacant lots, and a balanced rent stabilization that protects renters while still bringing in new development and housing supply.

Please describe a time when you stood up for a cause, idea, or policy you believed in, even in the face of popular opposition.

We need to fix our aging infrastructure. Unfortunately, our city is severely behind. We must do better. As Planning Commissioner, I'm proud of the work I have done to fix our streets. After listening deeply to all sides and in the face of opposition, I've taken the tough votes to fix our aging roads, add bike lanes, and improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. I will always listen to all voices before making the tough decisions that move our Ward and St. Paul forward.

If elected, how will you intentionally work with BIPOC communities and center their needs in any policy-making efforts?

If elected, I would be the first Somali American elected to the St. Paul City Council. I'm running because there is a need to

have someone like me in City Hall. I know what it's like to struggle to meet your basic needs, to navigate government services and regulations when English isn't your first language, to be left out of the political process, and to feel like your voice doesn't matter. My story is not unique. It is the story of many in Ward 1. I'm running to represent all of us.

SUZ WOehrLE

<https://wilsonkatasha.wixsite.com/suzforward1>



JEFF ZEITLER

www.jeffzeitler.com

Please describe your qualifications.

I've served on the Union Park District Council and initiated the creation of Merriam Station Community Garden. I've sat on the board of a food co-op, and have started a small business. I know what it takes to get things done.

If elected, what are your top priorities? How will you measure success?

Public Safety- reduction in crime. Plow the streets and fill potholes. Hold taxes, both property taxes and sales taxes at the level they are at.

As a council member, you have a responsibility to both your specific ward and the city as a whole. How do you intend to manage competing priorities when they arise?

Ward 1 would be my top priority, and as the heart of St. Paul, what affects Ward 1 often affects the whole city.

What specific strategies would you propose for creating affordable, sustainable housing opportunities for those who are currently unhoused?

Empowering small landlords to rehab existing buildings is something that the city needs to explore, rather than focusing on tearing down and building new. We shouldn't have to choose between historic preservation and affordable housing. We have a number of vacant buildings that can be sold inexpensively either directly to unhoused people, or to nonprofits that can rehab and lease them.

Please describe a time when you stood up for a cause, idea, or policy you believed in, even in the face of popular opposition.

I stood up to MNDOT when they refused to allow a community garden to be developed on their property, even when a study showed it would be well suited for the use, and there was no current competing use for the site. I rallied a group that wrote letters and built support for the effort, which succeeded in the end.

If elected, how will you intentionally work with BIPOC communities and center their needs in any policy-making efforts?

BIPOC communities are most affected by the recent crime wave in St. Paul and deserve to be safe in their neighborhoods. I'd work to restore effective policing while requiring accountability by individual police officers. We need to support our police but not allow them to abuse people of color or anyone for that matter.

DEMOCRAT

OMAR SYED

Saint Paul City Council Ward 1

Hi, I'm Omar!

I'm a longtime Frogtown and Rondo resident. I'm so excited to be your candidate for Saint Paul City Council in Ward 1. I am a father and husband, a small business owner, a renter, and a community leader. I am running to bring the voice of our communities to city hall. I promise to be a responsive and accessible council member for all of us.

VOTE NOVEMBER 7
VOTE EARLY SEPTEMBER 22

Visit omarward1.com

Rank Omar
FIRST

Prepared and paid for by Omar for City Council

VOTER GUIDE

WARD 4

Vying for this position are Robert Bushard and Mitra Jalali.

ROBERT BUSHARD

bushard4ward4.com

MITRA JALALI

www.mitrajalali.com

Please describe your qualifications.

It's been my honor to serve Saint Paul these last five years as your Councilwoman, and I'm running to keep building on the progress we've made. Together, we've built thousands of new homes at all income levels and expanded renter protections. We've stepped up to the climate crisis with 28 new miles of safer bike infrastructure and eliminating parking minimums in new development. Through the pandemic and civil unrest, we've organized millions in funding for our neighborhoods and local businesses. Lastly, we've designed our city's very first community-led public safety system, aiming to make Saint Paul a model city in empathetic, comprehensive public safety. I'm running to keep leading this change at City Hall.



If elected, what are your top priorities? How will you measure success?

My top three priorities are continuing to advance safe and stable affordable housing for all residents, expanding community safety for a Saint Paul where everyone is safe, and acting on the climate crisis through investments and policies that make our city a healthier and more sustainable place to live. I continue to measure our success through both data on housing, public safety and climate indicators as well as ongoing community knowledge and results that what we are doing is working.

As a council member, you have a responsibility to both your specific ward and the city as a whole. How do you intend to manage competing priorities when they arise?

I regularly see as a current CM how the issues in my Ward are thematic to the issues happening citywide, and work with my colleagues to bring forward structural solutions to those challenges through citywide policies and investments. I have been effective at both winning significant investments into my ward while supporting new investment and policies that help our residents across Saint Paul. I love our city and believe everyone here deserves to succeed.

What specific strategies would you propose for creating affordable, sustainable housing opportunities for those who are currently unhoused?

To get people stably housed, we need to expand day shelters so that people have somewhere to get help, a shower, a hot meal and internet access. I voted for zoning changes to make this easier. We need major investment in deeply affordable housing and supportive housing, which I've championed through the city's 30%

AMI Fund and projects like Kimball Court. We should also expand the city team that is meeting unsheltered residents' needs daily to help more people citywide.

Please describe a time when you stood up for a cause, idea, or policy you believed in, even in the face of popular opposition.

In the wake of the uprising of 2020, I advocated for a community-focused approach to public safety, emphasizing well-trained and compassionate response, reducing reliance on traditional policing. I've also championed innovative programs addressing mental health, youth engagement, and violence prevention – and I did all of this when it was the more complicated answer to approaching public safety than simply more money for the police, as is often the first instinct of traditional institutions.

If elected, how will you intentionally work with BIPOC communities and center their needs in any policy-making efforts?

Centering BIPOC perspectives is essential to fostering an inclusive, equitable St. Paul, and I am committed to making this a fundamental principle of my tenure again. When I first ran for office, not many people who looked like me had ever held the position. Kicking the door open behind me and ensuring that our council looks like the community it serves has always been a priority of mine, and I look forward to doing this work with a majority progressive, women of color council next year.

WARD 5

Vying for this position are David Greenwood-Sanchez, Hwa Jeong Kim, Nate Nins, and Pam Tollefson.

DAVID GREENWOOD-SANCHEZ

www.votedavidgs.com

Please describe your qualifications.

Our city is in trouble, and we need our best and brightest to contribute real solutions. Professionally, I work as a political scientist, specializing in environmental politics. I've also been an economic researcher for Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) in Chile, a program evaluator for the MN Office of the Legislative Auditor, and a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico and Peru. I've dedicated my career to policy, and will bring an intelligent and independent voice to the city council – a fresh perspective that we desperately need. I live in the Como neighborhood, and have attended MMSA, St. Paul Central High School, and the UMN Humphrey School. I am also Peruvian-Minnesotan, and would be the first Latino councilmember in St. Paul's history.



