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## September 2019 Newsletter

Sustainable Stillwater Mn is a 501c3 nonprofit organization seeking to inspire and create a sustainable future in and around Stillwater.

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## Washington County Seeks People Who Bike

Washington County wants to hear from you about bike routes, current trouble spots for riders, and more. A \$145,000 study has been funded to create a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The county is responding to a public opinion survey indicating there is a demand for safe and connected carbon-free transportation options.

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county roads include Manning and Osgood Avenues, McKusick Road, and Myrtle St. west of Owens.

County officials and a consulting firm will use the info gathered from the public to create a plan for future bike use in Washington County. They will build off of the existing network of trails, paved shoulders, and sidewalks and create new portions of trails where there are gaps.

**For a link to the survey and more, [see our story here.](#)**



## Lakeview Hospital is Greener Than You Think

Stillwater's own Lakeview Hospital is a showcase of good corporate environmental stewardship. For instance, the hospital and clinic get 60% of their energy from three regional solar farms via a special arrangement with Xcel Energy.

They recycle and reuse. This includes all their "blue wrap," a polypropylene material used to wrap surgical tools after they've been used, and their sharps containers. Excess food waste goes to local hog farmers, and the cafeteria dishes and utensils are all reusable.

They safely dispose of unused medicines (so they don't end up in the water system) through a free secure medicine disposal unit available to the public. There are electric vehicle charging stations for employees. There is a community produce garden off the main cafeteria. There is a rain garden under construction under the Lakeview Hospital sign to catch rainwater runoff from the main parking lot.

sourced from a local aquaponics farm.

Lakeview Hospital is now looking for a permanent source of organic vegetables for the entire hospital year-round. If you have a suggestion on farms to approach, **please get in touch with Eric at [eric.siskow@lakeview.org](mailto:eric.siskow@lakeview.org)** - Eric also sits on the board of directors at Sustainable Stillwater MN.

What's particularly heartening is that these initiatives are not isolated to Lakeview. Many of these initiatives came from the top at HealthPartners, which owns Lakeview. HealthPartners has similar initiatives in place for its other nearby facilities: Amery Hospital and Clinic, Westfields Hospital and Clinic, and Hudson Hospital and Clinic. Kudos to Lakeview Hospital for showing the region how it's done.



## 30 Storm Drains Stenciled by Our Intrepid Storm Drain Troopers

Most storm drains in Stillwater, Minnesota empty directly into the river, without treatment. Some people may think these drains are trash receptacles for cigarette butts, used motor oil, leftover paint, pet waste or other pollutants. Storm drain labeling serves as an educational tool to remind people about the connection between storm drains and the St. Croix River.

Armed with spray paint, stencils, safety vests, and door hangers, the volunteers fanned out on September 7, 2019, across an area west of Pioneer Park to clean out drains of dirt and plants, to label each storm drain, and to hang "Adopt a



in three hours by the crews.

The volunteer action was part of the annual River Rally, sponsored by Community Thread. It was led by Angie Hong, Washington County Conservation District educator, who heroically accompanied the crews on a scooter due to a foot injury.

To get involved stenciling your neighborhood storm drains, contact us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com)

[More on the story here >>>](#)



## Get Your Butts in Here!

The first of dozens of cigarette disposal units, acquired by Sustainable Stillwater MN, are going up around the city. Look for the sleek black vertical boxes attached to light and sign poles. Cigarette butts are a pollutant that gets into our pristine river and the food chain.

Each unit has a number and will be labeled with the sponsoring business's name. The cigarette disposal units were acquired by Sustainable Stillwater MN from the America the Beautiful Foundation, and are being installed by the Stillwater Public Works Dept. Shawn Sanders, Public Works director, says all of the units are being installed on city property or city right of way areas. He hopes to have them all installed this fall. Cameron and Renee Murray, downtown residents, and Louise Watson, of SSMN's Natural Resources Workgroup, are taking charge of the



## We Love Warner Nature Center

Citizen efforts form to save it from closure

The beloved Lee & Rose Warner Nature Center in May Township, Minn., is closing after the fall season for good, according to reports. The center's primary funder, the Manitou Fund, canceled its partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota to fund the center.

However, the Manitou Fund says in a prepared statement that options are being explored for how best to use the land and facilities going forward and for future generations, though no specific plans are in place at this time. Additional details have been hard to come by. A group of concerned Warner volunteers has launched an online campaign called [We Love Warner](#) to rally others who share the hope that the center will not close.

"The closing of Warner Nature Center on December 31st is such a shame because the act of bringing students and volunteers out to the property will be cut off. Which destroys another avenue in building connections and relationships between future generations and a passion for nature. And at this time, we need ALL the avenues we can get!" says Kelsey, a Sustainable Stillwater MN board member as well as a Trail Guide volunteer at WNC.

