



Welcome to our NEW

Current member - unsure what to do, use button and the same email as on our prev can enter the same password or choose a and continue to enjoy!

651-699-1462

Check out our media kit!

About UsContact UsSubscribee-Edition

f in

Sign Up

Log In

MyVillager

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Celebrating our 70th Anniversary

48°

Rain

Pay Invoice by card or check

☰

🏠

NEWSVIEWPOINTARTSSPORTSClassifiedsReal EstateE-EDITIONSAdvertisingMy AccountLocal Events

🔍

Become A Member

Join Now

MyVillager

BREAKING

CURRENT MEMBERS. Make sure to activate your account before trying to log in!

Updated Sep 1, 2023🗨️0

SBA Paycheck Protection Program offers a lifeline to small businesses in the area

By Staff Apr 29, 2020 Updated Jun 23, 2023

By Iric Nathanson

Bonnie Alton considers herself one of the lucky ones. The owner of Great Harvest Bread Company, 534 Selby Ave., Alton was able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration before the federal program ran out of money and was temporarily suspended on April 17.

The SBA faced a rush of requests when it began accepting PPP applications on April 3. Because the loans were approved on a first-come basis, PPP gave small businesses like Great Harvest a leg up in the funding stampede if they were able to find a bank that could move quickly to process their application.

In Alton's case, her banking partner was Julie Novak, senior vice president for commercial lending at Bank-Cherokee. "I reached out to Julie and she was three steps ahead of me in getting information from the SBA," Alton said.

Novak told Alton what she needed to do to prepare a PPP loan application. On April 1, two days before PPP was launched with \$349 billion available, Alton had submitted all of the documentation that the bank needed for its submission to the SBA.

"I'll never forget what happened next," Alton said. "On Saturday, April 4, at 10:13 a.m., I got an email from the processing group at BankCherokee saying that my application had been submitted to the SBA. Eight minutes later, I got another email, this time from Julie, saying that my loan had been approved.

"Julie and her team at BankCherokee knew what they were doing," Alton said. "They were able to prepare and submit loan requests to the SBA while some of the large banks were still trying to figure out how the program worked."

Under PPP's unique loan forgiveness feature, Alton does not need to repay the federal loan if she uses 75 percent of the funds to continue employing her current staff at their same salaries over an eight-week period.

Great Harvest is open for walk-in business during the statewide shutdown, but Alton said sales are lagging.

"We've lost a lot of our wholesale business now that restaurants are closed, but our regular customers still know where to find us," she said. "We're able to give them a sense of normalcy when they come in and see a familiar face behind the counter. That's important, particularly now when our social lives are so disrupted."

Alton said keeping her nine employees on the payroll might have been difficult without the federal loan. "If it hadn't come through, I might have faced the prospect of layoffs or reduced hours. PPP was a real lifeline for us," she said.

Two miles away, the Grand Avenue Veterinary Center also received a PPP loan and remains open for business, but only for emergency procedures. Veterinarian and owner Ann Brownlee estimates that business at the center, 1140 Grand Ave., is down by 50 percent, but its staff of about 15 are still on the payroll.

"Right now, we're doing curbside appointments," Brownlee said. "People come into our parking lot with their pets. Then we bring the animals into the clinic so their owners don't have to.

"The PPP loan has lifted a lot of the fear and burden off my shoulders," she said. "Before we received our loan, we had done some projections and they looked quite dire. Now we know we'll be able to retain our staff and keep them on the payroll for at least the next two months."

Unlike Great Harvest and Grand Avenue Veterinary Center, Wet Paint, another PPP loan recipient, had to close its doors when Governor Tim Walz's two-week stay-at-home order took effect on March 27 and was later extended to May 4. Scott Fares and Darin Rinne, who own the art supply shop at 1684 Grand Ave., had to lay off their 17 employees. Since then, they have brought back four of them to help with on-line ordering and curbside pickup.

Fares appreciates the financial help that the PPP provided for Wet Paint, but he questions the long-term impact of the federal program.

"The loan will help us bring back people on the payroll, but we have to face the possibility that we'll have to lay them off again if business doesn't improve," he said. "At least in the short run we're able to give our people paycheck and retain their health care benefits."

Congress OKs \$310B more to protect paychecks

Small businesses will be able to access an additional \$310 billion in SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans now that Congress and the White House have agreed to extend the federal program in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The funding extension includes \$60 billion earmarked for small- and medium-sized lenders and community-based financial institutions that can assist underserved small businesses, especially those that are owned by women and minorities.

The loans cover an eight-week period and are forgivable if businesses keep their workers on their payrolls at their existing salaries during that time. The SBA had suspended the PPP on April 17 when it fully committed the funds that were made available under the program's first phase.

The SBA has more information on the PPP at tinyurl.com/yajrumvz.

Novak, who worked with all three St. Paul businesses, said that the PPP must contend with conditions that vary from one part of the country to the other.