If elected, what are your top priorities? How will you measure success?

1 – Restoring the voice of our neighborhoods. No more top-down decisions; we need meaningful engagement. We need voice. 2 – Generating a sustainable revenue

base. No more falling back on tax increases; we need to find real, structural solutions to address our financial problems. 3 – Expanding affordable housing. Our current model of condo-led development is broken; we need to prioritize truly affordable housing. Success is simple: a vibrant democracy begins with listening.

As a council member, you have a responsibility to both your specific ward and the city as a whole. How do you intend to manage competing priorities when they arise?

One of the fundamental responsibilities of the city council is to keep our communities united. This means that irrespective of the political outcome, our residents need to know they have been heard. When you have a city that continually crowds out our communities, fails to provide basic services, and promotes unnecessary projects from above – this creates a sense of fracture and disconnect. To solve this, we need real leaders who can articulate a vision of St. Paul that is truly inclusive.

What specific strategies would you propose for creating affordable, sustainable housing opportunities for those who are currently unhoused?

I support the effort to increase the supply of housing – in particular, affordable housing – through the removal of restrictive zoning codes. At the same time, a strong policy requires nuance. If rental demand is high, we may see our limited housing stock captured by investors rather than residents – this is the Airbnb problem. We need to develop nuanced policy that addresses this so that we don't crowd out pathways to home ownership (and rentals) for our lower-income residents.

Please describe a time when you stood up for a cause, idea, or policy you believed in, even in the face of popular opposition.

I'm doing it right now. Look at the current political context in St. Paul – all seven members of our City Council, as well as the

mayor, are supported by the same political party and by many of the same donor groups. Running against the party in a one-party town takes some doing. At the same time, I know that my motivations are real, and that this is what is needed for my community at this moment. I believe in myself and my values. This makes it easy.

If elected, how will you intentionally work with BIPOC communities and center their needs in any policy-making efforts?

St. Paul has a terrible track record with marginalized communities. For example, our current City Council President Amy Brendmoen led the effort to break a city contract with Black Bear Crossings, a successful Native American business at the Como Lake Pavilion (culminating in a nearly \$1 million settlement). If we are serious about inclusion, we can't continue to support leadership that actively hurts and expels Native community members. We need new leaders who exemplify a stronger set of values.

HWA JEONG KIM

hwajeongkim.com



NATE NINS

nins4ward5.com

PAM TOLLEFSON

pamtollefsonward5.com

Please describe your qualifications.

My degree in Paralegal Studies and my work experience provides me with a strong foundation in legal knowl-



WARD 5 >> 11

DAVID GREENWOOD-SANCHEZ

Dear neighbors,

Our city needs a new vision. We're told to get excited about building expensive condos, destroying historic buildings, passing a regressive sales tax that hurts our most vulnerable residents, and cutting down our trees to build bike lanes that we can't afford. I'm a progressive, but this is not the type of progressivism I signed up for.

I have a different vision. Let's start by paying our firefighters and supporting them with a good contract. Let's repair our roads and apply consistent maintenance. Let's address the rising violence and insecurity across our city. And most importantly, let's bring our communities back into these discussions. No more top-down decisions; we need meaningful engagement. We need a voice.

Please spread the word: real change is possible.

Restore the VOICE

of our Community



VOTE NOVEMBER 7TH

St. Paul City Council Ward 5

Prepared and Paid for by Neighbors for Greenwood-Sanchez, 1023 Como Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55103

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF MINNESOTA

FROGTOWN GETS GREENER WITH 1,000 TREES X 2

By PATRICIA OHMANS
FROGTOWN GREEN

FrogTown residents who have spent more than a decade working toward a goal of “1,000 Trees for FrogTown Homes” will reach – and surpass – that goal this year. What’s more, thanks to a federal grant, another 1,000 trees will be planted in FrogTown and Summit-University (St Paul neighborhoods with the lowest tree canopy) over the next five years.

FrogTown Green is a resident-led environmental initiative in St Paul’s most diverse low-income community. In 2011, volunteers with FrogTown Green vowed to plant 1,000 trees in their neighborhood’s front and back yards after learning how tree-deficient their neighborhood was. The “1,000 Trees” goal was suggested by neighborhood resident Seitu Jones, emulating the work of Joseph Beuys, a conceptual artist who planted 7,000 oak trees throughout the city of Kassel, Germany in the 1980s.

The FrogTown group – which inaugurated their efforts by planting exactly one tree on a vacant lot on Dale Street – included Jones and now-mayor Melvin Carter, then the area’s city council representative. Over time, and with the help of advisors from the city’s forestry department, the University of Minnesota, and eventually, the US Forest Service, the “Tree Frogs,” as they dubbed themselves, persevered. They gradually increased their output, pioneering a simple method of cultivating bare-root trees in gravel-filled community nursery beds along Dale Street.



The first of 1,000! Tree Frogs celebrate their initial tree planting in 2011. Then-city councilmember Melvin Carter is in the center of the group.

As of this month, the Tree Frogs have distributed and planted 624 free shade and fruit trees in FrogTown homes. Add to that, a “mini-forest” of 600 trees slated for installation in a FrogTown Green-run community garden on Pierce Butler and Milton Street in late October, and FrogTown’s tree canopy will increase by 1,224 trees by the end of 2023.

“Our method for free residential trees is low-tech, but high-touch,” says FrogTown Green tree program director Chris Stevens, a FrogTown resident for 23 years. “This year, we flyer’d every single home in FrogTown to offer them a free tree. When we plant trees in people’s yards, we make all the arrangements, advise residents on tree selection and placement. All residents need to do is dig a hole on planting day and care for their new tree after that.”

From 2021 to 2023, the Tree Frogs also shared trees and their resident-driven



FrogTown Green’s Chris Stevens gets a little help from onlookers.



The Tree Frogs persisted even during the COVID years, planting 43 trees in 2020.

techniques in three adjacent, low-canopy neighborhoods. The result: thriving, volunteer-driven programs in four neighborhoods and a grand total of 1,589 trees distributed and planted by residents in FrogTown, Summit-University, Hamline-Midway and Payne-Phalen. “Our partners each have slightly different methods, but we all concentrate on residential trees, and leave the boulevard trees to the city forestry department,” Stevens explains.

Stevens is sure that the demand for free trees will grow, noting a 50-person waiting list in FrogTown for this year’s trees. And thanks to a new partnership with Great River Greening – the recent re-

ceipt of a multi-million-dollar federal tree-planting grant – the supply of trees for FrogTown and friends will continue for another 1,000, through 2027.

