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SUN SAILOR

ST. LOUIS PARK / HOPKINS

No school cops

The Hopkins School Board voted to end the regular presence of law enforcement in the district. **Page 2**



Keeping up

The Hopkins High boys cross country season had a good start recently despite a loss to Edina. **Page 14**

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020

SLP Art-Walk in the Park will paint a picture of 2020

Plywood used as canvasses will be on display in parks for six weekends

By **SETH ROWE**
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When youth at the non-profit Perspectives considered a theme for their St. Louis Park art walk designs, the word resilience came to mind.

The concept encompasses the reaction to the death of St. Louis Park resident George Floyd while in Minneapolis Police custody, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and other anxieties in 2020.

Kaylie Burns Gahagan, a supervisor of the Perspectives Kids Connection team, talked to the young people about their ideas relating to resilience, noted George Bickham, a teacher and family youth advocate at Perspectives. Leaders at the nonprofit discussed "The Rose That Grew From Concrete," the name of a book of poetry by rapper Tupac Shakur published after his death.

"They said, 'OK, we get that: How is it possible for a rose to do that?'" Bickham explained.

He recalled a conversation about the pandemic and the reaction to Floyd's death in which one teen said, "I'm just waiting to wake up because this has

to be a nightmare."

"I swear this is always going to stick with me," Bickham said of the moment.

The young teens, who are of middle school ages, channeled those feelings artistically in messages and sometimes abstract artwork on plywood boards provided by St. Louis Park Friends of the Arts.

"If that's the way they want to express it, I get that and I dig it," Bickham said of the writing on the boards.

Reflecting on one message that said, "I'm broke but I'm not broken," Bickham said, "That just really spoke out to me. Hopefully, it does to others who see it."

Ten art pieces by Perspectives students and art teacher Toni Renea-Franceschi will join 30 pieces by other artists in the area on display along trails in St. Louis Park for six weekends beginning Saturday, Sept. 12.

During the first weekend and Oct. 3-4, the boards will be at Wolfe Park, 3700 Monterey Drive. They will move to Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

St. Louis Park Friends of the Arts provided art supplies for 40 pieces that will be on display at the SLP Art-Walk in the Park in September and October.

Ave., Sept. 19-20 and Oct. 10-11. The artwork will adorn Aquila Park, 3110 Xylon Ave. S., Sept. 26-27 and Oct. 17-18.

The idea arose after pandemic concerns prompted the cancellation of the St. Louis Park Art Fair, which had been scheduled

this month.

"We couldn't create an event that felt safe and also felt like a positive celebration of community that the event is meant to be," said Jamie Marshall,

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St. Louis Park will receive nearly \$3.7M in CARES Act funds

Large share will reimburse city for staff time spent on virus response

By **SETH ROWE**
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Federal funds will cover much of St. Louis Park's spending to respond to COVID-19.

The city is slated to receive nearly \$3.7 million from the Congressionally enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act.

With St. Louis Park already spending about \$3 million in relation to the pandemic, the federal money will largely be used for reimbursement. The remaining funds will be used for future spending through mid-November.

The bulk of the money the city has spent has been used for payroll expenses associated with mitigating or responding to COVID-19. The work includes educational support, public health duties, public safety measures and other duties. As of an Aug. 10 report, St. Louis Park had tallied nearly \$2.7 million in that area, generally by reassigning staff to new tasks.

The city also had spent nearly \$156,000 on economic support, including small business grants, unemployment insurance and economic assistance. Spending on personal protective equipment, disinfectant, public safety measures and recovery planning amounted to about \$114,000 while extra technology expenses came to about \$28,000.

The city's CARES Act Spending Plan anticipated that the city would spend more than \$300,000 in additional funds on economic support, about \$285,000 more on related payroll expenses, nearly \$100,000 more on technology and about \$30,000 more on public health expenses like protective equipment. Some of the equipment, like splash guards and hand

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