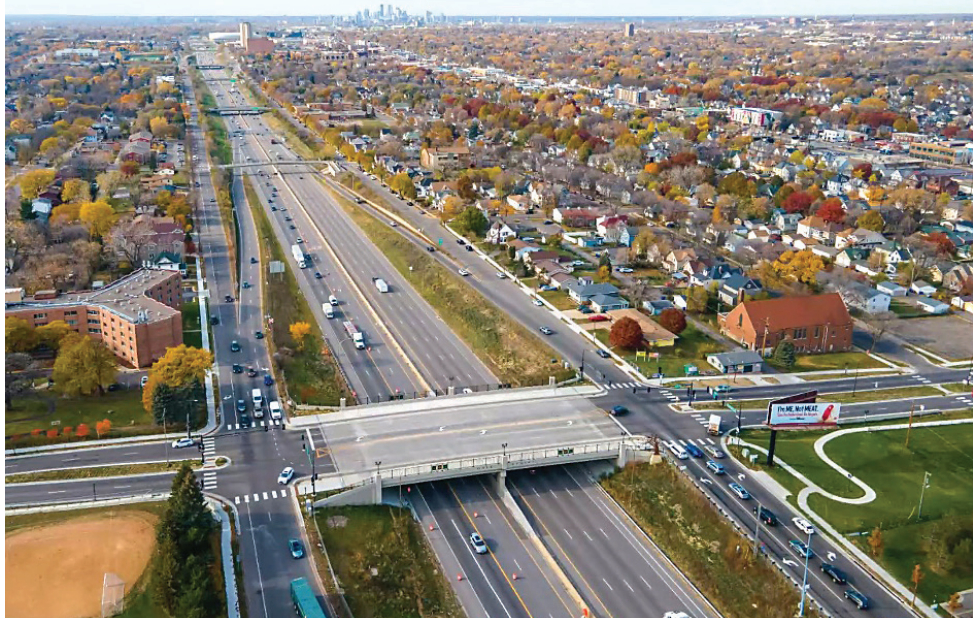




School
section

>> 7-9



WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU REMOVE I-94?

As community rethinks I-94, they consider reparative justice, climate change, and how people live and work in region

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

What happens if Interstate 94 is removed between St. Paul and Minneapolis? Our Streets Minneapolis is leading the conversation to rethink I-94 and consider various options.

They point out that the people who live in the corridor are the least likely to own a car and drive along I-94, and yet they are the ones being harmed by the

pollution.

A multi-modal boulevard could fill in the trench with sidewalks and seating, two-way bikeways, a linear park, transitways and stations, traffic lanes, and affordable housing. The existing street grid could be reconnected. A freight alleviation route could move trucks elsewhere.

"I-94 was a very controversial roadway when it was built and it remains very controversial," said HMC Transportation

Chair John Levin during the Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC) Transportation Committee meeting on July 17, 2022, which can be viewed online.

"This project will determine the future of this corridor for the next half century or longer," said Our Streets Transportation Police Coordinator Alex Burns. It can be hard to consider what the roadway might look like if it wasn't an interstate. Our Streets seeks to start the community conversation and facilitate the visioning.

"What do we want our community to look like in 20, 50, 100 years?" asked Levin. "How are we going to transition?"



In the long run, we want to change the way people live and work in the region."

John Levin



'A SIGNIFICANT GASH'

The Minnesota Department of Transportation plans to revamp the 7.5-mile stretch of interstate that links the two Twin

RETHINKING I-94 >> 16



An early dining hall at the fair is in the background. There have been several buildings over the last 125 years.

125 years: Hamline Church Dining Hall

By JANE McCLURE

The Hamline Church Dining Hall marks 125 years at the Minnesota State Fair this year, with a special event at 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 25. The celebration of the state fair's oldest food concession includes a look at the role early church women played in launching the dining hall.

Como resident Mary Bloom is co-chair of this year's dining hall committee.

"Looking at the history of our dining hall, it began with women," she said. Hard work and creative ideas have flowed since those early days, with many dining hall innovations coming from women of the church.

Hamline-Midway resident Jean Thilmany co-chairs the Hamline Church Women. "Women played a key role in starting what is now the dining hall and

HAMLIN CHURCH DINING HALL >> 13

No recommendation on historic status

In rare move, HPC didn't express support for Hamline Midway Library building that city wants to tear down

By JANE McCLURE

The Hamline Midway Branch Library's nomination for the National Register of Historic Places moves on with no recommendation from the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). After voting down proposals to support or deny the nomination, the commission voted unanimously Aug. 1 to make no recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

SHPO will consider the request Aug. 16. While designation wouldn't be a guarantee that the building would be spared demolition, it could bolster arguments of those supporting saving the building. Or, it could serve to memorialize the building and require extensive documentation before it comes down.

HPC staff recommended approval of

the nomination. But commissioners were split, with discussion often straying from the topic of designation itself to what a new building would look like. Such discussion is not germane to a National Register nomination.

The decision on the library is an unusual move for the HPC, which almost always supports National Register nominations.

The nomination came in as planning for the new library continues. In July, a couple dozen people gathered at the library to identify new features they'd like to see in a new building. Those results should be published soon.

Commissioner Stuart MacDonald said the library clearly meets the criteria for historic designation. But Commissioner Mark Lindley called the nomination "tenuous at best."

