

Midway Como Frogtown

Monitor

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE



Meet
Ward 4's
Matt
Privratsky
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*The circulator provides rides
and more for ages 10-18*

Frogtown Loop launches

By **Jane McClure**

The Rondo-Frogtown Loop van is on the road, providing transportation and opportunities for children and teens ages 10-18. The \$1.5 million project is a joint effort between the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation and St. Paul Public Libraries.

St. Paul City Council members, meeting as the Library Board, heard a presentation about the circulator van in April. The Parks and Recreation Commission has also heard presentations during its planning.

All have praised the project and agree it is much more than a transportation program. Young people involved can use the van to travel and take part in a wide range of activities.

FROGTOWN LOOP » 2

*Funding available for
corridor-wide beautification,
marketing and more*

New commercial corridors program aims to boost businesses

By **Jane McClure**

Resources that could give neighborhood commercial areas a needed boost are arriving through St. Paul's new commercial corridors program. St. Paul City Council members approved the program and 18 projects April 23.

Sixteen district councils, community development organizations and business associations are eligible, including Neighborhood Development Corporation (NDC), Hamline Midway Coalition and Union Park District Council. Some entities due to geography have more than one project area.

NDC's focus area is the east end of University Avenue. HMC is focused on University and Snelling avenues, with UP-DC's focus on Selby and Snelling avenues. North End Community Organization (NECO) has the Como-Dale-Front area.

CORRIDOR PROGRAM » 3

STEAM quest



Bell Museum staff member Ellie Hechter encourages young birders at the STEAM event co-hosted by Frogtown Green and the Bell Museum on May 1 at the Frogtown Community Center. STEAMquest is an event chock full of hands-on activities where children can learn about science, engineering, and math. » [More on page 8.](#) (Photo by Patricia Ohmans)

'There is an effort to silence these students'

*Hamline government
professor concerned about
disappearing students and
constitutional rights*

By **Jan Willms**

Across the country, students on a student visa or the holder of a Green Card who protest against the killing of thousands in Gaza or sign their name to an op-ed against the war in the Middle East have found themselves picked up by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and sent to remote parts of the country where they sit in detention waiting to be evicted from the United States.

In Minnesota, more than two dozen college students of primarily Middle Eastern ethnicity have been swept up by ICE officials.

"We are supposed to live in a country where everyone gets due process and everyone is entitled to a hearing," said Dr. David Schultz, a professor of political science and legal studies at Hamline University.

He said the Trump administration is looking for courts that are more sym-

thetic to its requests, as more than one student has been sent to detention in Louisiana.

"I teach American politics, and if you read the Declaration of Independence, a part of it is about a statement of grievances against the King of England," Schultz continued. "He has moved us to far distant places to put us on trial. This is part of what the Trump administration is doing."

Schultz said the administration is trying to instill fear, committing high publicity actions and sending students to different courts and different detention centers, making it harder for them to mount a defense. They are also being sent away from their families and support systems.

"Their actions have created isolation for these detainees," Schultz said.

He said a Green Card entitles its holder to all of the rights of Americans except the right to vote. So far, in many of these cases, the students and other detained immigrants have not been given due process.

In the case of Mahmoud Khalil (at the time of this interview), he has not been given a hearing to determine the legal-



We are supposed to live in a country where everyone gets due process and everyone is entitled to a hearing."

David Schultz



war in Gaza.

Another student from Tufts University is allegedly being held because she was a co-author on an op-ed citing the rights of Palestinians. "There is an effort to silence these students," Schultz stated.

"Reactionary governments do not like academics, intellectuals or students," he said.

The Monitor reached out to several local students, but none would talk even anonymously, citing safety concerns.

Schultz noted that the United States is supposed to be a home for poets, who can

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Racism takes aim
at community members
in newspaper

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'You Betcha' traveling
exhibit showcases 100
years of DFL party

PAGE 10



Hamline Elementary
School Principal reflects on
growing collaboration

PAGE 9

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FROGTOWN LOOP

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The idea is nothing new. It has been raised in past neighborhood plans, and there have been smaller efforts over the years to provide such youth-focused transportation. Library Director Maureen Hartman and Parks and Recreation Director Andy Rodriguez, who praised city staff for making the program happen, said the program is more than just rides. They also cited the strong collaboration between the two city departments in making the program happen and the work of city staff to get the program underway.

Kali Freeman, community services coordinator for the project, said the loop makes it easier for services to be connected and serve young people who may not otherwise be able to get to their destination.

One part of the program, Freeman noted, is the partnership between the city and community organizations to provide culturally affirming programming. The two partners are the Black Youth Healing



The Loop provides kids and teens ages 10-18 access a wide variety of free, after-school activities in their community. Kids and teens can ride the Loop Van between community centers and libraries in the Rondo and Frogtown neighborhoods.

Arts Center and Network for the Development of Children of African Descent. The latter group focuses on literacy. The center is one of the van stops; the literary-focused group holds its events at the Rondo Community Outreach Library.

Another is to link people to regular family nights and the information and resources provided at such events. The first was held April 16. Freeman said these events promote engagement in learning and building community connection.

Drivers go through background checks. Passengers need permission slips signed by parents or guardians. Permission slips are at Rondo Community Library, West Minnehaha, Frogtown Community, Jimmy Lee/Oxford, and Martin Luther King recreation centers. The slips can also be found online.

The Rondo-Frogtown Loop is funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using state funding, After-School Community Learning Programs.

The van schedule is posted, as is a schedule of activities and the loop map. Go to <https://www.stpaul.gov/residents/the-loop>.

If you need to access the permission slip in a different format or have additional questions, call Kali at 651-266-7419.

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Second public hearing set on Breakaway music festival

A city error meant that notices didn't get out to neighbors about first hearing

By **Jane McClure**

Will it be second verse, same as the first, for the 2025 Breakaway music festival's stint in St. Paul? Will sound volumes be lowered to the point that the electronic dance music festival isn't feasible for its promoters?

This year's event is June 6-7 outside of Allianz Field. The city council will hold a second public hearing on the request at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7 at the city call/courthouse. District councils and neighbors said they didn't get proper notice of an April public hearing.

Ward One Council Member Anika Bowie April 23 asked for the variance to be reconsidered and brought back for a second hearing and vote, citing the complaints she heard about a lack of public notice. Her ward includes Allianz Field and some of the most affected areas. She and Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) Angie Wiese said the lack of notice

should be rectified.

Bowie also spoke in support of a lower decibel reading that is recommended by city staff. She has changed her tune since the initial public hearing, at which she expressed support for a higher sound level.

But the festival leadership has indicated a lower sound limit could mean dropping the festival.

A city error meant that notices didn't get out to neighbors, said Wiese, describing it as a situation where "the all-important part of hitting send didn't occur."

After much debate April 16, the 2025 festival received a higher-than-recommended sound level variance on a 4-2 council vote.

News of that vote surprised members of the Union Park District Council (UPDC) and Hamline Midway Coalition. Both groups met with music festival representatives over the past few months and expected to weigh in on the variance. Neither knew the matter was slated for a public hearing and vote April 16.