“FrogTown Green has done an amazing job thus far, in an urban neighborhood that is among the hardest hit by tree losses. We are thrilled to partner with them going forward,” says Great River Greening executive director Kateri Routh.

FrogTown Green is a volunteer-powered initiative to build green beauty in the FrogTown neighborhood. We plant trees, cultivate gardens and work toward a healthier environment. If you’d like to know more, our website is frogtown-green.com and our phone is 651-757-5970.

CAREER PATHWAYS
Grades 6 - 12
Newly remodeled public school!

BLENDED LEARNING - 24/7
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - Internships and Work Credit
PERSONALIZED LEARNING - PSEO and Graduation Plans

651-400-1781 CPATHMN.ORG

NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.

7 out of 10 newspaper readers who read a **CIRCULAR** take action after seeing the ad.*

THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>
>>> Visit the store >>> Save the ad for future reference >>> Take advantage of the coupons/special offers*

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

ACE

30th Anniversary

Kendall's
Ace Hardware & Paint
KENDALLSHARDWARE.COM

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

your Lutheran Church on the corner

Walking Together as Disciples for Life

- Divine Service: 9:30am
- Growing in Faith (birth to 13 yrs.): 10:45am
- Living by Faith (14yrs. to 100+): 11:00am

Free Coat Giveaway, 10am, Saturday, Oct. 14!
New Free After-School Activities, Wednesdays at 4:30 pm

Jehovah LUTHERAN at Thomas and Snelling
Pastor Joshua Miller
www.jehovahlutheran.org • 651-644-1421

Remembering
Bethesda Lutheran Hospital 1931-2023
559 Capitol Blvd.

This is an ad that looks at historic buildings in the Capitol Heights District that have been razed or will be soon.

WARD 5 >> From 9

VOTER GUIDE

edge, which is beneficial in understanding local regulations. I have diverse life experiences, including being a renter, landlord, homeowner, single parent, and caregiver for my parents. These experiences give me a well-rounded perspective on a variety of constituents that will help form policies. I understand all age groups. As a city council member, I need to bridge generational gaps and address all needs. Formerly being a caregiver for my parents demonstrates my empathy and compassion. And formerly being a single parent helps me understand the challenges that many families face. Being a long time employee shows commitment to my ward.

If elected, what are your top priorities? How will you measure success?

Public Safety; Housing; Fiscal responsibility - I would track incidents involving crimes and emergencies and success is a reduction in number; measure how many new affordable units are built and success can be

an increase in units; monitor the number of homeless people and success can be measured by reducing the # of homeless through housing services. Success is achieved when the budget, after council approval, includes allocations for the identified necessary projects and maintenance.

As a council member, you have a responsibility to both your specific ward and the city as a whole. How do you intend to manage competing priorities when they arise?

I would have ongoing communication with residents in my ward, making sure I am listening and understanding their concerns. I need to be their advocate and make sure their voices are heard when talking to city leaders and my fellow council members. Also, I need to work with my fellow council members and city leaders to find a middle ground when there are disagreements. We

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE (VOTE FOR 4)

Vying for these positions are Chauntyll Allen, Yusef Carrillo, Zuki Ellis, Carlo Franco, Abdi S. Omer, Erica Valliant, Gita Rijal Zeitler.

CHAUNTYLL ALLEN

chauntyllforschoolboard.com
Please describe your qualifications.

I joined the School Board in 2020 and am seeking re-election. Raised in Rondo, I'm a community organizer, educator and activist. I lead Black Lives Matter Twin Cities, founded Love First Community Engagement, and work as Director of Criminal Justice and Activism at the Wayfinder Foundation. I've worked as a Community Ed program coordinator, a middle and high school basketball coach, Teaching Assistant, Discovery Club teacher, and Educational Assistant (EBD level 4-6). I fulfilled my campaign promises around trauma-free schools, workforce training, and culturally relevant education. With my support, we passed ethnic studies as a graduation requirement, affirmed smudging in schools, and decolonized the name of a district middle school.

What is the top safety issue facing SPPS students and staff, and what will you do to address it?

I believe in a holistic approach to safety and mental health that starts with creating trauma-informed spaces supported by trained, caring professionals and community members. I will continue to advance programs and policies that ensure approaches that affirm and heal rather than stigmatize and punish students. Restorative Justice has been proven to create positive student and school outcomes in other districts and I support its full implementation in SPPS from Pre-K to High School.

If elected, what will you do to help kids who struggle academically and socially?

My priorities are to: • Boost K-3 literacy • Fund technical education and trades, including targeted programming for youth exiting punishment programs • Implement universal pre-K • Cultivate safety and mental health for all scholars. I have supported the campaign to fully fund schools every year at the Capitol and am willing to call, email, and meet with anyone to ensure proper funding is allocated to ensure the success of our young people.



Please describe how you will engage teachers and families in your decision making process.

I believe in co-governance with community which includes students, parents and caregivers, taxpayers, teachers, educators, and other residents and employees of the district. My approach is all about communication and connection, taking the time to talk with stakeholders to understand everyone's perspectives and needs. I believe that we all want the same outcome: a vital, equitable school district where students and staff thrive.

Coming back to school during and after the pandemic, we had a great opportunity to reimagine school and support for our children, families, and staff. Many think there were gross missed opportunities. How do you respond to this?

The COVID pandemic and George Floyd uprising showed that we are capable of forging creative solutions and community care models. We face urgent racial disparities that require new and bold approaches AND we have untapped ingenuity all around us: in our students. I will continue to encourage innovative ideas that get at the root causes of our systemic problems and help us achieve becoming the best school district in the nation.

YUSEF CARILLO

yusef4spps.org

ZUKI ELLIS

zukiellis.com

Please describe your qualifications.

I've spent two terms on the SPPS board serving as chair, vice-chair and clerk. I've been thru numerous budgets, contract negotiations, the search and hiring of our superintendent, and the creation of our current strategic plan. I've served on the State School Board Assoc., the Teacher Retirement Board, and many other committees. I'm a parent. I've been a teacher trainer and built relationships across the city and county to better advocate for our kids and families. I've visited all of our schools, building trust with our educators and students to get the honest feedback I need to understand fully what's working and what isn't. I believe my experience, knowledge, and respect for our students is needed in this time of post-pandemic recovery.

What is the top safety issue facing SPPS students and staff, and what will you



need to work together to find a common ground when there are opposing priorities and seek compromise when necessary.

What specific strategies would you propose for creating affordable, sustainable housing opportunities for those who are currently unhoused?

I would look at rental assistance programs and investigate raising income levels for low income residents; Support our rapid rehousing programs that offer temporary rental assistance; provide support, assistance and training so that when rapid rehousing is over, they don't become unhoused again; Support housing units that provide both housing and services for people who have issues such as mental health, addiction and finding and maintaining employment.