"Here in Minnesota we have a stay-at-home order that's keeping many businesses closed, but that's not the case in all states," Novak said. "We're facing a real conundrum. The SBA wants PPP borrowers to keep their workers on the payroll, but if a business is shut down and their workers are laid off, bringing them back will be hard to do. We're doing what we can to help our clients here in Minnesota adapt to the PPP requirements."

According to Roger Hamilton, another senior vice present for commercial lending at BankCherokee, "This is a moment of truth for small businesses. The PPP shows how important it is for small businesses to have a strong working relationship with their bankers."

f

✕

✉

📄

📁

🔖

Tags

AltonBakeryBank CherokeeBrownleeCommercial BankingCoronavirusEmployeesFederalGrand AvenueGreat Harvest

Welcome to the discussion.

Log In



Owner Bonnie Alton butters rolls at her Great Harvest Bread Company on Selby Avenue. She worked with BankCherokee and the Small Business Association to secure a forgivable loan to keep operating through the coronavirus pandemic. Photo by Brad Stauffer

MSI METRO SALES INC

Exceptional Customer Experiences Everyday

📶

Managed Technical Services

📄

Document Scanning Solutions

🖨️

Copiers and Printers

⚙️

Document Automation

👤

Managed Print Services

metrosales.com

1-800-862-7414

Highland Tower Open House

9am - 5pm Saturday & Sunday

October 14 & 15

Stunning 360-degree view

Free Admission

Learn more about the Highland Tower

SPRWS staff on hand to answer questions

For more information, Call 651-266-6350.

🏠

Call Paul Brownlee

Election 2023

5 / 6

Brookfield Renewable U.S.

Drawdown scheduled for Twin Cities Hydropower Facility

Brookfield Renewable U.S. will commence with a drawdown of the headpond at the Twin Cities Hydropower facility in St. Paul, MN. The drawdown will allow for necessary maintenance to be completed at the site and is scheduled to begin on Monday October 9th. The anticipated date of completion for the project is Monday November 2nd. The water will be restored to current level after the work is complete the refill will begin on Friday October 27th.

Due to weather conditions, the schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

Please use caution and wear a personal flotation device when recreating on or near water. Pay close attention to your surroundings and respect all signage, signs and barriers.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact us at: Inquiries.NewYork@brookfieldrenewable.com

SPA ST. PAUL ACADEMY AND SUMMIT SCHOOL

Join Us!

OCTOBER 2023 ADMISSION EVENTS

LOWER SCHOOL (K-5) OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

8:30-10:30 a.m.

1150 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul

MIDDLE/UPPER SCHOOL (6-12) OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 26, 2023

8:30-10:30 a.m.

1712 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul

Join us to take a tour of campus, meet faculty and staff, and connect with current students and parents.

We can't wait to meet you!

RSVP at www.spa.edu/AdmissionEvents or 651-696-1332

Lexifest

Celebrate the grand opening of our new senior living campus in Highland Park!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Lexington LANDING

October 2023		November 2023		December 2023	
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31					
Total: 31		Total: 30		Total: 31	

PRIVATE SALE!

13th ANNUAL PRIVATE SALE!

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER:

In Store Dates:

October 3 (5:00 - 8:00)

October 4 (8:00 - 10:00)

REGISTER NOW!

October 1 - October 4, 2023

Visit us online on the dedicated website www.abottbooksale.com during the sale window and register there (optional step) all the content by our designer with the exclusive prices and get design your project free of charge to place your order.

BEST PRICES ALL YEAR GUARANTEED!

St. Paul - White Front Lobby - 1st floor

Additional details prior to the sale date

Latest e-Edition

MyVillager

To view our latest e-Edition click the image on the left.

Crime

- Crime Report October 11, 2023
- Crime Report October 9, 2023
- Crime Report Oct. 6, 2023
- Crime Report October 2, 2023
- Crime Report September 27, 2023
- Crime Report September 25, 2023
- Crime Report September 20, 2023
- Crime Report September 18, 2023
- Crime Report September 13, 2023
- Crime Report September 11, 2023

View More

Most Popular

- Articles
- Efforts to make Cretin safer ramp up near proposed UST arena
 - Forepaugh's looks to reopen with new porch
 - Kicking it up a notch: Azocar is right at home playing soccer & football for Highland
 - Dream Come True
 - Four candidates vie for open City Council seat in Ward 3
 - Crime Report Oct. 6, 2023
 - Boys' soccer roundup: Coaches center on importance of strong midfield
 - Project would replace Grand home with three-story apartment
 - Crime Report October 9, 2023
 - Crime Report October 11, 2023

Become A Member

Join Now

MyVillager

MyVillager

Sections

Home

News

Viewpoint

Arts

Sports

Classifieds

Real Estate

e-Edition

Advertising

Services

Subscribe

Submission Forms

Calendar

Email Alerts

Search

Weather

Contact Information

myvillager.com

241 Cleveland Ave S Ste V

Saint Paul, MN 55105

Phone: 651-699-1462

Email: vci@myvillager.com

Follow Us

f in

📺

© Copyright: 2023 Villager Communications 241 Cleveland Ave S Ste V, Saint Paul, MN | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy

Powered by BLOX Content Management System from BLOX Digital.