In asking for a public hearing, UPDC stated it is "very disappointed" in the process. The district council statement said, "UPDC was unaware of the volume lev-

els requested by the applicant and recommended by staff until it appeared on the city council agenda this week, which did not permit UPDC an actionable amount of time to provide input. As widely covered in the press, the sound from this event last year reached far outside the radius the city used for detailed notification this year. No adequate notice was provided to allow public input on this request."

The 2024 Breakaway festival roiled neighbors with sound that carried as far south as Mendota Heights. Then-Ward Four Council Member Mitra Jalali, who lives near Allianz, said she could hear and feel the sound in her home. Other neighbors described rattling windows, upset children, and the inability to relax or get to sleep.

The event generated more than 200 calls to the Ramsey County law enforcement dispatch center.

Breakaway president Jarrod Fucci claimed the high music volume is needed for the event to be a success. He acknowledged the 2024 problems and said the organizers are seeking a different Saint Paul location in 2026.

"It's not lost on me that our event was disruptive," he said. One key change Fucci

noted is that the main stage will be oriented toward the stadium, so that it can absorb noise. Last year the stage faced Midway Marketplace and Cub Foods.

Breakaway is expected to draw about 12,000 people each day, with about \$2 million daily in ticket sales and \$6 million in overall economic impact. Breakaway bills itself as the nation's largest outdoor traveling music festival.

The level of allowable sound varies by zoning district. The Allianz Field property is zoned for traditional neighborhoods use and have an allowable sound level of 70 decibels (dBA).

Barbara McMonigal-Saint Dennis of DSI outlined the permit request and city staff recommendations. The initially approved permit request is for 103 dBA measured at 125 feet from the main stage and 100 dBA measured at 100 feet from a secondary stage. The event time request was 4-11 p.m. Fucci said the time could be changed to 3:30-10:30 p.m.

DSI recommended 100 feet measured from 100 feet for the main stage and 99 dBA measured from 75 feet for the secondary stage.

Staff also asked Breakaway to pay overtime for 10 hours of a DSI staff member's time to be present and note any sound level violations during the event, which Breakaway organizers agreed to.

SILENCE STUDENTS

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criticize, analyze, second-guess and dream about different ways of doing things. But he feels the Trump administration is using the classic control of hearts and minds so that individuals don't generate ideas of criticism.

"Trump has lost the vote of the college-educated population," Schultz said. "(Revoking visas and Green Cards) is his way of silencing these people."

Schultz said the U.S. has a high rate of students from abroad. "Several great things have happened as a result of immigrants coming to study. They may stay here and become part of an intellectual powerhouse, such as Silicon Valley, research training in North Carolina, even the Twin Cities to some extent."

Schultz said that even if the students don't stay here but return to their home country, they bring American ideas with them. "What Trump doesn't get is the power of American ideas in the military, economics, diplomacy and culture. If we go back 20 years, the U.S. had a huge lead in the world in the number of college de-



(Graphic by Terry Faust)

grees earned."

By removing these students from abroad, the Trump administration is undermining America's strength and its role in the world, according to Schultz.

He added that these detentions and revocations of credentials are indirect ways

of banning Muslims.

Schultz said that he sees a showdown between Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts edging closer. "That's a problem," Schultz said. He warned about who may be potential targets of the administration. "Next it becomes U.S. citizens expressing

their constitutionally protected free speech rights."

Schultz has concerns about one group, then another losing its rights. "It's the classic divide and conquer," he said.

Schultz mentioned a book "It Can't Happen Here" that was written in the 1930s by one of his favorite authors, Sinclair Lewis, who was from Sauk Centre, Minn. "The book is about a president with fascist leanings who gets elected," Schultz said. "Are we at that point right now?"

Schultz said it should not be a surprise to anyone what the current administration is doing. "He is doing everything he said he was going to do."

Schultz said that Trump was sort of conflicted in his first presidency. "He wanted to move a policy agenda, but operating the government was woefully mismanaged. The same contradiction applies now. To what extent will incompetency and lack of strategy undermine him? All the errors and mistakes are starting to pile up."

Schultz said that Trump needs bureaucracy in place, but many in the Justice Department are leaving. "These are the skilled people who know how to argue in the Supreme Court," Schultz said.

CORRIDORS >> from 1

The goal of the program is to provide dollars to organizations in a streamlined way to advance economic development projects and programs on what are considered to be key corridors. In 2024, the city council earmarked \$1.4 million in Economic Development STAR funds for the development of a commercial corridor assistance program. Dividing that equally provides less than \$80,000 per area.

The council, meeting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board in March, reviewed program guidelines and made final suggestions.

"I am really excited about this," said Ward Seven Council Member Cheniqua Johnson, who chairs the HRA Board. She said the program is one the council has led and placed a priority on. Several council members spoke to the program's potential to strengthen the city's property tax base.

Other council members also praised the new program, although several questions were asked. One issue council members and city staff discussed is construction management. Some district councils and neighborhood business associations over the years have run programs such as facade improvement work, and have run into complicated issues.

Planning and Economic Develop-

ment (PED) Director Nicolle Goodman cautioned that the first year of the program could be bumpy. She emphasized that the council, city staff and community groups would learn together and could shape the program in the future.

The notion of designated commercial areas of corridors for improving is nothing new as different iterations have been discussed over the years. Most recently, former PED Director Bruce Corrie championed the notion of cultural corridors.

The new program has funding as well as a firm timeline. Proposals are to take shape this spring and extend until early summer. After applications come in, city staff will review those for a couple of weeks. Then another month is needed to get contracts in place. Projects could begin as soon as June.

The program includes potential sites defined by streets and intersections, each touching at least one of the city's 17 district council areas.

Area streets and key intersections were among initial proposed commercial corridor sites. One is University between Transfer Road and Lexington Parkway. University between Lexington and the Rice St. area is another eligible section.

Much of Snelling was divided into four different commercial corridors, with the local one being from University-Snel-

ling to the Snelling-Minnehaha avenues area. Three other sections of Snelling to the south connection with Selby and Grand avenues and Ford Parkway are also designated as commercial corridors.

Daniela Lorenz is program manager for the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED). She explained that the goal of the program is to provide dollars to organizations in a simple way, to advance economic development projects and programs on key corridors throughout the city.

Program planning included discussions with district councils, business associations and other groups in Saint Paul that do work along the commercial corridors. The guidelines were also informed by comments sought during an HRA meeting late last year.

The public comment period brought forth many needs. Lorenz indicated that some comments did inform the commercial corridors program.

Ideas brought forward included:

- Funding for beautification efforts
- Funding for administrative costs such as program and project management
- Funding for planning before programs could be implemented
- Flexible resources to support businesses

The program is a direct contracting

effort similar to that used with the city's district councils. Identified organizations with a history working in the 17 identified corridors were allocated funding to complete eligible activities. Where there would be competition is if more than one organization or group of organizations comes forward for the same area.

Any money allocated has to be spent within one year. Also, any projects or programs funded through this allocation won't be eligible to receive additional city or HRA dollars for a program or project with the same scope.

