

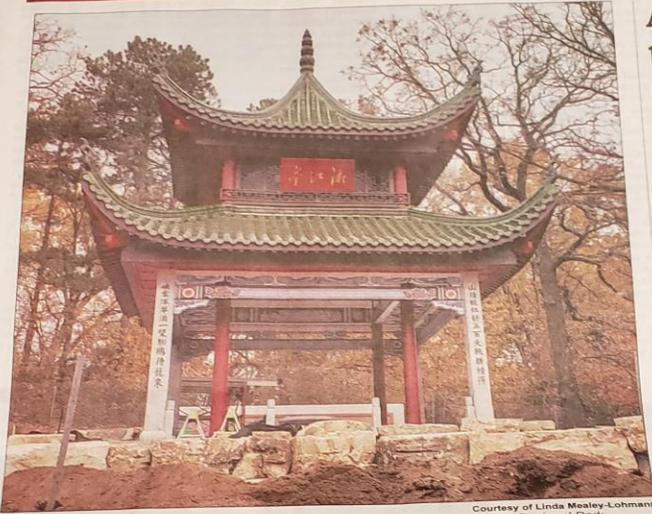
# Woodbury Bulletin - October 31, 2018

**Running to state**  
MCA and Woodbury have runners advance to state meet  
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**NO TRICKS. ALL TREATS.**  
**BIL BRANN**  
FOR CITY COUNCIL

**JO**  
HERNANEZ

**W**oodbury **Bulletin**  
Wednesday, October 31, 2018  
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Courtesy of Linda Mealey-Lohmann  
The Xiang Jiang Pavilion in the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen Regional Park.

## ST. PAUL-CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

By Hannah Black  
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St. Paul

Changsha, China, and St. Paul may be distant in geography, but a space linking the two will soon open in Phalen Regional Park.

Representatives from the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society will host an open house for the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3. There will be guided tours of the garden in English, Chinese and Hmong. Visitors will also be treated to Chinese and Hmong music and hot tea.

"It's more beautiful than anything we imagined when we started this project several years ago," said Linda Mealey-Lohmann, president and co-founder of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society. Mealey-Lohmann, a Woodbury resident, and the society's co-founder, C.C. Hsiao, were the catalysts behind the garden's conceptualization in 2000. The completion of the garden's main

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*I think it's just gonna be a great place for people to gather and picnic and contemplate and meditate and all of those good things.*

**LINDA MEALEY-LOHMANN**, president and co-founder of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society

structures this fall commemorates a 30-year sister-city relationship between the two cities.

As of 2010, the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington area was home to the United States' largest population of Hmong people, an ethnic group originally from southern regions of China, including Changsha.

The garden's centerpiece, the Xiang Jiang Pavilion, is a replica of the Aiwan Pavilion in Changsha. Its parts were shipped from Changsha and assembled in Phalen Regional Park by artisans from both the Chinese

city and St. Paul. Other features include the Hmong Heritage Wall, Pavilion Plaza and limestone rock landscaping.

Raising money to create the garden was also a joint effort. Those who donated at least \$1,000 to the project would have their name added to a "donor wall" in the garden.

"You look and there's Chinese names and there's Hmong names and there's names of community members that live in Phalen Park and surround the Twin Cities," Mealey-Lohmann said.

This summer, the group surpassed \$1 million in fundraising for the project, she said.

**GARDEN: Page A2**

**Save the date**  
The garden will hold its formal grand opening on July 13, 2019, on the first day of the Dragon Festival. There will be speeches, cultural performances and Changsha guests.

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Courtesy of Linda Mealey-Lohmann

The Hmong Heritage Wall in the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen Regional Park.

## GARDEN

From Page A1

Most of the garden's principal structures will be completed in time for the open house, though a granite archway over its west entrance will begin construction the following week. The bulk of the landscaping will happen in the spring.

Members of the Changsha community who helped plan the

garden looked for flowers that grow in their city, as well as look-alikes that would better thrive in a northern climate. They also included flowers, such as peonies, chrysanthemums and rhododendrons, that they thought could grow in Changsha.

Red maples will be planted around the Xiang Jiang Pavilion to evoke a similar feeling to the Aiwan Pavilion, which is also surrounded by red maples.

In the future, the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society plans to expand upon the garden's structures. Mealey-Lohmann said a Hmong Cultural Plaza, an enclosed classroom pavilion, a Tai Qi plaza, a covered walkway and a small viewing pavilion are planned.

"I think it's just gonna be a great place for people to gather and picnic and contemplate and meditate and all of those good things," she said.