Architectural historian and archivist Barbara Bezat researched the nomination on a pro bono basis. The library at 1558 Minnehaha Ave. is one of two Henry Hale Memorial Libraries built in St. Paul. The Collegiate Gothic style building was dedicated in October 1930 after years of neigh-

HISTORIC STATUS >> 14



FARMERS MARKETS:
Reconnect, refresh and
re-stock your pantry

PAGE 2



OPINIONS:
Viewpoints on the Hamline
Midway library project

PAGES 4-5



Hamline professor co-edits
anthology: 'We are Meant
to Rise: Voices of Justice'

PAGE 12



2022 Minnesota Renaissance Festival

NEW IN 2022!

MONKS CRAFT BEER PUB • CROSSWORDS TAVERN
 SOCK AND BUSKIN STAGE • THE WIZARD'S COTE
 BLOODY MARY BINGO • SHAKESPEARE SHORTS
 DILLY DALLY RIDE THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT
 ROYAL RAPTOR CENTER • WINE WAKE
 VIKINGS VALHALLA MEAD HALL

FREE PARKING!

WEEKENDS (SAT & SUN) • AUG. 20 - OCT. 2
 PLUS LABOR DAY MONDAY, SEPT. 5
 & FESTIVAL FRIDAY, SEPT. 30
 9 AM - 7 PM • RAIN OR SHINE

952.445.7361 • WWW.RENAISSANCEFEST.COM



Dawn2Dusk farm provides land, infrastructure, and sharing of knowledge of farming and markets, as well as building community to beginning farmers through 1-on-1 support. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

BURGERS & BREW

for a good cause

The Midway Men's Club
 Join us at the Minnesota State Fair

(Underwood - just north of Dan Patch)



**COLDEST & CHEAPEST BEER AT THE FAIR
 MADE TO ORDER BURGERS - LOTS OF SEATING**

Volunteer operated

Proceeds go to youth activities in St. Paul, Midway

60+ years of giving back

FARMERS MARKETS: reconnect, refresh and re-stock your pantry

UNDER THE HOOD

BY SUSAN SCHAEFER



Something under the hood is not immediately apparent or obvious. This column will uncover stories that span the neighborhoods covered by TMC Publications.

FARMERS MARKETS THROUGH THE MILLENNIA

Said to have originated in Egypt over 5,000 years ago, farmers and craftsmen have been provisioning city denizens throughout history. Archaeological data reveal that early farmers and artisans often measured their goods on scales, using barter to value items by weight rather than using a monetary system.

Though not farmers markets in the traditional sense, Native peoples of the Great Plains also engaged in trade between members of the same tribe, different tribes, and with the European Americans who increasingly encroached upon their lands and lives.

According to the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, trade within a tribe involved gift-giving as a means of obtaining needed items and social status, "often taking the form of an exchange of products of the hunt (bison robes, dried meat, and tallow) for agricultural products, such as corn and squash. European and American items, such as horses, guns, and other metal products, were incorporated into the existing Plains trade system after the 17th century."

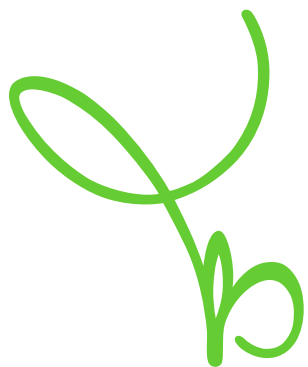
The first farmers markets in North America, in fact, date back to the 1600s and were brought by European settlers.

FARMERS MARKETS >> 3

Summer in the cities finds metro residents flocking like sheep to partake of the bounty offered at more than 15 local farmers market from various neighborhood locations. (See sidebar on page 3.)

Replicating the function of historic town squares, our modern-day farmers' markets are places for neighbors to meet, greet, eat and frolic. Reflecting current passions, many markets feature way more than produce, protein and prepared foods, offering everything from mini-cooking and even yoga classes, to knife sharpening services, local crafts such as jewelry, ceramics and woodworking, and live music.

Outdoor gatherings like these have gained even more popularity with quarantine-weary urban area dwellers delighted to share safe places to reconnect, refresh and re-stock pantries.



Join us for our
Grand Reopening
 Member Show Celebration

vine arts
 CENTER



SEPTEMBER 17 & 18
10 AM – 4 PM
 in conjunction with LOLA Art Crawl
2637 27TH AVE S
VINEARTSCENTER.ORG
 Keep your eye on our website for more upcoming events

METRO AREA FARMERS MARKETS

Minneapolis

- **Fulton Farmers Market** | Saturdays May 21-Oct. 29 | 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | 4901 Chowen Avenue South
- **Kingfield Farmers Market** | Sundays May 22-Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., NEW LOCATION at the north end of MLK Park at 40th & Nicollet
- **Linden Hills Farmers Market** | Sundays beginning May 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 2813 W. 43rd St. (Settergrens of Linden Hills)
- **Lyndale Farmers Market** | Daily 6 a.m.-1 p.m., 312 East Lyndale Avenue North,
- **Market After Dark** | 4th Tuesday of each month, May-Oct. 6-9 p.m., 1315 Tyler Street NE (Bauhaus Brew Labs)
- **Midtown Farmers Market** | Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. May-October; Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. June-September/3-6 p.m. June-October, BACK AT 2225 East Lake St.
- **Mill City Farmers Market** | Saturdays, May-October, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 750 S. 2nd St.
- **Nicollet Mall Farmers Market** | Daily 6 a.m. -2 p.m. (June- October), between 6th and 9th St. on Nicollet Mall
- **Nokomis Farmers Market** | currently closed (hope to be back in 2023), on the corner of 52nd and Chicago Avenue S.
- **Northeast Farmers Market** | Saturdays, May 14-Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 629 NE 2nd Street (St. Boniface Church parking lot)