Proposed eligible expenses:

- Corridor-wide beautification efforts (maximum amount per project is \$25,000)
- Corridor marketing campaigns
- Public art installations (maximum amount per project is \$25,000)
- Development of plans for implementation of corridor-wide efforts.

Plans would have to be finalized within one year of receiving funds, said Lorenz, and must have the ability to be implemented within three years. Money for implementation of plans created through this fund is not guaranteed to be provided from the city or HRA.

Up to 10 percent of funds may be spent on administrative or indirect cost associated with managing or executing the proposed projects or programs.

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

TOO MUCH COFFEE

BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN
Owner & Editor
tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com



What does racism look like?

I saw it in April when I received an envelope filled with clips of nearly every person of color who made our edition of the Monitor that month.

Among them were our regular columnists, Melvin Giles of Peace Bubbles, Rennie Gaither of Greening Frogtown and Dr. Artika Tyner of Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute. A female high school wrestler was on our front page, and Como Park High School teacher and coach Eric Erickson also wrote about the group of students who toured D.C. There was an image of the new District 4 County Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey (the first Black county commissioner in Ramsey County's history), and Hamline Elementary teacher Amanda Jagdeo, who was a semi-finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

These are the people who are writing about education and sustainability. They care about the community and are working to make it better. They are stepping up and stepping out.

They are our leaders.

And I was so disappointed and upset to see this targeted hate.

It was unsigned and lacked a return address. I question when someone's opin-

Racism takes aim at community members in newspaper

ions are such that they don't sign their name to it.

We believe in transparency. We also believe in putting our names on what we write.

Erickson is a White teacher at Como Park High School who works to highlight the great things going on at the school for the Monitor each month. "It's troubling to see a community newspaper reporting on the accomplishments and activities of its local residents be targeted. And for what reason? Apparently, the sender does not want to see or read about people in the community who are not White. If that is indeed the intended message, we have a piece of evidence revealing that racism appears to be seeping into places and spaces where society had seemed to make progress over decades – reporting and celebrating the achievements, work, and voices of people in our community regardless of their skin color," he said.

"Among the big reasons I have lived in Frogtown for 44 years and continue to live here is that my life has been enriched by my many neighbors who come from all the corners of the earth," stated Patricia Ohmans of Frogtown Green, who is White.

"It's alarming that some people suddenly feel enabled to tout their small-minded, racist attitudes. That isn't what Frogtown is about. It's not what Minnesota is about. And it's not what America is about. It's way past time to call out this thinking and identify it as the hateful ignorance that it is."

Rennie Gaither also volunteers with

Frogtown Green, a group working to plant trees to beautify the neighborhood and bring down high heat island temperatures in urban areas. They are behind the Bee Line, planting wildflowers and creating refuge for the bees that pollinate our crops and ensure we have food to eat. He's Black, and has been writing a column in the Monitor. "I've dealt with similar incidents in my comments left in print and online, from death threats left on my phone in response to my comments regarding U.S. involvement in the Iraq War in a local newspaper opinion page to overt racist replies to my various online posts, including a threat to contact my employer because I mentioned 'slavery' in U.S. history. Apparently, the poster researched and dug deep as I refuse to use an anonymous name.

"I stand by all I say and do, whether that be acknowledging the legacies of plantation slavery and Jim Crow in the U.S. imagination and policy implications various social justice issues of the past and present, nationally and internationally," Gaither remarked.

INCIDENT AT THE NORTHEASTER

The Northeast newspaper in North-east Minneapolis recently responded to someone that came to their office and wrote on a recent editorial with profanity and other hateful language and taped it to their front door – unsigned, of course. They responded in the next editorial on Feb. 26, 2025, with a piece calling things out.

"To be sure, the scrawler is with-

in their constitutional right to protest," Northeast staff wrote. "We just wish they had the courage of their convictions and would write us a printable letter. ...

"We all have to live on this Earth together, and it's better if we all get along. This means having a civil discourse about an issue. It means trying to understand one another, rather than putting someone down or becoming angry because the other person doesn't agree with your thinking. In Congress and in the Minnesota Legislature, it means reaching across the aisle and working together on laws that benefit people."

WRITE TO US - AND SIGN YOUR NAME

We operate as the Northeast does. We don't print letters that denigrate other people or races, and we don't print cuss words. It's basic decency. We edit for length (our space is limited), pertinence and libel (we don't want you – or us – to get into legal trouble). Just make sure to sign your missive. We don't print anonymous submissions.

Send us a letter or email sharing your thoughts. That's what this page is for.

Email me at tesha@monitorsaintpaul.com.

I'm proud of the diversity of the Midway community, and we actively work to make sure that our pages reflect that diversity. We're here to mirror our community, to reflect it, to showcase it.

We're not going to stop doing that just because a racist individual targeted us.

BUILDING A STRONGER MIDWAY

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



Minnesota can jokingly be called the "land of 10,000 nonprofits" for all the charitable organizations calling our state home. And the Midway can feel like the epicenter of them; our proximity to the Capitol, transit options, and central location in the metro have led to an abundance of the sector.

While some may only think of businesses when they think of a chamber of commerce (the name does suggest it, doesn't it?) chambers typically also have nonprofit members and the Midway Chamber is no exception. In fact, due to our large number of nearby nonprofits we can boast more than most other chambers our size (and in some cases more than larger chambers). A fun fact – chambers of commerce are also nonprofits.

In 2016, the Midway Chamber was looking for a way to recognize our nonprofits on a regular basis, and the Non-profit of the Month award was created. At our monthly membership luncheon, we recognize a deserving nonprofit and invite

We recognize a non-profit of the month with \$1,000



The Midway Chamber Non-profit of the Month in March was Make-A-Wish Minnesota. Brian Thomas May of Spire (right) presented the award, which comes with \$1,000 each month.

them to say a few words and hand out marketing material. Often, the nonprofit we recognize has an upcoming program or major event we want them to promote. Other times they may have recently hired a key new staff member.

The award was brainstormed by Mike Zipko, a former board member who is a co-founder and principal at Velocity Public Affairs. Our initial sponsor of the award was Hiway Credit Union, who became Blaze Credit Union when they joined forc-

es with SPIRE Credit Union early 2024. At our annual Celebration of Nonprofits event in December, Blaze made the announcement that each honoree would also receive \$1,000; they even announced they will honor each of the 2024 recipients with \$1,000, too. For many of our nonprofits, that donation goes a long way and it's one of the perks of the job to know we can help make a difference to their mission.

The value in membership for a nonprofit can start with the desire to get connected to businesses. Our for-profit members often times end up volunteering for the nonprofit members, as well as making donations, attending their events and even serving on their board of directors.

Nonprofits play a vital role in our community, and it goes beyond their actual mission. Their leaders and also leaders in our city, and they employ many of our residents. Those employees are also utilizing our businesses, paying taxes, and making professional connections with our business and educators.

It's fun to honor different nonprofits and learn about their work. I look forward to recognizing a new one every month in 2025 and finding out how they're building a stronger Midway.

Monitor

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Story ideas always welcome.

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

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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.