Please describe a time when you stood up for a cause, idea, or policy you believed in, even in the face of popular opposition.

do to address it?

Ensuring all of our students feel safe in our schools is critical to their ability to learn. That requires engagement from all community members and support from our local and state governments. I do not believe, and data does not show, that armed police officers make our schools safer. We currently have teams of community members on site who build relationships with our students to understand their challenges and support positive behaviors. That's a start, but a move in the right direction.

If elected, what will you do to help kids who struggle academically and socially?

I'll continue to advocate for all our kids with a focus on Special Ed. Our district has significant numbers of students who need additional services. We especially need to prioritize mental and physical health care support, understanding that there is a statewide crisis in recruiting and training adequate numbers to meet our needs. That requires partnering with our teaching institutions to ensure they receive the financial support they need to attract and train increased numbers of graduates.

Please describe how you will engage teachers and families in your decision making process.

By building relationships with all members of our educational community - the best way to get honest feedback on our strengths and weaknesses. Over my two terms, I've put in the time and energy to forge those bonds and keep them strong. I've also made a point of getting to know our families, especially as they struggle to get the needs of their students met. I'm a parent of a special needs student so I know the struggle and the need to have board members who can advocate from personal experience.

Coming back to school during and after the pandemic, we had a great opportunity to reimagine school and support for our children, families, and staff. Many think there were gross missed opportunities. How do you respond to this?

COVID disrupted all plans and structures across all platforms. We learned a lot as we had to reinvent our educational approach. I believe the results of that learning are becoming more evident as we move beyond the magnitude of that unexpected tragedy, but it will continue to affect our kids for years to come. My hope is our government now understands the deep funding, staffing, and community challenges that existed pre-COVID and need to be overcome to give our kids the education they deserve.

I was on a committee that managed grant money for city playgrounds. I advocated for more grant money to be given to rec centers that were located in lower income neighborhoods more than the rec centers in higher income level neighborhoods. That wasn't always a popular opinion because people are connected to certain recreation centers.

If elected, how will you intentionally work with BIPOC communities and center their needs in any policy-making efforts?

I would take part in ongoing and purposeful involvement with BIPOC communities by attending and organizing community meetings so that people have a voice in decision-making processes that affect them; make sure city services, information, and resources are accessible to communities who have non-English-speaking residents; build strong relationships with community leaders and organizations so that I can gain insights from them and effectively address their needs.

CARLO FRANCO

carlofranco.org

ABDI S. OMER

no website listed

ERICA VALLIANT

valliantforschoolboard.com

GITA RIJAL ZEITLER

gita4schoolboard.com

Please describe your qualifications.

I am an immigrant mom who has been the best advocate for the best education for our children and their physical and emotional well being. I am a health care worker and graduated with my Masters in public health and Nursing. I have worked with charter school teachers and parents. I feel that school board is missing average parents and I plan to be that voice to improve our failing St. Paul public school.



What is the top safety issue facing SPPS students and staff, and what will you do to address it?

Normalizing violence is the biggest threat. Not addressed mental health issues is another threat of safety for both students and staff.

If elected, what will you do to help kids who struggle academically and socially?

I would like to advocate to have a tutoring center, using data to intercept students with academic challenges earlier and having a targeted intervention plan with goals that are measurable. Involving parents and children both progress and challenges.

Please describe how you will engage teachers and families in your decision making process.

I plan to have a social media and community outreach event to reach out to parents including teachers.

Coming back to school during and after the pandemic, we had a great opportunity to reimagine school and support for our children, families, and staff. Many think there were gross missed opportunities. How do you respond to this?

Based on my children and their friends' conversations - children lost part of their childhood. I would have been more cautious about closing schools for a long time.



A NON-PARTISAN RESOURCE

**COMO PARK
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

BY ERIC ERICKSON
Social studies teacher

Como Park seniors Sophie Warner and Kai Sackreiter have earned the prestigious honor of being named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. With elite academic credentials and exceptional scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, Warner and Sackreiter achieved recognition obtained by less than 1% of high school students nationwide.

The two Como classmates will pursue finalist status and seek to win a National Merit Scholarship award. To do so, they must fulfill several requirements including submitting a detailed scholarship application with recommendations and an original essay.

Warner is a leader in the Como Robotics program and competes in three sports. She is a captain on the girls' swimming team, a captain for Nordic skiing, and has lettered in track and field since her freshman year.

Warner serves as a lifeguard at the YMCA, a ski instructor for the city, and is the student associate working in Como's Hiway Credit Union branch.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS



Como Park seniors Kai Sackreiter and Sophie Warner are National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. (Photo by Eric Erickson)

Academically, she is an AP Scholar with multiple AP Exams passed at Como. Her PSEO coursework (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options) at the U of M and St. Paul College will allow her to graduate from Como in 2024 while also earning an Associate of Arts degree from St.

Paul College.

She's considering several schools for the fall of 2024 with plans to pursue a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering.

Going into his senior year, Sackreiter has already earned the highest scores pos-

sible on six different AP Exams ranging from calculus to biology and social studies courses. The College Board named him an AP Scholar with Distinction. He's continuing AP courses this year at Como while also taking PSEO college classes.

Sackreiter is a talented and determined swimmer who first qualified for the state meet as a freshman and repeated as a sophomore and junior. He will captain the boys team this winter with high expectations for both fun and success. A swimmer year-round, Sackreiter is part of the Minnesota Flyers club team and serves as a lifeguard in St. Paul. He also is a student manager for the Como girls swim team and helps with coaching.

Another notable academic achievement for Sackreiter was producing a website for History Day as a freshman. His group won second place at state and qualified for the National History Day competition.

Add to that his musical gifts and piano awards through the Minnesota Music Teachers Association contests and it's clear to see Kai Sackreiter balances his skills in academics, athletics, and the arts quite effectively.

Como's class of 2024 includes many motivated and talented individuals who are making the most of their educational opportunities. Sophie Warner and Kai Sackreiter are a couple of shining examples who have certainly earned the honor of becoming National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

PEACE BUBBLES
BY MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com


"There is much work ahead, and I believe that radical self-care will light the pathway to a newly imagined world." - Dr. Joi Lewis

"Compromise, if not the spice of life, is its solidity." - Phyllis McGinley

"At the end of the day, we must go forward with hope and not backward by fear and division." - Jesse Jackson

Hello Monitor readers,

I've been fortunate to meet some of the of the Monitors readers over the summer at community events. It has been great seeing and engaging with human beings in-person instead of zooming and other virtual ways of showing up as human doings. It was a fantastic summer, although, it was also an awesomely tragic summer. It's been difficult focusing on the positive and staying optimistic with greedy and unethical lawmakers and toxic carpet-baggers promoting their outdated fearful doom and gloom Us (superiority thinking) against Them (everyday folks thinking) worldview lifestyles.