St. Paul

- **Highland Park Farmers Market** | Saturdays, June 11-Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Luke's Lutheran Church
- **House of Hope Farmers Market** | Fridays, May 13-Oct. 28, 1:15-5 p.m., 797 Summit Ave.
- **Signal Hills Farmers Market** | Fridays, June 10-Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-noon, 1225 S Robert St.
- **St. Paul Farmers Market {Downtown}** | Saturdays, April 23-Oct. 29, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, April 24-Oct. 30, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 5-19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays, Nov. 6-20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 290 5th St. E.
- **St. Paul Farmers Market {Securian}** | Wednesdays, July 13-Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 400 Robert St N, St. Paul



A perennial favorite, fresh, farm-raised flowers. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)



Tera Forge Knives offers "while you shop" knife sharpening. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

FARMERS MARKETS >> from 2

Growing up in Philadelphia, I was fortunate to frequent one of our country's earliest farmers markets, the historic Lancaster Central Market, which dates to 1730 when city planners had the foresight to designate a 120-square-foot lot in the center of town as a public marketplace. This remarkable market has persisted throughout the years offering products from many vendors, notably from the celebrated Pennsylvania Amish community.

During my 10 years as a resident of the medieval European city of Maastricht, the Netherlands, I went weekly to the traditional Market Square with its "goods" market on Wednesdays and an expanded version on Fridays featuring fresh fish, artisanal regional products, and a famous textiles market. Living just across the Muse River in the tiny, ancient Wyck neighborhood, I frequented its legendary Thursday organic market, which drew hundreds of locals as well as neighbors from nearby villages and towns. My neighborhood market was an authentic international experience where polyglot vendors spoke at least five languages, communicating with customers from nearby Germany and Belgium in the local Limburg dialect, Dutch, English, German and French.

A NOSTALGIA AND RESURGENCE FOR FARM TO TABLE

Back in the USA, the 1950s and 60s featured people transitioning from rural to urban life. Farmers markets diminished as a focal point for commerce and interaction as improved roads, transportation and technology drastically changed consumers relationship with food production, giving rise to an eventual 24/7 global economy where an itch for a midnight bowl of ice cream could be tickled by 3 a.m. trip to a nearby supermarket. During this era, most people had no idea where the food on their table came from. Presently in the United States, food travels, on average, 1,300 miles and changes hands six times before it is consumed.

But by the 1970s, there was a renewed desire for fresh and organic food, spark-



Café Palmira offers fresh brew and hand-picked and shade-grown coffee beans according to traditional Mayan customs. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

FARMERS MARKETS >> from 2

Such markets were the primary means for customers from small towns to access meats, dairy, and fresh produce. They were significant economic operations that attracted many people into city centers.

By the 1800s and 1900s, farmers markets were not only important for economic success, but also social interaction, as they were often the only means for rural and urban community members to meet.

FARMERS MARKETS HERE AND ABROAD

ing a revival of farmers markets and local coops. United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) data show that the number of farmers markets had increased by 63% over a six-year period from 1994 to 2000.

NAT'L FARMERS MARKET WEEK, AUG. 7-13

The USDA, which provides support and education for its broad membership, sponsors National Farmers Market Week each year during the first week of August.

Here in Minnesota, our nation's breadbasket, the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, (MFMA) provides services, programs and leadership that support and promote farmers markets across Minnesota, highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion.

One local market, the Mill City Farmers Market, runs its enterprise mirroring the MFMA. Operated by a unique non-profit founded by legendary restaurateur, Brenda Langton, in collaboration with the Mill City Museum, Mill City Farmers Market mission supports diversity, equity and inclusion. And fun! Known

for its free cooking classes with prominent chefs, MCFM also features engaging children's activities and adult education, supporting over 100 local farmers, food makers and artists, the market has always focused on local, sustainable and organic food in a vibrant setting. The added benefit of the relationship with the Mill City Museum allows the market to operate year-round, outdoors May through October next to the Guthrie Theater, and inside the Museum on select Saturdays November through April.

With half the summer still ahead, consider incorporating a visit to assorted markets as part of your seasonal explorations.

Your tummy and taste buds will thank you.

Susan Schaefer is a widely published independent journalist, creative writer, and poet. Her articles appear in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, PBS' online magazine, Next Avenue, Next Tribe, and beyond. She was columnist and features writer for Minneapolis' Southwest Journal and Minnesota Good Age magazine.

Wondering about candidates?



View candidate profiles online @ MonitorSaintPaul.com



Submit letters to the editor of 200 words or less to news@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Advertise by contacting Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com or 651-917-4183



High quality, compassionate care for your pets

www.midwayanimalhospital.com

Pete Kelley, DVM & Teresa Nolte, DVM

731 North Snelling Avenue / 651-644-2100
Parking & Entrance in Rear / Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 6 pm, Sat. 9am - 1pm

Join the conversation, and let us know your diverse and varied thoughts on the issues that affect your neighborhood. Send letters and guest commentaries to news@MonitorSaintPaul.com.