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WARD 4 CITY
COUNCILBY MATT PRIVRATSKY
interim council member
ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us

My name is Matt Privratsky and I'm your new interim councilmember. I might have met and worked with some of you when I was the legislative aide in this office from 2018-2021. Either way, I'm excited to be here to help represent our part of Saint Paul for the summer and I hope we get the chance to connect!

For those who don't know me, I live in Midway with my wife Rochelle who works at the University of Minnesota as an academic advisor. In our free time we're usually laying around with our dogs, supporting women's soccer, or hanging out at a neighborhood brewery or restaurant. We met at the U of M Morris and moved to Saint Paul in 2013, and I've been an active local advocate for transportation, land use, and housing ever since. During my time as an aide, I also loved supporting small businesses and championing community first public safety efforts.

The rest of this newsletter, like so much of the work of the Ward 4 office, is done by our fantastic staff Jenne Nelson and Kristin Koziol. Whatever you need from our office, I'm confident Jenne and Kristin can help make it happen for you. And where they need to tap me in, I'm more than happy to be helpful wherever I can over the next few months and help hand off the work of the Ward to our new councilmember in August.

Jenne Nelson, Legislative Aide, jenne.nelson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Kristin Koziol, Executive Assistant, kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Privratsky, staff working through August



The Ward 4 office team includes (left to right) Kristin Koziol, council member Matt Privratsky, and Jenne Nelson.

Learn about Project Home and other programs that will be housed at Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul's new home in the Como neighborhood! There will be ample time for Q and A as part of the presentations.

- Interfaith Action: Project Home Neighborhood Meeting (Hamline Midway) Tuesday May 13, 7 p.m. Hamline Church (1514 Englewood)

- Interfaith Action is also planning on tabling at D10's Pick-Up and Party Saturday, May 17 4:30-6:30 p.m. Orchard Rec Center

D10 Pick Up & Party 2025: The Como Community Council's annual Pick Up & Party event is happening on Saturday, May 17. More information here.

Mighty Midway Festival: The Hamline Elementary Husky Pack, Saint Paul Parks & Recreation, and the Hamline Midway Coalition's Environment Committee are co-hosting the Mighty Midway Festival on Saturday, May 17.

CHANGES CONTINUE AT HMC

Changes continue at the Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC). Jenne Nelson resigned as executive director on April 4 and will continue serving as the legislative aide for the Ward 4 office, which she had taken a leave of absence for earlier this year. Lisa Nelson (below) has been hired as interim executive director; she also serves on the board of the Union Park District Council and was up for the interim Ward 4 council appointment. "So far, I've been spending my time learning the ropes, answering a lot of emails, keeping the paperwork wheels turning, and getting to know HMC behind the scenes," said L. Nelson. "Justin Lewandowski is here as Organizing Director and has been great at helping me get up to speed at HMC."



Board member and presidents Cole Hanson (who is running for the vacant Ward 4 seat) and Grace Liu resigned, as did Anna Best (secretary) following the resolution by the board disavowing Cole Hanson. Per public campaign donation records, donors to Cole Hanson's campaign included Hamline Midway Coalition Board Members: Ilya Garelik, Anna Best, and Gunnar Aas. HMC intends to strengthen the board's conflict of interest policy and expand board education moving forward.

The terms of the following board members ended in April 2025 and they did not seek re-election: Rayford Dixon, Ahmed (Meddy) Ali, Cameron Fure and Byron Arnold. As of press time on Monday, HMC had not yet announced the results of its board elections.

Learn more about L. Nelson, the resolution disavowing Cole Hanson, and Lewandowski being suspended after talking to the Monitor at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com. The Monitor sent a list of questions clarifying Lewandowski's status and the unauthorized download of data by Hanson that were not answered as of press time.

LIBRARY CLOSED

The Saint Anthony Park Library is temporarily closed now through mid-June, 2025, for repairs and maintenance to both entrances of the library building in order to ensure the library is accessible and welcoming to all library users.

The lower-level entrance does not meet accessibility standards due to the steep slope of the walkway. Additionally, water collects at the base of the walkway near the building and, at times, enters the building's lower level. The stairs to the main entrance are in need of routine maintenance and repair.

While the library is temporarily closed, library users can visit any library in Saint Paul, including nearby Rondo Community and Merriam Park libraries. Starting April 7, Merriam Park Library will open at 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Check out sppl.org for more information.

Remembering

Historic Henry
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The city approved demolition and it was taken down spring 2025.

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

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COMO PARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

BY ERIC ERICKSON
Social studies teacher



'THE LITTLE MERMAID' ON STAGE

The Como Park Theater Department performed the adapted musical version of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* during the weekend of April 26-27. Saturday served as opening day and night with a matinee and evening show. Sunday's 2 p.m. matinee wrapped a successful season of preparation.

The hard-working cast came through with outstanding energy, confident from countless rehearsals. The dedicated crew produced a crowd-pleasing set design and managed sound and light effectively and consistently.

Cast members included Daleeya Logan, Charlie Ernst, Genevieve DeGatano, Amethyst Gibson, Roman Rivers, Ethan Imbertson, Zachary Prince, Tylene Davis, Sherzoo Vang, Danaya Evans, Laura King, Klay Paw, Helen Gerezgiher, Kendall Smith, and William Fable.

Stage managers Clara Dunne and Lila Kopp guided the tech crew with Levi Kallhoff leading lights, Alex Buhr leading sound, and Millie Huth leading costumes. Additional crew members were Linnea

Spring musical cast and crew shine



The cast of *The Little Mermaid* takes a curtain call following their opening night performance in the Como Auditorium on April 26. (Photo by Como Park yearbook photographer Kong Yang)

Common, Amelia Larsen, Sarah Paw, Bella Hansen, and Lilly Werner.

COMO CULTURAL SHOWCASE

The Como Park Student Council planned and hosted its Cultural Showcase Night in the auditorium on Friday evening, May 2. Students representing Como's many cultures produced songs, dances, and a fashion show for the benefit of students, parents, and staff celebrating the unity and diversity of the student body.

CAREER AND COLLEGE FAIR

The Como Park Gymnasium was the destination for over 50 representatives from colleges, employers, and trade groups on April 16. In previous years, Como has hosted separate college and career fairs. But a March snowstorm caused the postponement of 2025's college fair.

Como staff adjusted by combining the two events which proved to be popular with a wide range of Como students who were able to visit potential schools, train-

ing programs, and employers. The event was coordinated by Aisha Mohamed who runs the school's Career Pathway Center, designed to provide every student a post-secondary path.

AP EXAMS

After a year of rigorous college-level learning, Como students in AP (Advanced Placement) courses are taking AP Exams for subject-specific courses from May 5-16. Collectively, Como students are taking hundreds of exams covering content from 12 different courses with a goal of showing what they know and potentially earning college credit.

Como's AP courses include Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Psychology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, English Language and Composition, Government and Politics, Macroeconomics, U.S. History, Human Geography, and World History.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Prom will be held on Friday, May 9 at the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul. Senior Honors Night is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27 in the Como Auditorium. Graduation for the class of 2025 will take place downtown in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium on Tuesday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m.