Kelsey is urging people to write letters to the editor to spread the word that the St. Croix area is about to lose this precious natural area that has been an asset to the valley for the past fifty-two years.



# STRIKEWITHUS.ORG

## SEPT 20

### STRIKE WITH US IN HUDSON

Countless young people around the world have walked out of their classes over the past year to demand real climate action from politicians. On Sept 20, 4-6pm, we're joining them in the streets of Hudson, WI (corner of Second and Walnut Streets) as part of a global #ClimateStrike to demand solutions to the climate crisis.

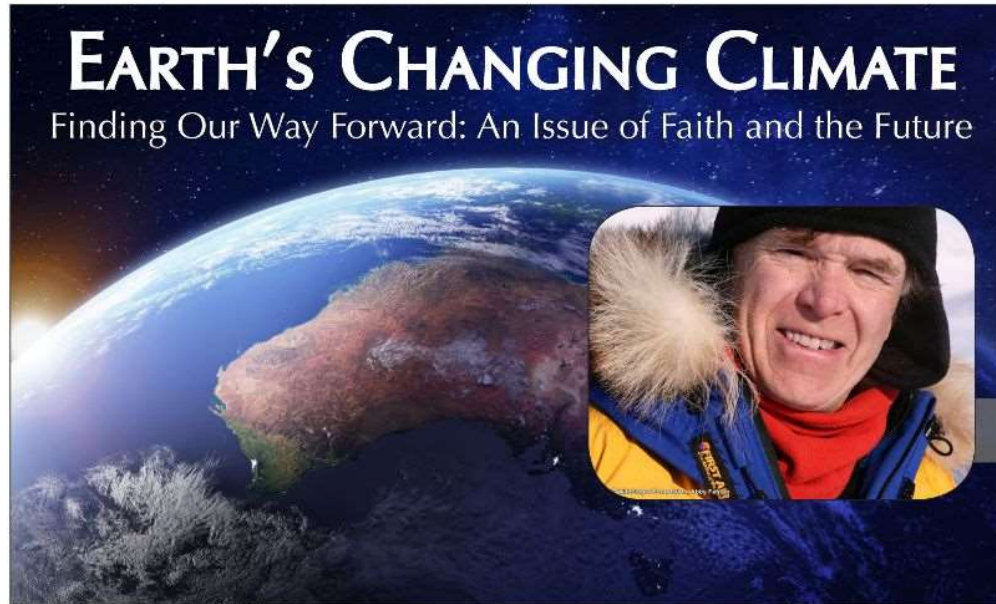
Will you join us? [strikewithus.org](https://www.strikewithus.org) #StrikeWithUs

Bring your signs and wear your Sustainable Stillwater tee! <https://www.facebook.com/events/617151748815712/>



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)*St. Andrew's Lutheran Church presents.*

# WILL STEGER



**Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, 7 p.m.**  
**St. Andrew's Sanctuary**  
**Followed by a Panel Discussion**

*Save the Date!*

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**  
**900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi MN 55115**  
**saintandrews.org | 651.426.3261**

St. Andrew's  
Lutheran  
Church



[Join SSMN](#)

to hear his inspiring message at this exciting event, coming up in November. See friendly faces from Sustainable Stillwater MN at our display there!

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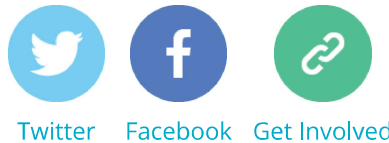
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## We are now in the Twitterverse!

Follow Sustainable Stillwater MN at [@MnSustainable](https://twitter.com/MnSustainable) on Twitter

## Throw Some LOVE Our Way!



Donate to Sustainable Stillwater MN

## Calendar

>>> Join Sustainable Stillwater MN members at the Climate Strike rally Friday, September 20, 4-6pm, corner of Second and Walnut Streets, Hudson. Bring your signs and wear your Sustainable Stillwater tee! <https://www.facebook.com/events/617151748815712/>

>>> Our Board meetings take place every first Wednesday of the month - the next one is October 2 -- and are open to the public. We usually meet at Community Thread, 2300 Orleans St. W, from 6.30-8.00 pm. For updated details contact us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

>>> The GreenStep Team meets the third Wednesday of the month 6:30pm – 8:00pm -- September 18. The next one is October 16. Third floor of the Stillwater Public Library. For updated details contact us at



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>>> Meetings for the Transportation, Natural Resources, and Energy Workgroups do not have a set schedule. For specific meeting dates on these teams see our Calendar or email [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).



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