New library essential to bridging community's past with its current and future needs

by CATHERINE PENKERT

In Saint Paul, we know that libraries are about people. They are community gathering spaces, safe havens, and places where access, connection, and opportunity merge together. Whether you're dancing at a storytime, accessing the internet and a quiet place to work or study, attending an author talk, or hosting a community meeting, you are likely headed to your neighborhood library to do so.

Libraries as public spaces continue to evolve, which means our library buildings must evolve, too. That is why we have asked Hamline Midway residents to re-imagine their library – and why we've concluded that we must build a new library that honors the past while making space for the community's current and future needs.

This has been a significant and, at times, emotional decision, and understandably so. The memories that have been shared in connection to the Hamline Midway Library are inspiring and proof that libraries truly hold a special place in our hearts and in our communities.

We have also heard from community

members that the current lack of accessibility, space for different types of activities, and reflection of the racially and ethnically diverse cultures of today's neighborhood mean that this library does not currently work for everyone in the way a modern library can and should. Together with the experienced team at LSE Architects, we took this feedback and did our best to balance the important history of the building with a library that truly works for all: a library that anyone can access with dignity and ease, that delivers on our commitment to sustainability, and that provides more space for people of all ages to learn, grow, and connect with each other.

There have been a lot of comments and questions about the decision to build a new library. I wanted to provide some information around project sustainability, the realities of a new building, and community engagement.

SUSTAINABILITY

We've heard a lot about embedded carbon and how keeping the existing building would be more sustainable

than rebuilding it. An existing building's embedded carbon – the carbon it took to make, use, and transport the materials used in construction – is significant. When it comes to long-term sustainability, we are looking not just at the resources it takes to construct the actual building, but also the energy and resources that the building uses over time – which can be significant in a public building.

Constructing a new library is the only option that meets the city's current ordinances and goals around sustainability and energy efficiency and brings us one step closer to meeting our citywide goals to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to a sustainable future in the face of climate change. It enables our library to be more energy efficient through its design and construction, ultimately creating a smaller carbon footprint over the life of the building.

THE BENEFITS OF A NEW BUILDING

Rebuilding the library addresses all the existing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing issues with the current building, while also providing everything the com-

munity asked for – additional community spaces and radically-improved accessibility. A new single level library at street level ensures all library users enter with ease through the same pathway and same front door – no one needs to enter via a 94-foot ramp through rain, snow, or cold. A renovation would be more expensive than a new building and it would not address all of these things. Together, these realities helped us determine that a rebuild was the best choice for Hamline Midway Library. We are committed to honoring the important history of this library and plan to integrate it into the design of the new building.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Our goal is to take an approach to community engagement that centers equity. This means going to where people are, and hearing from those who currently use the library and those for whom the current library isn't working. It also means intentionally reaching out to those who have been historically excluded from pub-

NEW LIBRARY ESSENTIAL >> 5

Celebrate Black Philanthropy Month by investing in the community

PLANTING SEEDS

BY DR. ARTIKA TYNER,
dr.artikatyner@gmail.com



Black Philanthropy Month is an invitation for our community to engage in Harambee which means "let's pull together." Together, we can have a great impact on our local community and economy. Black Philanthropy Month ("BPM") was launched in August 2011 by Dr. Jackie Bouvier Copeland and the Pan-African Women's Philanthropy Network. It is celebrated each August to honor African American cultural heritage, promote economic justice, and empower funding equality. BPM is a global movement with 19 million individual supporters in 60 countries.

Philanthropy is essential for supporting a vibrant and sustainable Black Ecosystem. The theme of this year's BPM is: "Fierce Equity of Now! From Dream to Action." This is a reminder of the pressing nature of the social justice challenges of our time while serving as the impetus for change. For each of us, change is within our reach as we invest in our communities.

Our work at Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute ("PPGJLI") supports the development of an ecosystem model that is community-centric and culturally specific. We foster leadership development through a variety of key cultural learning experiences that include community training and teach-ins, video



Lauren and Jrue Holiday are partnering with PPGJLI during Black Philanthropy Month.

documentaries, and art exhibits. PPGJLI conducts Women Leading Change and youth-oriented initiatives that include STEM leadership and Leaders are Readers programs.

Establishing a Black Ecosystem is essential for access to financial equity, the achievement of economic mobility, and self-sufficiency within the Black community. A strong and successful Black Ecosystem relies on institutional and structural systems, partnerships and collaborations, and resources that address issues of illiteracy, poverty, and unemployment.

A healthy ecosystem model is able to recognize opportunities and utilize creativity to solve problems when adversity and challenges arise. This is critically important in light of the racial disparities experienced in Minnesota across all quali-

ty-of-life indicators. The Black poverty rate is 25.4%, which is more than four times higher than the White poverty rate. In addition, Minnesota has consistently ranked at the bottom related to racial disparities in high school graduation rates.

Our local ecosystem is also critical for preserving the history, art, and culture of the African American community. Through PPGJLI leadership programs, people gain the knowledge to change ingrained systems that inhibit Black entrepreneurship, access to funding, wealth creation, and financial security.

LEADERS ARE READERS

Jrue and Lauren Holiday are leading change during Black Philanthropy Month. In July 2020, the family decided to invest in the community. They pledged the re-

mainder of Jrue's 2020 NBA salary as a tool to address systemic racism and eliminate socioeconomic inequities. Through the JLH Fund, they are investing in communities like ours.