The final day of school for 9th, 10th and 11th graders is June 10. Staff will close out the academic year on June 11.

FIRST EDUCATOR

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



Education opens a world of infinite possibilities. It serves as a gateway to discovery, encouraging children to explore new ideas and unlock their full potential. Beyond the acquisition of knowledge, education fosters critical thinking, empathy, and collaboration. These are essential qualities of effective leadership. It is through education that we build bridges across differences, cultivate innovative solutions to complex social problems. We also empower children to become difference makers in their communities and serve as global citizens.

This month's column highlights an interview with literacy advocate Stacy Tello Castro, program director at Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute. Stacy discusses strategies for using hands-on learning experiences to promote reading comprehension, foster phonetic comprehension, support language development, and develop critical thinking skills.

Q: WHAT IS HANDS-ON LEARNING?

A: Hands-on learning is essential for the learning journey. Hands-on learning is an active approach to participate in a learning process, rather than just listening or reading about a topic. One way I remember hands-on learning is "learning by doing." The best part is that this type of learning is available free of charge and readily accessible any day of the week. Growing up my mother provided learning opportunities during each visit to the grocery store. For example, we learned how to create a budget for our family as we planned our weekly meals. We explored the basics of arithmetic as we counted the money needed to pay the cashier. We estimated the total cost of our groceries by doing math as we picked out the essential items.

When it came to literacy, my mother

World class education starts at home

always ensured we explored books from different genres. I loved comic books. Growing up, reading comic books was my favorite past time. To encourage me to explore new genres, my mother dedicated 30 minutes each day to reading any kind of book that was not a comic. After our reading time, I would use paper and crayons to draw what I imagined from the pages I had just read. I grew to love this learning activity so much that I continued practicing it in school. Whenever I needed a visual representation, I was able to draw it as a form of guidance throughout the curriculum.

Q: HOW DO YOU INCORPORATE HANDS-ON LEARNING INTO YOUR ROLE AT PPGJLI?

A: Our Leaders are Readers program is an excellent example of how interactive learning can benefit both children and parents. It is held on the first Saturday of every month at the Rondo Community Library. We offer a variety of hands-on activities, including writing exercises, DIY arts and crafts, and music. For example, acclaimed singer Lanell Lightfoot provides a musical selection. We use the lyrics of each song to introduce new vocabulary words. Through our Leaders are Readers program, I noticed a closer connection between parents and their children while interacting with the interactive activities and literacy. This bond enriches their experience and leads to meaningful conversations, encouraging them to return to our programs.

These activities have provided children with an engaging way to learn while also encouraging parents to get involved. The goal is to make this an opportunity to get inspired to find ways to become creative and come up with hands-on activities together with your children. Thinking outside the box will help develop their curiosity and excitement about learning.

Q: WHAT STRATEGIES CAN FIRST EDUCATORS USE TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT?

A: A great way to show your child that their education is important is by being able to engage and participate in their education journey. It can simply be by picking out a book together at the library, helping

them with their homework, or attending school events. Being present promotes a sense of encouragement and support for the pursuit of learning. When you are able to take the time to be involved, children see that learning is a shared experience with the entire family. Simple activities like reading a story aloud or discussing school lessons over dinner can provide different perspectives and make learning more meaningful.

Q: HOW CAN YOU MAKE LEARNING EXCITING WHEREVER YOU GO?

A: Education doesn't only need to happen in the classrooms. Learning opportunities exist everywhere. Whether you're at the grocery store counting the fruits, at the mall pointing out and spelling the names of stores, or discussing the meaning of new terms you have never seen before, everyday activities can turn into a fun, engaging lesson. This may encourage curiosity in your child and connect their education with real-life experiences. Activities like these can show that learning is not limited in school, it happens all around us.

Every Friday, my family and I make it a point to have an interactive day with my little brother. No matter where we are, whether in the car or at home – we play songs that teach him about the continents, like the 54 countries of Africa. We've allowed him to find learning in everything around us, calling out the colors we see on the road and engaging with his environment. Even at his young age, we have successfully expanded his horizons.

Q: HOW CAN YOU DISCOVER YOUR CHILD'S INTEREST?

A: Understanding your child's interests can help you make learning more engaging for them and create a closer connection. See what motivates them, whether it's STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, and Mathematics), music, sports, or animals, and incorporate their interest into their education. You can find a free activity to participate in so they can learn more like Art in Bloom at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts or visiting the Como Conservatory.



Stacy Tello

Or, you can introduce a new experience and learn together at home like knitting or painting. Encouraging children to be excited about education at home significantly improves a child's academic performance and fosters a passion for learning.

My mother recognized my love for comics and encouraged me to engage with different genres of books through hands-on visual learning. As an older sister, I noticed that my little brother enjoys being involved in the learning process. Therefore, I took the initiative to create an environment for him where he can be hands-on with everything around him, whether in our home or in the community.

All it takes is the initiative to take an interest in what young people enjoy and what they are naturally curious about. As their first educators, we are responsible for making a positive difference in their lives. You can begin by simply asking your child what their interests are and taking it from there to create a fun way to get excited about learning.

A CALL TO ACTION

A "first educator" refers to the fundamental primary role that parents and caregivers play in a person's early development and education. They instill essential life skills, morals, and behaviors. By incorporating hands-on learning into daily life, first educators can help children develop important literacy skills, emotional intelligence, and social understanding.

Through her organization, *Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute*, Dr. Artika Tyner offers resources to foster literacy and education.

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FROGTOWN
GREENBY RENNIE GAITHER
TIDBITS BY PATRICIA OHMANS

I've been discovering plenty of new things to experience lately. Funny how a previously unknown author or new jazz recordings can alter one's state of being. So too, things overlooked, perhaps deemed too trivial to notice, such as names on a brick wall or niche cheeses. Early this month, I had fun watching young people begin a lifetime of revelations stirred by discovery.

The place was the Frogtown Community Center, and the discoveries were offered by the Bell Museum's STEAMquest program on May 1, 2025. STEAMquest is an event chock full of hands-on activities where children can learn about science, engineering, and math. Frogtown Green and the Bell Museum are frequent partners, so it was natural for Xiem Vuong, coordinator of Frogtown Green's highly successful Neighbor Night monthly events, to partner with the museum as part of this series.

I began my discovery tour at the "Birding Bingo" table. There, participants used binoculars to find pictures of birds – or real ones – that matched photos placed around the center. I discovered that such simple games could be used creatively for active learning. Nearby, an activity called "Filter Your Water," offered five types of filtering material for participants to place inside small potting containers. Then the fun began: water the pot with dirty water to discover which materials offer the best filtration.

Painting and story creation stations provided children ample opportunities to get their artistic juices flowing, taking cues from photographs of galaxies to animal tracks. I was very interested in a catapult design experience using only wood craft sticks and rubber bands. And oh, yes, colorful balls of fabric to hurl from their 21st-century trebuchet.

