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# Downtown St. Paul Voice



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November 2019

## A Heavenly Haven

*Celeste St. Paul Hotel and Bar opens Oct. 30*

Tara Guy  
Contributor

In an age that glorifies the new and scorns last season's version of anything, Northfield-based Rebound Hospitality has conceived a lovely hybrid of past and present and executed it beautifully in the Celeste St. Paul Hotel + Bar. Situated in the former St. Agatha's Conservatory of Music and Art at the corner of Cedar and Exchange streets, the new hotel is a sublime blend of St. Paul history and a new, beautifully appointed 71-room boutique inn.

The historic structure was built by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and opened in 1910. Designed by architect John Wheeler in the Beaux Arts style, construction began not long after the cornerstone was laid for the St. Paul Cathedral in 1907. As Archbishop John Ireland was overseeing construction of the Cathedral, his cousin, Mother Celestine (the former Ellen Howard of Ireland) was establishing St. Agatha's Conservatory. It operated as a convent and music and arts conservatory until 1962, and the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.

Rebound has renovated other historic buildings in the Midwest, including the Archer House River Inn in Northfield. General manager Carl Deeken has been a hands-on presence since Rebound purchased the property in 2017. He has worn many hats during the year-long renovation project carried out by Flannery Con-

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**ELECTION DAY**

# VOTER'S GUIDE

**St. Paul City Council Ward 2 | St. Paul School Board | Trash Collection**

Amy Johnson  
Staff Writer

Election season is in full stride. On Nov. 5, Downtowners will cast votes for one of five candidates running for the Ward 2 St. Paul City Council seat, as well as for members of the St. Paul School Board. They'll also weigh in on the contentious issue of citywide trash collection in St. Paul.

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## Just/Us restaurant reopening soon in Lowertown

Nigel Parry  
Contributor

After opening in downtown St. Paul at the end of 2017, Just/Us took the St. Paul restaurant scene by storm with a rolling series of creatively themed *prix fixe* tasting menus. Eater Twin Cities used phrases like "punk, no-holds-barred approach to fine dining" to describe the restaurant and lauded its "cult following." Many were shocked when, after just over a year in operation, the restaurant abruptly closed in April of last year. Their landlord, the new owners of the Viking Apartments building on West 7th Street, had given Just/Us one month's notice to vacate to make way for a total renovation of the property. They were told they could reopen after a year—if they liked—and pay more than quadruple their previous rent.

It was a blow to the core team of five who ran the spunky, up-and-coming restaurant as a collective. They spent much of the past year regrouping and holding a GoFundMe appeal and are about to reopen in November in the former Golden's Deli space at 275 E. 4th Street, next to the Farmers' Market in Lowertown. Watch for the official opening date at [www.justusmn.com](http://www.justusmn.com) and [facebook.com/justusmnrestaurant](https://facebook.com/justusmnrestaurant).

The quintet of artists and service industry veterans running the restaurant have served their time and earned their chops through an impressive roll call of restaurants, bars,

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## FAITH IN ACTION

# Local faith communities unite to fight homelessness

John Molene  
Staff Writer

Business is booming at the Project Home day center, and that's both a good and bad thing.

The good news is that people who need a hot meal and a bed for the night are getting them. The bad news is that the need for those services continues to grow.

"We have not been able to keep up with the need," said Director Sara Liegl. "We've tried several times to create extra shelter beds but it's very hard to get the funding to keep new shelter beds up and running."

Project Home is a program of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul that partners with local faith communities to provide emergency

shelter space for families facing homelessness. Unlike traditional shelters, Project Home coordinates with area churches, synagogues and schools to provide emergency shelter spaces for a short period of time. Most host sites are in Ramsey County, including Central Presbyterian and First Baptist in Lowertown, and a few are in Dakota County,

including First Presbyterian of South St. Paul and Salem Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. Once a congregation chooses to get involved with Project Hope, they usually become a longtime partner.

"Once they do it they're typically hooked," said Liegl. "We have congregations like First Presbyterian who have been doing it for over 20 years. There's some-

thing about it, that the family shelter becomes theirs. It's an opportunity that's so very hands-on, and different from anything else they could do."

Working with faith communities is key to addressing issues related to poverty, said Randy Roth, executive director of Interfaith Action.