At PPGJLI, we are excited to partner with the JLH Fund to have a far greater impact on our community. On Aug. 1, 2022, we launched a fundraising campaign for PPGJLI's Leaders are Readers program in celebration of Black Philanthropy Month. Jrue and Lauren Holiday are matching donations up to \$10K this Black Philanthropy Month. Funds will enable PPGJLI to continue its mission of increasing literacy rates and creating new initiatives. The program introduces our youth to new concepts, reinforces their importance in the world, and encourages them to take their place in leadership roles. With the support of the community, PPGJLI can unlock its JLH Fund matching gift during the month of August.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Today, you can make a difference in your community by planting a seed. You can invest in Black-led nonprofits that are promoting community building. Local examples include:

- Until We Are All Free (criminal justice)
- JK Movement (education)
- Irreducible Grace Foundation (education, youth leadership development)

With each seed planted, we will reap a harvest of equity and justice.

Through her organization, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, Dr. Artika Tyner seeks to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach.

Monitor

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097
Minneapolis, MN 55417

612-345-9998

MonitorSaintPaul.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/monitorsaintpaul/>

Instagram: [midwaycomomonitor](https://www.instagram.com/midwaycomomonitor)

News for you!

The Midway Como Frogtown Monitor is a monthly community publication in the Midway, Como, Hamline and Frogtown neighborhoods of St. Paul, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. Visit our website for our calendar and publication dates.

Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the Monitor. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@monitorsaintpaul.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

Owner & Editor:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-345-9998
Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183
Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
Sandra Mikulsky, 612-260-7967
ads@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Design & Layout:

Tesha M. Christensen

Printing by:

ECM/Adams Publishing Group
This issue is printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Approximately 95-97% of material that enters the print facility is recycled.

TMC
PUBLICATIONS CO



Delivery:

Bjorn Willms
612-235-7197, delivery@swconnector.com
Mail subscriptions are available at \$40 a year.

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jane McClure, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Chloe Peter, Susan Schaefer, Terry Faust, Penny Fuller, Chad Kulas, Amy Pass and Abha Karnick

The Monitor is for profit and for a purpose – and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white, both/and. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and

responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

All rights reserved. The contents of the Monitor cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2022.

Members of Minnesota Newspaper Association, Midway Chamber Area of Commerce, and Midwest Free Community Papers. Sister publications: Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Southwest Connector.



Deceitful public process undermines democracy in Saint Paul

BY BARBARA BEZAT, TOM GOLDSTEIN, JONATHAN OPPENHEIMER, ROY NEAL, AND BONNIE YOUNGQUIST

Two months ago, the Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) announced its plans to demolish the historic Hamline Midway Library, claiming that the decision was the result of “extensive work with community members and a team of internal and external industry experts over the past four years.” In reality, the outcome was a foregone conclusion, with Library Director Catherine Penkert and her leadership team advocating for a new building from the start.

Not only did Penkert dismiss out of hand the possibility of finding another location in which to construct a new library and market the current building to organizations or companies willing to renovate and repurpose it, she orchestrated a campaign intended to portray the building as in “disrepair” and “poor condition” so that only a new building would seem capable of providing the modern amenities and upgrades the 92-year-old structure requires.

We know this because of emails and other documents uncovered through a data practices request submitted to the city in October 2021. For example, in an April 8, 2021 email to Library Marketing and Communications Manager Stacy Opitz, who was preparing the “case review” document for the three libraries slated for “transformation,” Penkert advised Opitz to stress that the \$21.1 million budget would be used to “transform 3 crumbling neighborhood locations... Crumbling isn’t the right word but you get where I’m going – emphasize the old and falling down.”

Subsequently, when the case review document was released to the public, only the description of the Hamline Midway Library featured the words “constraints,” “poorly-functioning,” “significant issues,” and “problems,” while descriptions of the other libraries merely referenced the improvements that were necessary to update those buildings.

Similarly, a March 29, 2021 email from Barb Sporlein, SPPL Deputy Director of Operations, to Planning Director Luis Pereira regarding the condition of the Hamline Midway Library, asserted that “every building component is failing and in critical condition—all must be replaced or upgraded.” However, a condition assessments report by the Ameresco company found only the air conditioning HVAC pumps and chillers to be in “critical condition”; all other building components were described as in “fair” or “good” condition.

The Ameresco report also indicated that the Hamline Midway Library’s concrete foundation and substructure, basement, and superstructure were all in good condition. This finding was echoed by Jane Dederling of HGA Architects, who in a May 5, 2021 email to Penkert and Sporlein, wrote:

Structurally the building is very sound. The roof and floor framing plans specify steel beams and plates, with steel-reinforced concrete columns. It appears that the only problems are water intrusion damage in two places: the ceiling at the corner where one of the beams in a reading area joins the plaster ceiling



Citizens rally outside the Hamline Midway Library to express support for saving the historic building on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. (Photo submitted)

and on the west wall of the basement where there has been water leaking from just above the foundation. A building assessment by the St. Paul Public Library in early 2021 determined that the basement water problem resulted from a grading and paving problem and that structural members, including the concrete, were not affected.

Yet, in a letter sent to the Heritage Preservation Commission on July 22, 2022, Director Penkert disregarded these findings, asserting that the “existing Hamline Midway Library building’s foundation is in bad shape and needs to be replaced regardless of whether the above-ground portion of the building is renovated or demolished and rebuilt.”