Frogtown Green's Neighbor Nights

Discoveries at any age during STEAMquest



Children create catapults using wood craft sticks, rubber bands and pom poms during the May 1 STEAMquest event. (Photo submitted)

always offer great food, and this event was no exception, with roast pork and tofu bahn mi sandwiches from Ai Hue Bakery and Deli, fresh veggies and fruit and a trio of handcrafted cheeses from Nordic Creamery in Wisconsin. Judging from the lively activity at all of the learning stations, STEAMquest was a hit! Stay tuned for news about the next Neighbor Night, Thursday June 5, from 5-7:30 p.m. at Our Village Community Garden, on Milton at Pierce Butler.

FREE TREES ARE ARRIVING

The Frogtown Green crew and friends were extra busy at the end of April, installing over 100 trees into gravel bed "nurseries" where they will reside until fall, leafing out and developing strong roots for transplant. As always, most of the trees will be planted in residents' yards, where they can delight with their shade, beauty and even fruit. Frogtowners who would like a tree can sign up for one on the Frogtown Green website. Go to frogtowngreen.com and click on Urban Forestry 2025, to be notified when and how to sign up.

Rennie Gaither is a Frogtown Green vol-

unteer, and Patricia Ohmans is its founder. Frogtown Green is a resident-led and volunteer-powered environmental initiative in St



Animal skins and antlers are a way for kids to discover the natural world. (Photo by Patricia Ohmans)

Paul's most diverse neighborhood. If you'd like to know more, browse frogtowngreen.com or call 651-757-5970.

LIGHTS ON! AT FROGTOWN PARK & FARM

The future looks brighter at Frogtown Park and Farm, the oft-visited park and demonstration farm on the west side of Frogtown. The main pathway through Frogtown Park and Farm is now newly lit through the night, improving visibility and safety.

That wasn't the case for several years, after thieves stripped copper wiring out of the park's light fixtures. In 2022, a group of neighborhood residents organized to advocate for a sustainable solution that would still deter thieves. Their "Lights On! For Frogtown Park" successfully won funding from the city in a competitive application process.

"Every other year, \$1,000,000 in Capital Improvement Budget funds are made available for projects proposed by individuals and neighborhood groups," explains Paul Wehrwein of the

Frogtown Park Stewards. "The new lighting improves on the old in two ways. Lights on the south side are solar powered, reflecting the regenerative mission of the Farm and Farm, and with no wires to be stolen. On the shady north side, the lights are traditional in style and engineered to prevent theft. The city is seeing much lowered incidence of theft with this model of lighting."

St. Paul Park and Recreation Department handled the specification and contracting phases of the project.

Frogtown Park Stewards volunteers are Frogtown residents and friends who help maintain the park through clean-up efforts, removal of invasive plants, native planting and other tasks. The group is sponsored and supported by Frogtown Green, a resident-led public health and environmental initiative.

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PEACE BUBBLES

BY MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com



"Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others." - Pope Francis

"I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people." - Maya Angelou

"We are all children of the Great Spirit; we all belong to Mother Earth. Our planet is in great trouble and if we keep carrying old grudges and do not work together, we will all die." - Chief Seattle

Hello Monitor readers,

I greet you with refreshing spring joy of sights and senses of beauty and delight that will reflect back to me and all. Our April showers are bringing colorful and aromatic May flowers.

The month of April continued feeling like a bizarre and unpredictable world, as in a winkle in time, or energy that birthed our country 250 years ago and before the Mayflower. As a Time Traveler, I can assure you that the Arc of Justice is stretching and bending forward with the boost of social media. We can all breathe and listen easier for the truth at this historic time of (our history) transformational change for our planet, for us, and for everything (all our relatives). As a bridge – to find a balance of positive, which is about people and families instead of about profits and financial transactions – we have to talk to each other and to see each other through the lens of compassion, empathy, agape

Waiting for birth of new star in 2025

love, and understanding. And, spend time resting and being joyful, even as our world seems to be falling apart and dismantling; It is. However, we will rise and get back on track of common sense and democracy!

We will have a good spring and summer unthawing of the insensitive chain-sawing and incompetence, inconsistency, and confusing messages from our federal leaders. Instead of listing examples, I'm sure you can name 3-5 recent national orders that have been stepped back, particularly, regarding being dismissed, fired, or buying out Federal employees. It's too heavy for me too even think how to put our government back together again. I am, however, joyful and grateful that the words and actions of former late President, Jimmy Carter and the late Pope Francis are being acknowledged, honored, and being inspiration to work, care, grieve, play, sing, cry, plan, feel, and be together in unity and solidarity for democracy instead of what we are currently seeing and feeling. Things are slowly changing back, in respect to We the People.

THIS MONTH, I INVITED THERESA NIX TO SHARE HER INSIGHTS ONCE AGAIN.

Hello, my name is Theresa and I love to study astronomy.

Sky watching is a great way to return to experiencing a sense of childlike wonder within the harmonies between engaging with science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Getting out into nature takes my focus off the heartbreak of war and shifts me back into the work of peace making. Sitting in solitude and allows me to write and turn my emotion into something meaningful and beautiful.

Tracking star stories during times of

change helps me stay young at heart and connects me back to information about my culture and the climate. Today's inspiring star story is shared with you in mind.

People around the world are awaiting the birth of a new star. According to NASA, "The star system T Coronae Borealis (T CrB), 3,000 light years away, is about to brighten the night sky, visible to the naked eye for the first time in 80 years. Known as a recurrent nova, this phenomenon occurs due to a binary system of a white dwarf and a red giant, creating a stunning cosmic explosion. The star's brightness will rival the North Star, Polaris. Don't miss this extraordinary spectacle that might not return for another 80 years."

You can look up and see the star's birth sometime in 2025. This star will remain bright for a week or so and then start to go dim.

Reflection: No matter what is happening in the world, we share one sky.

My wish for us all is that we can track and multiply the energy collected from these small moments of wonder toward peaceful skies for everyone. For more information, visit <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/20393/>

To join the waitlist for the launch of my modern star stories in fall of 2025, email tthompson.nix@gmail.com.

"Peace and Light." Thank you, Theresa.

FROM MY MAILBOX

I enjoy receiving email comments and reflective feedback on my column. Thank you, to those of you who have sent messages. I've been encouraged to continue to be optimistic and speak from joy and gratitude. A few Monitor readers have suggested that that their "primary goal is to

find as many people as I can, other organizations that can band together, local businesses that are blue, safe spaces, people ready to push back etc." They shared that my column "conveyed our current national nightmare so well and also called us into community, joy, love, and peace." And, back in February, I received feedback that included in "these challenging times with love and kindness allowing the invisible forces to guide us. Thank you for your words." This encourages me to keep listening to my ancestors, angels, and invisible forces about our current inter-generational quantum leap of faith-ing. Be and stay optimistic!

'MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE'

I close with a simple and grateful tribute to Pope Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

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

HAMLINE
TO HAMLINE
COLLABORATION

Hamline Elementary's STEM Night with Capitol Region Watershed District was a great success! Students and families played environmentally-themed games and completed activities, including a watershed demonstration and native seed planting with the MN Seed Project. The Bell Museum of Natural History provided interactive stations, and the Math Happens Foundation provided math games. We displayed student science projects, and over 50 students participated in a school-wide STEM Challenge, finding a new use for recycled materials by creating a new object or piece of art. Thanks to families, staff, and partners for making this event fun and educational!