Again, fortunately, the Monitor's readers are assuring me that our future is bright with outstanding young people who are stepping up, our elders' messages being heard and acted on, and with people stretching their comfort zones and being okay with the discomfort of a new learning of the true meaning of We are All Connected and Related to Each Other.

I am happy to live in a state, city, and community that embraces and appreciates diversity and sees the creative assets and healthy benefits of struggling, working, and playing together as we keep joyfully and respectfully Bending the Arc of Justice forward.

'RONDO: FROM REDLINING TO GREENLINING' TOUR

This month, I am offering the UMN Extension as an example of stretching and expanding out of their hierarchical operational mode to a Place-Based Approach (PBA) community-friendly manner way of

A PLACE-BASED APPROACH TO OPERATING



University of Minnesota Extension educators from around the state learned about Rondo's history during a tour of the area on Sept. 28, 2023. They posed by the Solar Peace Pole at Western Sculpture Park. (Photo submitted)

operating. My friend and partnership-ally Janice R. accepted my invitation to share a few reflections of one of the September Extension State-wide Conference on-site Twin City Tours:

You may have seen a big red bus in the neighborhood on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Onboard, U of M Extension educators from around the state learned about Rondo's history, including how I-94 tore the community apart and how Rondo is rebuilding.

Coming in from the south, Melvin Giles narrated Rondo's early connections with Fort Snelling. Did you know the fur trader Joseph Rondo was thrown out of the Fort when he married a native woman? He moved to what is now Rondo. Soon we picked up executive director Mikeya Griffin at the Rondo Community Land Trust building. Born and raised in Rondo, Mikeya told of favorite stores now gone. She showed so much new development happening, like Golden Thyme's new site, and the business incubator with plans for more to come!

We swung by many special places where the Place-Based Approach (PBA) Extension team partnered in community events and classes, like YWCA, Hallie Q. Brown Center and Western Sculpture Park (with its new big light-up Solar Peace Pole!), home of the Community Peace Celebration recently. Then our amazing driver navigated by Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, as Michael Stratten, SNAP-Ed educator, described the greens cook-off and food justice facilitation training held there.

We couldn't leave out the Ober Center that has impacted so many youth through the years and where Extension's Well-Connected Communities youth programs blossomed.

One participant was amazed at the creativity and artwork around Rondo. Mizz Mercedes displayed her artwork at Central Village Park and shared her beautiful "Going back to Rondo" comic book. We saw the hard-won art on the Dale Street Bridge of Hope, as well as the pillar at the Rondo Commemorative Plaza that shines above the freeway. At the plaza, Mr. Marvin Anderson himself told of the grief buried in the mound there. He talked of fathers who were treated as a number at work, but who came home to a vibrant community. The photos captured the joy of Rondo and special times like Rondo Days and Juneteenth. Have you seen the "Women of Rondo" special photo exhibit on there now?

At our last stop, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Nate Galloway told about the pilgrims who started the church - that is, enslaved people escaping through the Underground Railroad. This stop also highlighted the greenlining of Rondo, with its gardens and soon-to-be mini-forest/green-screen with the DNR. We heard from members of the Urban Food and Garden Alliance (UFGA) and U of M Land Connectors. As Melvin says, "There's no meeting without eating," so we sampled vegan and turkey-tail collard greens and cornbread, made by greens cook-off champions. People watched "Rondo: Beyond the Pavement" on the way home.

Being in the neighborhood gave extension staff a 3-D understanding of what Rondo has been through, which will impact others they teach around the state. One participant said, "It was so rich to hear from all these community members!" Another said, "I wish everyone who lives in the Twin Cities could go on this tour. I live in Minneapolis and I learned so much."

Thanks for your reflections, Janice.

STAY OPTIMISTIC

In the spirit of wishing Former President James (Jimmy) Carter a blessed birthday, I gift him and us a small demonstration of what he upheld, cultivated, and inspires:

- The birth of Dr. Nikole's Thrive Growing (People of Victory)
- The Rondo Library Block Party (Oct. 21)

- Victoria Theater Arts Center and Hallie Q. Brown Center Halloween family-friendly gatherings

- UFGA Community Garlic Planting Days

- Penumbra and Community Theaters' plays and community engagement opportunities

- New and returning Midway area businesses and restaurants

- The good work of the District Planning Councils, Model Cities, Planting People Growing Justice, Ujamaa, Irreducible Grace (IRG), Amor Recovery Housing, Urban Boat Builders, Sprockets, Oxford Center with the JKmovement, Open Cities Health Center, We Resolve, COMMUSICation, Mississippi Market, Rondo Community Land Trust, African Economic Dev. Solutions (AEDS), Maxfield Elementary School, St. Paul Almanac, Save our Sons (SOS), In Black Ink, Frogtown Farm, Public Arts St. Paul (PASP), Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA), Community Stabilization Project (CSP), Springboard for the Arts, Art's-Us, YWCA, and other wonderful community groups and organizations

- Amazing and pro-ctive St. Paul Midway community members

Stay optimistic and dare to smile at someone new and believe that our future is bright and lovingly and divinely intertwined together.

May Peace Be In the Rondo, Frogtown, Hamline/Midway, Como, and Surrounding Communities... May Peace Be In Our Homes & Communities... May Peace Prevail On Earth (MPPOE)!

Allianz asks approved

By JANE MCCLURE

The long-awaited redevelopment of the former Midway Center site can go forward. Various project approvals won St. Paul City Council support on Sept. 20, 2023, including plat approval and interim parking uses.

The redevelopment, dubbed United Village, will have an office building, hotel and restaurants in its first phase. That phase will also include a public plaza at Snelling and University avenues, and a children's playground east of the Allianz Field soccer stadium.

Some neighbors and city council members are taking a wait-and-see attitude, given the lack of redevelopment activity over the past several years. They cite plan changes, as well as what they see as poor communication about the site. Yet another red flag is past site conditions and the need for neighborhood volunteers to regularly clean up trash on the 34.5-acre property.

The city council voted 5-0 to approve the project's preliminary plat, extend interim use for two existing parking lots for five more years, and create a third interim parking lot. A fourth action changed technical language on surface parking in the 2016 council resolution creating the Snelling-Midway Master Plan. The master plan outlines how the 34.5-acre site is to be developed. There has been debate as to whether or not the plan should be reopened and amendments made.

Council members Russel Ballenger, Mitra Jalali, Rebecca Noecker, Jane Prince and Chris Tolbert voted in favor of the requests. Council President Amy Brendmoen recused herself because her husband Mike Hahm is a project advisor.

Council Member Nelsie Yang was absent.

The appearance of the block bounded by Pascal Street and St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues has been a sore point for many neighbors. Before Allianz Field could be built and open in 2019, part of Midway Center was torn down. The rest of the shopping center was heavily damaged in the 202 civil unrest. Tenants had their leases terminated, with some closing up shop for good.