Sadly, demonizing the building was but one of the tactics that Penkert and her team utilized in an effort to marginalize concerns of the community. Another was simply to pretend that the public was “divided” about the future of the library, even though the overwhelming evidence showed otherwise.

For example, as part of the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) process in March of last year, 318 people completed a survey indicating their preference for which projects should receive CIB funding. 69% ranked “Renovation of the Hamline Midway Library” as their highest priority, compared to 48% who preferred a “Rebuild” of the library. More importantly, survey respondents overwhelmingly ranked the “Rebuild” option as the lowest priority among the choices for CIB funding.

Despite this feedback, SPPL submitted a proposal in mid-April of 2021 seeking CIB funding just for demolition and rebuild of the existing library. Only after intense pushback from the neighborhood did Penkert inform the CIB committee five days later that SPPL wished to “revise its proposal” to include the option for “Renovation + expansion of the current building.”

That would be the last time that Penkert let public pressure influence her decisions.

In response to the neighborhood outcry, Penkert worked with SPPL staff and LSE Architects to create a community engagement process that minimized public interaction (just two in-person gatherings where public comment was limited to one-on-one conversations and

placing sticky notes on pre-arranged topic boards); formed a handpicked “Community Ambassadors” cohort that met in private while purportedly representing the public; and designed an online survey in which respondents were not allowed to answer the most important question facing the community: do you favor renovation and expansion of the library—or demolition and rebuild?

As part of this strategy, SPPL simply ignored the nearly 3,000 people who signed our change.org petition opposing demolition—as well as the hundreds of signatures we gathered from library patrons and those living in the surrounding neighborhood who favor renovation and preservation.

Healthy public engagement does not seek to stifle dissent, push for predetermined outcomes, or provide limited opportunities for residents to share their opinions – regardless of what they might be. Yet those are exactly the tactics that SPPL employed, while claiming to be following IAP2 protocols for “public participation” in which “balanced and objective information” will be provided to the community.

As egregious as those tactics might be, they pale in comparison to the “whisper campaign” hatched within SPPL, through accusations directed at us that “staff from SPPL and LSE” had “been cursed out, bullied, demeaned, and intimidated in the course of this process,” a claim repeated by Deputy Mayor Jamie Tincher in a letter she wrote to the Hamline Midway Coalition, as well as by staff at Friends of the Library and LSE Architects. To date, we have found no evidence that this disrespectful behavior ever took place, and none of the accusers have provided any specifics about the alleged perpetrator.

For those, like us, who may be wondering why SPPL would be so intent on demolishing an iconic building that has helped anchor the surrounding Hamline Midway neighborhood for the past 90 years, the answer may be found in an article about library staff turnover in the April 2nd issue of the *Pioneer Press*.

Featuring a headline that reads “25% of St. Paul Public Library workers quit during pandemic,” the reporter writes that “[b]ehind the scenes, however, staff say the waters have been anything but smooth. In the past two years, the St. Paul libraries have lost nearly one-fourth of

COPIES OF DOCUMENTS ONLINE

Find copies of the documents mentioned in this column online at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

their workforce — at least 55 of some 235 full-time and part-time employees — to retirements and departures.”

What better way to distract the public from staff burnout and low morale than by focusing on a “brand new building” that promises all sorts of new “bells and whistles”?

As we have noted previously in these pages, it is absurd for SPPL leadership to suggest that a building must be torn down because it has water leaking into the basement or a front entrance that is not ADA accessible. Many of the current building’s problems have resulted from deliberate neglect and deferred maintenance, issues that can be resolved through soil remediation, mechanical upgrades, and, in the case of accessibility issues, by renovation.

Ironically, LSE Architects brought forward a design in April that will preserve the existing building, add an expansion on the back, and address accessibility issues at the front. And our group introduced a concept at a forum we hosted in April that proposed a glass addition on the front of the building that would add the necessary expansion space without having to demolish any exterior portion of the current building.

Preservation is not about nostalgia; it’s about honoring the past while embracing the future. Public structures, like the former Henry Hale Memorial Library, belong to the community, and demolition should never be on the table simply because a building in otherwise good condition has been neglected and is in need of typical repairs and improvements.

It’s equally important to note that SPPL’s focus on a new building’s low carbon emissions completely ignores the significant spike in greenhouse gases that happens at the start of a project—as well as the embodied carbon in all the new building materials. By doing so, SPPL makes new construction seem like the most sustainable option, when the “greenest building” is actually the one that already exists.

A thoughtful renovation and expansion of the current building will not only allow equity and access to be properly addressed, it is the most sensible way to protect the environment, maintain St. Paul’s shrinking number of historic buildings, and meet 21st Century needs of patrons and staff.

To neglect that reality and spend \$8.1 million in taxpayer funds on a one-story structure that will be a mere 30% larger than the current building is simply irresponsible. It will also unnecessarily divide the community for years to come, something that could have been avoided if SPPL leadership had embraced public concerns rather than only focused on their private agenda.

The authors of this op-ed are members of the group *Renovate 1558*, which is committed to reimagining the Hamline Midway Library through renovation and expansion, or by relocating the library and repurposing the current building. You can learn more at renovate1558.org.

READ UP ON ISSUE ONLINE

Read past articles with details and commentary on this issue at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

NEW LIBRARY >> from 4

lic processes, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents, youth, and trans/non-binary community members.