The Hamline to Hamline Collaboration was hard at work this month organizing unique learning experiences. Hamline Elementary second graders had one very busy day working with the business and society class to create kindness cards for neighbors in the morning, and playing a game of soccer with the women's soccer team in the afternoon. The Hamline University theater department treated first graders to a behind-the-scenes experience at the Anne Simley Theater on campus and yoga-practicing university students led first graders through yoga poses, breathing, and balance exercises in the Hamline Elementary gym. Many thanks to all of the wonderful students, staff, and faculty who participated for making these experiences possible!

It's exciting to see so many things happening in the collaboration this year, especially after the challenges of Covid made in-person programming harder to do.

I connected with Hamline Elementary Principal Kristin Reilly to learn more about the collaboration's journey through

Principal reflects on growing collaboration

Covid and what the future of the program looks like.

"Covid was a hard time for us and the maintenance of our partnership and ability to continue programming with Hamline University was hindered. It not only affected how we provided collaborative experiences for both Hamline University and Hamline Elementary students, but it was a time in which the depth of community was decreased with the decrease of in person connection. What makes our partnership thrive is the in-person programming where Hamline University students and Hamline Elementary students see themselves in the eyes of one another and share common experiences," said Reilly.

In-person experiences that the collaboration specializes in, such as educational clinics, fun academic and athletic partnerships and mentorship opportunities that provide play and connection all weren't able to be carried out to the same level. However, the collaboration has been

working hard to return to former numbers at full force. Principal Reilly sees the progress every day and understands its importance. "Post Covid we have worked extremely hard to get the partnership back to where it was. I watch the HU students come through our doors again each day to support in classrooms, mentor and tutor our young students. Our partnership is a huge part of our identity and what sets us apart from other schools."

The collaboration has continued with the support and consistent help from Hamline staff, faculty, and students who work together to power these special programs. The caring workers and volunteers who share their time have proven time and again that the collaboration and the community that it relies on are stronger than the obstacles it faces.

Although the collaboration has had its ups and downs, navigating unprecedented circumstances and coming back stronger than ever before is a goal that



"Covid had its impact but it did not take down the heart of this collaboration and partnership," said Hamline Elementary Principal Kristin Reilly.

unites this community. Principal Reilly sums it up like this: "So, yes, Covid had its impact but it did not take down the heart of this collaboration and partnership. In some ways it has made us stronger as we have realized the importance of connection and communal growth."

Written by Hamline University student and assistant to the collaboration, Darby Comiskey.

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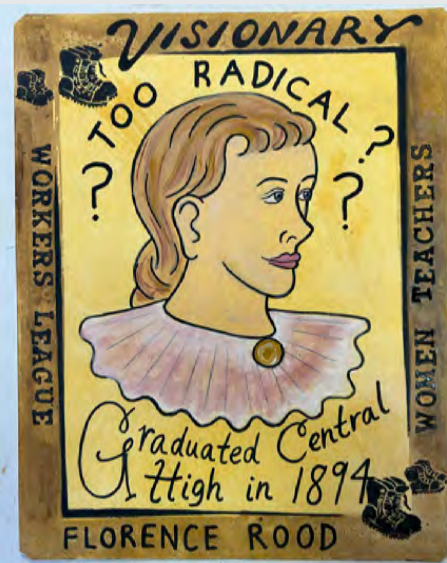


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'YOU BETCHA' SHOWCASES 100 YEARS OF DFL PARTY

Did you know that Minnesota is home to the most successful third-party movement in U.S. history? 2024 marked the 100th anniversary of the Farmer-Labor Party and the movement of solidarity that supported it. In honor of this centennial celebration and in partnership with Monument Lab's Re-Generation initiative, the Farmer-Labor Education Committee (FLEC) commissioned Gita Ghei (middle image, at left) to create a permanent traveling sculpture, commemorating the Farmer-Labor movement in Minnesota. She and her team engaged with people throughout the state to inform permanent art that commemorates this important history in a whimsical artwork.

The exhibit was on display Feb. 20-May 4 at the East Side Freedom Library. The exhibit will travel to libraries and fairs to teach the history. It consists of 12 bronze artifacts that speak to milestones and moments in the history, and 56 paintings that will be scanned into a deck of cards with an educational booklet for high school students to play rummy with. There is a one-hour documentary that can be accessed at YouTube, titled "The Farmer Labor Movement: A Minnesota Story."

From its founding in the 1920s through its dominance in the 1930s, the Farmer-Labor movement united workers, farmers, and the unemployed, building solidarity across regional, political, and racial/ethnic divides. Combining electoral politics, year-round organizing, and political education toward a vision of a "Cooperative Commonwealth," this movement created a model for progressive change that continues to be relevant today.

Lost to history by political repression and considered less relevant in the cold war 1950s, a new generation of political activists rediscovered the Farmer-Labor tradition in the 1970s and formed the Farmer-Labor Education Committee (FLEC), a non-profit organization with a mission to educate members of the public about the history and continued relevance of the state's progressive Farmer-Labor tradition.

By engaging Minnesota communities in processes of both remembering and visioning, "You Betcha" is a project of hope in

challenging times, according to organizers. "Over the past decade, we have witnessed the resurgence of fascism and ultra-conservative organizing extending across the state in rural, urban, and suburban settings. At the same time, a divisive and reductive characterization of state political divisions has emerged, framing the Twin Cities as a progressive haven pitted against a White, conservative, and 'backwards' rural monolith. 'You Betcha' uses history as a way to trouble those narratives and engage Minnesotans in dialogue that might both build and unearth solidarity across differences.

Since 1996, Ghei has worked as a sculptor and public artist in Minnesota, specializing in public art and teaching. She is a community collaborator with organizations and artists. She learned her trade in a bronze art foundry, and has worked as a patina artisan and public art maintenance technician since 1990, with museums and conservators. With her art, Ghei celebrates the dynamic life sustaining abilities of earth materials. As a public artist she has created permanent works in commissions for public spaces which celebrate diversity, and sustainability, and also brings art to community events with topics such as messages to migrating monarchs, or save the dark skies. She has worked in public school settings with residencies and grants, teaching art along with watershed, green energy, and public art learning with young people. Ghei has an Herbal Studies certificate from Minneapolis college received in 2021 which enhances her living in communion with earth matter. She maintains a studio in Minneapolis.

"My work is driven by sharing my excitement for culture, history, sustainability and natural material science with the public, including through community engagements, teaching and permanent site specific art," said Ghei.

Ghei has lived in the North End by Como Park since 2003, and volunteers with Frogtown Green planting trees; MN Seed harvesting and sharing native seeds; and Urban Strategies collaborating with youth on their entrepreneurial projects. She is on the Capitol Art Exhibit Advisory Committee and the board of Public Art St. Paul.



FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PROJECTS

Saint Paul Public Schools will receive \$924,218 in funds to help address the pressing issues of food waste and local food insecurity in all 65 of its schools by focusing on two strategies: 1) making food recovery a part of the culture by creating an internal system of reliable, safe, and measured food recovery, and 2) preventing food waste by developing systems and procedures to track waste against goals that inform staff training needs. Successful implementation of this plan will save a projected 142,000 pounds of food from

the compost pile.

Keystone Community Services will receive \$309,961 in funds to develop and sustain Keystone's capacity to rescue and distribute 1.2 million pounds of food each year in Ramsey County. Key elements of the work include securing equipment and staffing, completing routes to collect food rescue and bring it to the Keystone Community Food Center, distributing rescued food, and documenting pounds of food rescued.

Neighborhood House Association will receive \$164,139 in funds to add a

walk-in cooler in the Wellstone Center Food Market in Saint Paul. The cooler will increase storage capacity from 200 cubic feet of portable refrigeration at this location to approximately 1,350 cubic feet, enabling bulk produce to be stored in proper conditions, resulting in extended shelf life. Support for food-rescue activities would expand with a new partnership with Twin Cities Food Justice. With the addition of the new walk-in cooler, Neighborhood House can reduce food waste by roughly 15% and avoid discarding over 20,000 pounds of fresh produce per year.

EVENTS

ART AT ST. KATE'S JUNE 12

Art at St. Kate's, a juried art fair of quality fine crafts and fine art, is produced by Artists' Circle, a Minnesota non-profit art organization promoting fine crafts since 1997, and Textile Center, a national center for fiber arts in Minneapolis. It will occur on Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at on the grounds of St. Catherine University in Saint Paul. Free event. Free parking.

60TH CLASS REUNION PLANNED

The 60th class reunion (1965) for the combined schools of Central, Highland, Monroe and Wilson high schools will be on Aug. 23, 2025 at Joseph's Grill, St. Paul, 4-9 p.m. Appetizers served, cash bar, payment in cash or check at the door. RSVP or direct questions to Susan (Griswold) Cook at 334-444-1710 or email: voluntariodapaz69@gmail.com.

BRIEFLY

THE ODD COUPLE TEAM TRANSITIONS TO COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

The Odd Couple Team is excited to announce their strategic move to Coldwell Banker Realty. "Our mission has always been to go beyond transactions, fostering lasting relationships and making a positive impact in our neighborhood," said Shane Montoya, founder of The Odd Couple Team. "Partnering with Coldwell Banker Realty empowers us to elevate our services and continue delivering exceptional results for our clients."

Clients can expect a seamless transition, with the same team offering guidance through the buying or selling process. The Odd Couple Team remains committed to their core values of integrity, community involvement, and client satisfaction.

Coldwell Banker Realty is powered by a network of 100,000 affiliated sales professionals in more than 2,700 offices across 39 countries and territories.

WILDER OPENS MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

Wilder is excited to announce the opening of its new Wilder East Clinic on May 1, 2025, located at 445 Etna St, Suite 63, Saint Paul, MN 55106. This expansion is a direct response to the increasing demand for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services, particularly among children and adolescents, in the East Metro region. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified mental health challenges across all groups, creating an urgent need for accessible, culturally competent care. This is particularly evident among East Saint Paul youth, where significant service gaps exist, especially for Southeast Asian, African American, African Immigrant, and Spanish-speaking communities, as highlighted in Wilder's 2022 community needs assessment.

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► Ascension Eve Divine Service on Wednesday, May 28, 6:30pm



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Ads must be received by the Monitor by Monday, June 2 for the June 12 issue. Call 612-345-9998 or email Denis@tmcpub.com for more information. Classified ads will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com. Contact Tesha to place a Help Wanted ad at 612-345-9998, tesha@monitorsaintpaul.com.

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Home

**COMMUNITY
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CELEBRATION**

Our communities face new and difficult challenges. The theme for the 29th Annual Community Peace Celebration is "Unite for Peace", challenging us to nurture our streets, our neighbors, and our planet. The Celebration will be held on June 20, 2025, from 2-6 pm at the UGMTC Admin Offices (formerly Ober Boys Community Center), 376 Western Ave N. This free event features live music, food, resources, and activities for all ages. T.Mycheal Rambo will emcee, with performances by Rondo All-Stars, Kalpulli Yaocenoxltli, Ewangson, and others. Speakers include Commissioner Rena Moran, Jim Embry, and more. Get involved at communitypeacecelebration.org.

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.

GUTTERS

Gutter cleaning. Let the Rain Drain Away. Call Larry 651-635-9228.

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SERVICES

Neighborhood Concrete - Sidewalks, Driveways, Patios, Steps, NeighborhoodConcrete.com 612-930-7071.

WALKING GROUP

Walking group on Saturday mornings. Contact Liz for details 651-695-5155 (calls/no texting) 651-358-8648 (calls and texting).

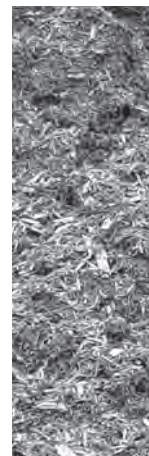
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MANY RECIPES CAN BE COMPLICATED FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN OR OTHERS WHO MIGHT NOT BE SO ADEPT WITH MEAL CREATION. HOWEVER, WITH A FEW INGREDIENTS THAT FAMILIES MAY ALREADY HAVE ON HAND, IT'S POSSIBLE TO CRAFT A DELICIOUS BRUNCH. THIS RECIPE FOR "WEE CHICKEN & WAFFLES WITH JEZEBEL-MAPLE SYRUP" FROM DENISE GEE'S "SOUTHERN APPETIZERS: 60 DELECTABLES FOR GRACIOUS GET-TOGETHERS" (CHRONICLE BOOKS) UTILIZES COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE MINIATURE WAFFLES AND POPCORN CHICKEN BITES TO CREATE A CHICKEN AND WAFFLES DISH WITH A KICK. SERVE ALONGSIDE MINI MUFFINS, DEVILED EGGS, CHEESE AND CRACKERS.



WEE CHICKEN & WAFFLES WITH JEZEBEL-MAPLE SYRUP

Serves 10 to 12,
Three or Four Waffles Each

Jezebel-Maple Syrup

2 cups maple syrup
1/4 cup pineapple preserves
1/4 cup apple jelly
1 1/2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt

40 mini waffles from a 10.9-ounce package, lightly toasted
40 pieces cooked fried popcorn chicken
Finely chopped fresh Italian flat-leaf parsley or green onion for garnish (optional)
Hot sauce for serving

1) To make the syrup: In a large microwave-safe glass measuring cup with pour spout (one holding at least 3 cups) or a bowl, add the maple syrup, pineapple preserves, apple jelly, horseradish, pepper, and salt; whisk to combine.

2) Microwave the mixture on high for 35 seconds. (You also can heat it in a small saucepan on low until the mixture is warm.) Stir and taste, adjusting the flavor if desired. Set the syrup aside.

3) Place the toasted waffles on a large serving platter. Top each waffle with a piece of chicken. Drizzle the chicken-waffle bites with about 1 teaspoon of the syrup. Garnish with the parsley, if desired, and serve with the remaining syrup and hot sauce.

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