That was followed by a long debate with city officials over building demolition.

The Allianz Field and United Village site in Ward One border Jalali's Ward Four. Jalali said she has heard a number of concerns and questions from neighbors.

Jalali pushed for the project developers to "reset the relationship" with neighbors and to ensure that there is ongoing dialogue as the project moves ahead. She was able to add a condition to approvals that requires the developers to meet with the district councils at the councils' request. At the very least, an annual meeting and written report are sought. The development team agreed to that request.

Hamline Midway Coalition and Union Park District Council raised red flags about continuing the interim use of two parking lots west of the stadium, and creation of a new parking lot northwest of the stadium. Under interim use permits, the lots can stay in place for up to five years. Union Park backed down from its opposition and instead sent the city a list of longstanding concerns. The coalition continues to be opposed and to raised concerns about the development and the process itself.

Parking was a major focus. The two interim lots west of Allianz Field were cre-

ated in 2018, for five years. The council action allows use for another five years. A third new interim lot to the north was also approved, for five years. While developers need parking to get their projects underway, Hahm said the land is too valuable to be used as surface parking for an indefinite time.

Hamline Midway resident Justin Lewandoski said there is an attitude that development is "better than a parking lot." He cited the community skepticism toward the development. Jalali, agreed, noting worries that the interim lots will be used for parking on an indefinite basis.

But for those who oppose creating or retaining parking, others worry that the site doesn't have enough parking.

Jim Hornecker, director of real estate for Cub Foods, said in a letter that Allianz Field isn't providing enough off-street parking. Allianz Field is just west of Midway Cub.

"Cub's concern is that capacity in these interim parking lots is substantially insufficient for event parking at Allianz Field. Since there's insufficient on-site parking, Allianz Field attendees regularly park in front of Cub, which is across Pascal Street to the east, without permission or payment. As a result of the parking which overflows into our lot, it becomes very difficult for our customers to park and shop our store. Posting signage on event days has not made any appreciable impact in alleviating the situation," Hornecker said. Cub is asking that the developers be required to substantially improve the parking situation on their properties.

Others took a positive stance toward the requests and the development moving forward. Melanie McMahon, executive project lead for Mayor Melvin Carter's administration, said the actions represent an "exciting next step" for developing the area bounded by Pascal Street and St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues. The development is led by master developer M.A. Mortenson, management com-

pany R.K. Midway and Dr. Bill McGuire, the principal owner of Minnesota United. McGuire and his development group have been meeting with area district councils in recent weeks.

St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and Midway Chamber of Commerce representatives urged the council to approve the developers' requests and allow the project to move forward, citing the economic benefits redevelopment would bring. Chad Kulas, Midway Chamber Executive Director, said the project will bring jobs and "more positive activity for our neighborhood."

Approvals will allow site work, including \$1.4 million in pollution cleanup, to move ahead. The platting subdivides the area for development, and establishes streets and parks. The city requires park land to be dedicated when a plat is approved.

Once environmental cleanup is done, sites can be developed. The goal is to have a four-story office building, full-service hotel, restaurants, a public plaza and children's playground take shape in the development's first phase.

Jalali raised concerns that the first phase of development doesn't include housing. Developer representatives said housing would be included in the project's next phase. The site's tax increment financing (TIF) district is expected to generate revenues that can be used for affordable housing projects along the University Avenue corridor, not just on the superblock.

Another issue she raised is whether new development will be locally owned and affordable to people in the area. "Sure, it will be new, but will it be accessible to us?" she said, recalling the Midway Center businesses lost to redevelopment and to civil unrest.

The redevelopment project's next stop is the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, for further action on parks and open space plans.

KNOW YOUR COMO?

DISTRICT 10 COMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BY SHEVEK MCKEE
Executive director
district10@
district10comopark.org



COMO CURB CLEANUP THIS FALL

Como Community Council is partnering with Capitol Region Watershed District again for the 2023 Como Curb Cleanup. When it rains, leaves on streets release nutrients into the water that flows into storm drains and the lake. There it

becomes food for invasive algae. Studies have shown that sweeping up the leaves that sit against the curb where this stormwater/ice melt flows is surprisingly effective in reducing this damage.

Join 100+ neighbors in sweeping your curb once a week this fall, October and November, to help keep Lake Como clean. You can learn more and register as an "official" participant, which greatly helps us track our effectiveness, here on the D10 website: District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup

THANKS FOR SHOWING UP, COMO!

We want to thank all of the community members who have come out to our recent D10 Como Community Council events. The Sept. 16 Citywide Dropoff at the Fairgrounds saw a dramatic increase in participation over the past couple years, over 700 vehicles dropped off over 20 tons

of electronics and 15 tons of mattresses. We can't thank our over 40 community volunteers enough for helping out! (It's also worth noting that you can recycle electronics for free all year.)

Our Sept. 23, Lake Como Cleanup event shattered our cleanup attendance record with 63 participants! Thanks to everyone who came out to all of our cleanup events this year, and to the German Immersion School for helping send parents/students/staff our way as well!

You can still help us break another participation record this year by registering for our Fall Como Curb Cleanup!

We're already hard at work on our 2024 community events calendar. All are welcome to join our monthly community meetings to help us plan our events and initiatives.

KNOW YOUR COMO?

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY WRITERS!

Do you like researching history or getting to know your neighbors? Then you could be exactly who we are looking for to help with our Know Your Como project.

Over the past two years, the D10 Neighborhood Relations committee has coordinated volunteer writers to celebrate and appreciate the large and small contributions of our neighbors and the diversity that make the Como neighborhood a special place. The Know Your Como pieces are posted on the D10 website and weekly newsletter, but you can find all the articles to date at District10ComoPark.org/KYC. Email district10@district10comopark.org if you would like to join the volunteer team!

Jehovah celebrates 100th

Jehovah Evangelical Lutheran Church is observing its centennial with celebrations on five separate Sundays, beginning Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29.

The congregation, a Midway mainstay, has chosen as its centennial theme "100 Years of Grace: Walking Together at Jehovah Lutheran."

Other celebration events will be in 2024: Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 11; Pentecost Sunday, May 19; Rally Sunday, Sept. 8; and again on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024.

The community is invited to all, especially family and friends of members and former members. The church is at 1566 Thomas Ave. in St. Paul.

Guest preachers are scheduled on three celebration dates: the Rev. Lucas Woodford, president of the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS); and two pastors who served the congregation

in the past, the Rev. Tom Trapp and the Rev. Bob Benke. Pastor Joshua Miller has served the congregation since 2020.

Jehovah Lutheran's century in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood began in 1923 when founding members first met for worship in the upper level of a feed store near Snelling and Minnehaha, near the church's present location.

The congregation's first church building opened at Snelling and Thomas in 1924.