We’ve hosted teen focus groups led by the Youth Leadership Initiative; held open houses; engaged residents through artist-led creative encounters; led multiple surveys and pop-up events in places like rec centers and grocery stores; and en-

gaged neighborhood project ambassadors to spread the word about the project and ways to get involved, along with providing the project team with feedback.

We worked hard to hear from many voices in the community while weaving in the nuance of historical exclusion, barriers to engagement, and cultural considerations all while balancing it with the fiscal, structural, and environmental realities that the experts at LSE Architects have guided us through. These consider-

ations led to the decision to pursue a new building that is safe, inviting, affirming, and comfortable for people of all cultures, abilities, and communities. This direction is supported by Mayor Carter, council member Mitra Jalali and the majority of Saint Paul city council members, and many neighbors.

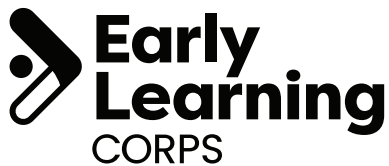
This has been a community effort. Thank you to everyone who has voiced their thoughts, shared their desires and dreams, and participated in this process.

When the final design is presented this fall, we hope you see yourself, your neighbors, and our collective future reflected in the new Hamline Midway Library.

Catherine Penkert is the director of Saint Paul Public Library.

Put Your Passion in ACTION

Become a Tutor!
Join.ReadingandMath.org



Johnson school to house LEAP

By JANE McCLURE

Changes are continuing for area schools. The 2022-2023 academic year will be the last in Midway for LEAP High School. The immigrant-focused program moves out of the Wilson building at 631 N. Albert St. next year and into the former John A. Johnson Elementary at 740 York Ave.

More about future uses for the Wilson building could be known as soon as August.

LEAP serves about 150 refugees and immigrants. The school was spared closure in late 2021. It was one of eight schools eyed for closing as Envision SPPS was rolled out in the face of enrollment declines.

LEAP students and faculty were among the most vocal about saving their program. Their school, Wellstone and Highwood Hills were spared from closing.

LEAP would move into a structure with a long and complex history. The Johnson building was once home to Johnson High School, St. Paul Public Schools' second-oldest high school. It is the second of three Johnson High School buildings. The oldest part of the building dates from 1910.

High school students moved out in fall 1963, to a new school on Arcade Street. The York Avenue building was used for office space and storage until September 2000 when it was renovated and reopened as an elementary school, John A. Johnson Achievement Plus. In 2001, East-side YMCA opened adjacent to the school. It also houses an East Side Resource Center, which will stay.

The school board in July reviewed reasons for the LEAP move to Johnson. Although it has been used as an elementary for about two decades, its design is bet-



The Johnson building

ter suited for a high school. The Johnson building has air conditioning, and is located in Payne-Phalen neighborhood where about two-thirds of LEAP students live.

It is also closer to transit than the current Wilson building is. Yet another reason for a move is that the Payne-Phalen site is seen as having other advantages in terms of community partnerships and career programming.

Johnson has enough space to house other programs in the future. It has 111,967 gross square feet, according to the school district website.

What will happen with the Wilson building, which has been in the neighborhood since 1924 and has housed various programs? No decisions have been made, but the school board could get an update as soon as August. Other school district uses are eyed including online school, district support programs or "swing space" for schools under construction.

Although schools are closing, the district doesn't plan to sell facilities.

A series of moves began in June and have continued through the summer. The move of Galtier to Hamline is completed, as is the move of Jackson's programs to Maxfield and Phalen elementaries. Galtier will become the city's west side early learning hub. Jackson will be vacant for now as there are no immediate plans for reuse.

St. Paul City School District, serving Pre-K-12th graders in St. Paul Metro



Looking for a small, supportive school community?

WHO WE ARE

- Free public charter school
- Small class sizes (25 or fewer)
- Full day pre-school and kindergarten
- Emphasis on community



WE MAKE IT EASY

- Free school busing in St. Paul for Pre-K-12th grade & Free MetroTransit passes for 9th-12th grade
- Free breakfast & lunch available

WE OFFER

- Environmental Ed / Experiential Learning
- Special education services
- English language learning services
- School culture that emphasizes relationships, community building, leadership and character growth.

We're enrolling! Call 651-225-9177
or visit www.stpaulcityschool.org to learn more and schedule a tour.

Our new facility opens this fall at 215 University Avenue West, St. Paul

MAKEOVER AT ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

As she looked over the new landscaping at St. Peter Claver Catholic School (1060 Central Ave. W.), longtime staff member and former student Lynn Wright said, "This looks so beautiful."

Prior to the first week of July 2022, the area around the parking lot "looked horrible," said Wright. It was overgrown, there was no grass, and most of the mulch was gone. There were random rocks spread out.

That changed after Joshua 'JP' Yocum and his seven-member crew from Pioneer Landscaping showed up for two days of work.

They planted 41 hostas, 8 burning bushes, lightning bug coreopsis and 135 Stella d'Oro daylilies. They installed new mulch, and moved the rocks into an orderly line along the parking lot.

Yocum worked to put together a low maintenance space that would also be hardy and colorful.

"When people drive by, the first thing they notice is the landscape," remarked Yocum. "So, if you're able to make a beautiful landscape, people can envision sending their kids here."