"There's no faith tradition that doesn't look at poverty

as robbing people of their God-given right to dignity," Roth said. "What's being left on the table in our community response to poverty is the untapped labor potential of volunteers from faith communities."

"Faith communities, especially small- and mid-sized faith communities, tend to

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# Interfaith

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be filled with people who are praying for a way to be part of the solution, but not necessarily the best designers of the way to be a part of the solution.”

And that, in essence, is what Interfaith Action is all about – connecting those who need a helping hand with those who can help.

In September, Project Home took over the day center at First Baptist Church, 499 Wacouta St., St. Paul, from another provider. Available to clients are three meals a day and after-school snacks for kids. In the first month, Project Home served 885 meals and 236 after-school snacks. It also serves as a central location for children to be bused to their schools. In addition, the center has lockers, showers, basic hygiene supplies and laundry facilities, and workers assist the

families with finding housing and employment.

On a recent afternoon, about a dozen parents and kids were having an early dinner at the day center in First Baptist Church. They chatted and ate quickly in order to catch a shuttle to one of the two emergency shelters operated by Interfaith Action this month.

Volunteers and supplies are always needed.

“Right now we are really looking for weekend meal teams to come down to the day center and help feed the families, Liegl said.

The most needed items are feminine hygiene products, towels and washcloths, disposable razors, deodorant, games, craft supplies, and coloring and activity books. Donations can be dropped off at the office at 1671 Summit Ave., St. Paul, during of-

ice hours.

Volunteers are needed to serve in a variety of ways, including as shelter hosts. Shifts are 5:30-8:30 p.m., and 8 p.m.-7:30 a.m. weekdays, and until 9:30 a.m. on weekends. Duties include greeting guests, serving healthy snacks, conversing with guests, and playing and reading with teens and children. Overnight volunteers also help secure the facility before bedtime, wake up guests and serve a light breakfast.

Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul has a budget of about \$2.7 million annually. Funding comes from a variety of sources, including federal, state, county and city grants, and foundation and individual donations. For more information, visit <https://interfaithaction.org>. To volunteer, contact Sara Liegl at 651-789-3848 or [slieg1@interfaithaction.org](mailto:slieg1@interfaithaction.org). If you are seeking emergency shelter, call 651-291-0211.



Interfaith Action staff members Wade Piper and Maria Soroka chat with a diner at the day center at First Baptist Church in St. Paul.

**The most needed items are feminine hygiene products, towels and washcloths, disposable razors, deodorant, games, craft supplies, and coloring and activity books.**

## By the numbers

(most recent statistics are from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

- Project Home provided emergency shelter to 57 families, including 43 single-parent families. Shelter beds were used 10,312 times.
- 196 individuals were served; 66 adults and 130 children.
- 21 percent of the parents

served struggled with mental illness, including depression, and 27 percent had a chronic health condition or disability.

- 39 percent of the families were affected by domestic violence.
- 14 percent of the parents were 24 or younger.
- 33 percent of the children were under the age of five; 49% were 5-12, and

18% were 13-17.

• Self-described race and ethnicity: 70% Black/African American, 10% White/Caucasian, 13% multiple; 6% Hispanic/Latino, 4% Asian American, and 3% American Indian.

• Volunteer hours: 24,388 hours of direct service to shelter guests, filling 3,770 volunteer shifts.

## { CALENDAR OF EVENTS }

**Minnesota Museum of American Art** at Fourth and Robert is presenting “Sherin Guircuis: Here I Have Returned” through Feb. 23, 2020. Guircuis, an Egyptian-born, Los Angeles-based artist, has created an installation of hand-cut works on paper and sculpture inspired by a leader of the Egyptian

feminist movement, Doria Shafit (1908-1975). The museum will continue to exhibit “History is Not Here: Art and the Arab Imaginary” through Jan. 5, 2020. Seventeen artists use painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and book art to make connections between contemporary geopolitics

and history.

**Lowertown First Friday** will present works by artists on Friday, Nov. 1 at Northern Warehouse, AZ Gallery, Lowertown Underground Gallery, Show Gallery, 333 Gallery, Handsome Hog, Octo Fishbar and Birch’s Lowertown.