The original structure became the congregation's education wing when members erected a larger adjacent sanctuary in 1928. The current church building laid its cornerstone in 1963.

The church now is also home to the St. Paul Outreach Center (SPOC), launched this year as a multi-congregation initiative with Concordia University-St. Paul and the LCMS Minnesota South District. SPOC plans to offer homework help and after-school activities for neighborhood youth and families and link neighborhood volunteer sponsors with immi-



ABOVE: This is the second church building for Jehovah Lutheran.

AT RIGHT: Members lay the cornerstone of the current building in 1963 after the existing buildings were torn down. The church building was designed by architect Harold Spitznagel, and received positive local reviews, which noted the "sharp, square lines" of the building and its "striking display of modern church art." (Photos submitted)

grants and international students to assist with English and other newcomer needs.



Slice Pizza opens at Dale & University

'We can do this, one slice at a time,' says co-owner Adam Kado

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Best friends Adam Kado and Hosie Thurmond of Slice Brothers Pizza join Tommie Daye of Tommie's Pizza as Black owners of St. Paul pizzerias.

Slice Brothers Pizza officially opened at Dale and University on Sept. 15, 2023, and serves New York-style pizza by the slice and whole pie.

Kado observed that he'd be lying if he said that when they opened their first Slice Brothers that he envisioned them operating three locations within two years. They're also in Minneapolis at the Midtown Global Market and in Northeast

Minneapolis at 519 E. Hennepin Ave. – and will open at the Mall of America this month.

"We came together with an idea," remarked Thurmond, who moved from Chicago with his grandparents first to south Minneapolis and then the east side of St. Paul. "This is what hard work and dedication looks like."

He knows that African American entrepreneurs don't traditionally open pizzerias. But they focused on offering something different.

"We're really proud of these entrepreneurs. They operate with a sense of integrity and community," said Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) president and CEO Renay Dossman, which built the multi-story building at the corner that now houses Flava Coffee, Urban 29 and Slice Brothers Pizza (641 University), as well as the NDC offices on upper levels.

"We've been looking forward to this



Slice Pizza at 641 University Ave. was packed for the ribbon-cutting on Sept. 15, 2023. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

for a long time," stated Mayor Melvin Carter, who grew up in the neighborhood. He observed that during his campaign, people told him the city needs to do better at Dale and University. "Let me tell you, we are doing better," he said.

"We love it when people choose St. Paul," Mayor Carter added. In this case, it is a son of St. Paul who is returning and investing in their neighborhood.

"I was born and raised in St. Paul," said Kado. "This is priceless to me."

He observed that they will add 10-15 jobs at the St. Paul location, a statistic that is important to him. There aren't really any pizza places in Frogtown. Anecdotally, he said, some neighborhoods in the Twin Cities that are predominantly Black, like Camden in Minneapolis, also happen to be outside delivery boundaries for certain pizza places. It almost feels like redlining, Thurmond said, a discriminatory practice that historically segregated housing and public services by race.

For Kado and Thurmond, Slice Brothers is about pizza and it's also about empowering communities and fighting disinvestment in Black neighborhoods

"We can all do this," said Kado, "one slice at a time."

BUILDING A STRONGER MIDWAY



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

As someone who works for a chamber of commerce, one of the fun parts of the job is helping open new businesses. This means walking around with a giant pair of scissors and getting the odd looks that come with it. (Yes, they do cut. Yes, that includes hair. Just ask the people at the Turf Club).

On Sept. 14, Slice Brothers Pizza opened at the corner of University and Dale in the NDC building. The business is owned by Adam Kado and Hosie Thurmond and this is their third location, with a fourth opening at the Mall of America Oct. 5. Both owners have strong Saint Paul roots and are ecstatic about opening closer to home. Mayor Carter pointed out at the ribbon cutting, the event with red and black balloons, could remind someone of Kado's alma mater, Saint Paul Central (also the alma mater of several people in attendance). A popular menu item is the dill pickle ranch pizza, but they also offer more traditional toppings as a whole pie or, naturally, by the slice.

Comcast opens Lift Zones throughout the nation in different metropolitan regions, and recently opened their newest Saint Paul location at the International Institute of Minnesota. Lift Zones help connect students and their families to free WiFi and are often located at nonprofits and rec centers. There are over 1,000 nationally, over 100 locally and several throughout Saint Paul.

The day after the Lift Zone ribbon cut-

OPENINGS AND EXPANSIONS



King Coil Spirits (550 Vandalia St.) holds a ribbon-cutting on Friday, Sept. 29, 2023.

ting, Paul Davis Restoration cut the ribbon on their new space at 429 Prior Ave. N. They relocated from Oakdale to the Midway in 2014, and by the time they held a grand opening event in 2016 they were already ready to expand once more. Paul Davis Restoration is a great success story. Since 2016, they have almost tripled their employees locally and they delayed their impending move until they could find the right spot that would keep them in the Midway. They capped the event off with a block party, an annual tradition that includes a band, food, beer and draws a bigger crowd every year.

Another much-anticipated grand opening occurred recently when King Coil Spirits opened at Vandalia Tower. The new

distillery specializes in craft cocktails and Roman-style pizza, and is tucked into a fun, brick-exposed space with a retro vibe. The space has a front and back bar with differing menus, meaning you'll want at least two visits. Owned by the same team that opened Lake Monster Brewing, the two businesses are just steps away from each other. According to distiller Matt Lange, after one week in operation the most purchased drink was the ever-popular mule; however, there are many more unique and creative concoctions to try.

Staying at Vandalia Tower, OMG Studios is preparing its own opening for later this year. The media company owned by Monique Linder is taking over space that had been the actual office for the King

Koils Mattress Factory. The space will feature three studios for podcasting, music, video and more. Linder's background working with acts like Prince and shows at the Grandstand will bring top level talent through the doors.

A trip north on Snelling brings us to the former Hamline Hardware Hank site at 755 Snelling Ave. N. For 94 years, the site served as a hardware store until it closed its doors in 2020. Over the past three years the space has been the topic of many conversations around open space in the neighborhood as neighbors ponder what could take over the space next to Mirror of Korea – and when.

Finally, we have an answer. Udo's Market, a west African grocery store on University and Pascal, is moving in. Not only will the grocery section be expanded, but a kitchen will be added to serve west African dishes from different countries. Multiple cooks have been hired representing different west African cultures and all three meals will be served throughout the day. Owner Mike Udo expects the opening to take place late November or early December. And yes, the giant paint can decoration on top of the building will stay.

The recent and upcoming openings reflect growing businesses, many of whom have already been a part of our Midway community. They are all attracting people to the Midway in their own way while also serving as great amenities for neighbors. Some are in new buildings (Slice) or recently renovated buildings (the Lift Zone), while others are in buildings 100+ years old. They all make up what makes the Midway unique and fun place to visit. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the neighborhood yourself, I hope you can support our local businesses and keep your purchasing power with your fellow neighbors.

LYNGBLOMSTEN

Healthcare,
Housing & Services
for Older Adults
since 1906

St. Paul

www.lyngblomsten.org • (651) 646-2941

Senior Housing with Assisted Living Services • Rehab & Transitional Care • Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Care • Long-term Nursing Care • Community Services • Caregiver Support

Free Public School Serving Students in PreK-12th Grade

Looking for a small, supportive school community?

ST. PAUL

CITY SCHOOL

Call 651-225-9177 or visit www.stpaulcityschool.org to learn more.

215 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55103

DO THE MATH!

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



For only **14¢/piece** you can have a 4-color flyer **PRINTED AND DELIVERED** with the *Monitor*!
 Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
 (651) 917-4183

Leap
 Pediatric and Adolescent Care
 Primary care for 0-26 year olds
CALL 651-350-3580
 EMAIL Main@leapcaremn.com
 450 Syndicate St. N., Suite 250
 St. Paul, MN 55104-4107
 Hours: 8AM - 5PM M-F

Buying

★ Free Appraisals ★

**Memorabilia
 Sports Card
 Collections**

★ Consignment Available ★

Info@minnieandpaul.com
612-208-6405

Merriam Park Painting

- Exterior & Interior Painting - Enameling
- Ceiling Texturing • FREE ESTIMATES
- Wallpapering

Call Ed 651-224-3660

Church of the Holy Childhood

1435 Midway Parkway
 St. Paul

RUMMAGE SALE
Buchanan Hall

Thursday, Oct. 26, 9-7
 Friday, Oct. 27, 9-6 (bag day)
 Park in lower level lot on Pascal

LULA

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

WANT TO REACH 47,000 PEOPLE?
 YOU CAN WITH EACH MONITOR.

A-1 VACUUM

- * Sales, Service & Supplies
- * Free Estimates * Trade-ins Welcome
- * Bags, Belts & Filters
- * Dyson, Miele & Riccar, etc.

651-222-6316
 2575 Fairview Ave. N | Roseville
 9-5 Mon & Fri | 9-6 Tues-Wed-Thurs | 10-2 Sat
 www.A-1Vacuum.com

Mosaic ON A STICK

1564 Lafond Ave., Saint Paul
 651-645-6600
 www.mosaiconastick.com

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

612.729.7608 • www.buck-bros.com

BUCK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION
 MN license #4593

We design & build in your neighborhood
 Kitchens, Baths, Additions
 Restorations

BUY MIDWAY-COMO-PROGTOWN LOCAL

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

**Benita Warns
 Michael Warns**

www.mmrystore.com
 info@mmrystore.com
 651-641-1037
 520 N. Prior Ave., St. Paul MN 55104

Mr. Michael **RECYCLES BICYCLES**

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

CRANKSGIVING IS COMING!!!

Home

ATTORNEY

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

AUTO STORAGE

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

CRISIS HOTLINE

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

PAINTING

Painting, wallpaper patch. Interior, exterior. Small jobs wanted. Jim. 612-202-5514.
 Kevin's Painting. Interior/Exterior. Wood frame, stucco. Pressure washing, staining, gutter cleaning. Insured. 651-699-2832.

ROOFING

30 years experience hail and wind damage specialist. Replace or repair. Free estimate. Licensed/insured. 612-724-3934

SERVICES

Gutter cleaning. Let the Rain Drain Away. Call Larry 651-635-9228.
 Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways, roof tops. Gutter cleaning. 651-699-2832.

WINDOW WASHING

Window washing, inside and out. "You will see the difference." Call Larry. 651-635-9228.

GET THE WORD OUT.
 GET A CLASSIFIED.
 JUST \$1/WORD.

A TREE SERVICE, INC.
 651-633-6835
 STUMP GRINDING

**SUPPORT THE NEWSPAPER.
 SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES WHO ADVERTISE.
 TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE MONITOR.**

Jobs

OFFICE SPACE

Quiet, professional office space with free attached parking. Single offices up to 10,000 sq. ft. Building information available at hamlinepp.com. Contact Eric with The Terrace Group at 651-621-2550.

MIDWAY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

High quality, compassionate care for your pets

www.midwayanimalhospital.com
 Pete Kelley, DVM & Teresa Nolte, DVM

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

MIDWAY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

CONNECT NETWORK BUILD SUPPORT

FIND A JOB IN THE MIDWAY

CHECK OUT THE CHAMBER WEBSITE JOB SEARCH PAGE

AND FOLLOW THE LINK TO THE RAMSEY COUNTY JOB CONNECTOR BOARD

651.646.2636 | info@midwaychamber.com | midwaychamber.com



Feed your curiosity at the Bell Museum



Life on the Edge

On view September 23, 2023–January 14, 2024

In new exhibit *Life on the Edge*, discover that life is hidden in plain sight by exploring a colorful microbial colony, further understand the importance of our missions to Mars, learn about rover tests in the Atacama Desert, and more!



Solar Big Year – 2023 Eclipse

October 14, 10 am–2 pm

Celebrate Minnesota’s partial view of the annular eclipse at the Bell. Enjoy solar-focused activities and chat with expert astronomy staff to answer all of your burning questions about the Sun! Don’t forget to pick up a pair of limited edition Bell Museum Eclipse Glasses.



Sensory Friendly Saturday

October 21, 8–10 am

This monthly series provides a welcoming and accessible environment for individuals, families, and children who have sensory sensitivities. Experience our galleries, the Touch & See Lab, and a planetarium show at 8:45 am—all with lowered lighting, quieter sounds, and fewer visitors.



bellmuseum.umn.edu

HALF TIME REC

NEW OWNERSHIP- OPEN FOR BREAKFAST- HAPPY HOUR



Happy Hour

Mon-Fri. 8am-11am & 3pm- 6pm
Weekends 9am-11am & 3pm-6pm



NOW SERVING
BREAKFAST
WEEKDAYS 8-NOON
SAT & SUN 9-NOON

JOIN US FOR FOOTBALL SPECIALS
COMING THIS FALL
MEAT RAFFLE FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS AT 5PM
BOCCE BALL, PULL TABS & MORE!

LIVE MUSIC!
DJ ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!
KARAOKE ON THURSDAY NIGHTS!



1013 FRONT AVENUE, SAINT PAUL
651.488.8245

SIGN UP FOR SPECIALS AT HALFTIMEREK.NET

BINGO COMING SOON!
SIGN UP FOR DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE.



HAMLIN HEADLINES

Malmstrom Lecture in Physics “How to Build a Quantum Computer”

October 26, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Sundin Music Hall

Dr. John Martinis,
UC-Santa Barbara, guest speaker

Information: email ebrauer01@hamline.edu

Free to the public

hamline.edu
HUNAC@hamline.edu