**Black Dog Café**, 308 Prince St., will present vocalist Jiselle McCullum at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 1. Flamenco Guitar will be featured 6-8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3. Medicinal Jazz will appear at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21.

**Subtext Books**, 6 W. 5th St., will present Courtney Maum, author of “Costalege,” at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 1. Shannon Gibney and Kao Kalia Yang will discuss “What God is Honored Here?” at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 7. Allen Eskins, author of “Nothing More Dangerous,” will appear at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13.

**Amsterdam Bar and Hall**, 6th and Wabasha, will present Ripe Fall Tour 2019 with Castlecomer on Saturday, Nov. 2; Alex G with Tomberlin and Indigo De Souza on Friday, Nov. 8; The Score: Run Like A Rebel Tour on Friday, Nov. 15; SYML on

Saturday, Nov. 16; Augustana on Monday, Nov. 18; Exmortus and Hellfire on Saturday, Nov. 23; The Spill Canvas on Friday, Nov. 29.

**St. Paul Parks and Recreation** will hold a Chocolate Frolic 7:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 2 at Harriet Island. A Turkey Trot will be held Thursday, Nov. 28 at Upper Landing Park. The 10K begins at 7:30 a.m., and the 6K at 8 a.m.

**East Side Freedom Library**, 1105 Greenbrier, will discuss, “How Did Our Political Culture Get Here?” at 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2; “Immigration: The Making of St. Paul” at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6; “School’s Not for Kids” at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 9; Conversation with Jay Weiner on the Last Lecture of Hy Berman at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 25. Berman was a renowned professor at the University of Minnesota.

**Baroque Room**, 275 E. 4th St., will present Songs of the Pavia Wind Quartet at 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2. Lunchtime Concert Series will present Going Off the Script: The Ornamental Suites for cello with Juliana Soltis at noon, Friday, Nov. 22.

**Dubliner Pub & Café**, 2162 University Ave., will hold Langer’s Ball 8 p.m.-midnight, Wednesday, Nov. 6.

**St. Paul Conservatory of Music**, 1524 Summit Ave., will present A Coffee Concert at noon, Wednesday, Nov. 6, featuring Artu Duo, with Ruth Marshall, cello, and Garret Ross, piano. The Contemporary Music Faculty Concert will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21. The Suzuki Group Recital will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 23.

**Studio Z**, 275 E. 4th St., will present The Innocents percussion duo at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 8 and 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 10.

**Lower Phalen Creek Project** will hold its annual breakfast fundraiser at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13 at CHS Field.

**George Latimer Central Library Book Club** will discuss “The Word is Murder” by Anthony Horowitz at 10:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14.

**Underground Music Café** will present Cajun Jam at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 16.

**Books and Bars** will discuss “My Sister, the Serial Killer,” a novel by Oyinkan Braithwaite, at 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St.

**Penumbra Theatre**, 270 Kent St., is presenting its annual Christmas Show

“Black Nativity” Nov. 21-24 and 29-30. Performances are at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays, and 4 p.m. Sundays. Penumbra will also present “Let’s Talk Possibly: Ideas from the Ashe Lab” at 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18. Ashe Lab is a program nurturing black artists.

**Minnesota Sinfonia** will present Happy Holidays at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 23 at First Covenant Church, 1280 Arcade St. Holiday favorites and Dimitri Kabalevsky’s Concerto in C major will be performed.

**St. Paul Farmers’ Market** will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 27 for customers to pick up holiday products. Patrons are urged to place their orders in advance. The Indoor Farmers’ Market at Market House, 289 5th St. E., will run Dec. 9-April 15 on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The Union Depot Indoor Farmers’ Market, 214 4th St. E., will be held 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

**R&B artists** Brandon Trevon, Just Will and Lorenda Rose will perform at 9:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30 at Can Can Wonderland, 755 Prior Ave. N., St. Paul. \$5.

**AZ Gallery**, 308 Prince St., will present its annual Holiday Show Nov. 29-Dec 31.

# Holiday

## Bake & Craft Sale

Fri., Nov. 22 • 1-6 pm

Sat., Nov. 23 • 9 am-6 pm

A Wonderful Selection of  
Handmade Treasures  
and Ethnic & Traditional  
Baked Goods



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