"The refreshed look shows that we are still here as a beacon in the Rondo neighborhood," stated St. Peter Claver Principal Terese Shimshock.

The project came together one day while Shimshock was chatting with fellow Catholic school staff Melissa Dan, who is president at Hill Murray High School in Maplewood. The two women had done some graduate work together. When Dan moved back to the state, they reconnected and started thinking about ways to partner on projects. While brainstorming, Shimshock mentioned that St. Peter Claver doesn't have a maintenance department,



Joshua 'JP' Yocum of Pioneer Landscaping and Lynn Wright appreciate how the new landscaping at St. Peter Claver Catholic School turned out. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

and the landscaping needed updating. Hill Murray decided to fund the project, and hired a recent graduate to do the work.

"They are also donating some of their furniture that they are not using to us," stated Shimshock. "I don't think this partnership is ending here."

Yocum graduated from Hill Murray High School in June 2022. With a few Facebook ads, yard signs and flyers the summer before his junior year, Yocum launched his new business, and began employing some of his high school friends. "I needed a job in the summer," Yocum explained. "It was never my plan to be doing this now." His brother did some lawn-

mowing, and he started with that, moving on to larger landscaping projects.

He will be attending the University of St. Thomas this fall.

He appreciated the work at St. Peter Claver, and the freedom he was given in the design.

"A culture of learning is so important to build pride in who they are and where they go to school. This physical upgrade to the outside of the building shows that we believe in our scholars and their dreams," stated Shimshock. "Just as JP had a dream to start his own business, our scholars can achieve their own dreams."

MORE ABOUT ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From Principal Terese Shimshock:

The school building was built in 1949-50, and at the time the school was a bustling building filled to the brim with neighborhood children that couldn't wait to go to school here. In the 1980s, the building closed and was rented out. It reopened in 2001, and then was near closure again in 2016. St. Peter Claver became a part of Ascension Catholic Academy in the fall of 2016. Since then our enrollment continues to grow from 66 in 2016 to 100 in the 2021-22 school year. Last year we had our largest Kindergarten class at SPC since it reopened in 2001.

We are a mission school serving scholars not only in the Rondo neighborhood but in the surrounding areas also. We are 98% African or African American, and that is a rarity in a Catholic School. Families come to us because of our strong history of serving Black and Brown scholars with success. We have a small staff of 15 which allows us to give the personalized instruction to our scholars that they desire. Our average class size is 12-15 scholars.

We place a strong emphasis on strengthening the basic skills of reading and math while providing enrichment activities such as leadership programs, our STEP program, afterschool tutoring, Coding, and many partnerships with community resources such as Walker West. We are like a small family at SPC!

DISCOVER AN SPPS SCHOOL YOU'LL LOVE!

- ★ FREE Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten Classes
- ★ Community Schools Close to Home
- ★ Magnet Programs Including Aerospace, Language Immersion, Montessori, STEM and MORE
- ★ Caring and Dedicated Teachers
- ★ Free Breakfast and Nutritious Lunch

Apply online at spps.org/apply

Have questions? Contact the Student Placement Center:

- Call us at 651-632-3760
- Email us at spc@spps.org; or
- stop by to talk with staff at 2102 University Ave. W.



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EXPO elementary teacher releases 'Sprinkles'

Local author and illustrator team Allison Wood and Samuel Waddle have released their first children's picture book, "Sprinkles."

Wood, an elementary English Learner teacher at St. Paul's EXPO Elementary School, wanted to write a children's book for many years and decided last summer to make her dream come true. She began crafting a story about a little girl who creates a big mess while eating a sprinkled doughnut. Wood's words came to life with Waddle's watercolor illustrations. The team were intentional about creating characters that represent the Twin Cities community, and one illustration showcases the Minneapolis skyline.

Why sprinkles? Wood's story inspiration stemmed from classic childhood messy food books such as "Popcorn" by Frank Asch and Lorna Balian's "The Sweet Touch." After witnessing the enormous mess created by her niece's sprinkled birthday cake, she knew she needed to write a story about the joy and mess that sprinkles create.

As an elementary teacher, Wood was purposeful in seeking feedback from future readers throughout the process. The main character, Julia, was created using input from students on what they wanted to see in a book character. Student input

guided Waddle's illustrations based on what was important to them. EXPO students were treated to sneak peeks at its illustrations and learned about the publishing process, which Wood taught herself how to do. Luckily, her author proof copy arrived just days before the end of the school year. Kindergarteners were treated to the first official book reading and a surprise walk to local bakery La Boulangerie Marguerite in St. Paul, where they enjoyed sprinkled doughnuts.

"I want the pretty, pink, super-sprinkly doughnut, please."

Sprinkles is a sweet story about Julia, who learns just how messy sprinkles on a doughnut can be. The sprinkles seem to have a mind of their own as they bounce, tumble, and dance around her new home. Julia has a real mess on her hands and very little time before her grandma's visit. Can she round up all the sprinkles in time? Join Julia, her dad, and Luna the cat as they find out how fun (and messy!) sprinkles on a doughnut can be.

Sprinkles will delight readers with its relatable plot, use of personification and charming watercolor illustrations. Story themes include: single parenting, multigenerational families, urban living, responsibility and humor. Sprinkles was created for children ages 4-8 and their



Local author and illustrator team Allison Wood (right) and Samuel Waddle have just released their first children's picture book, "Sprinkles." (Photo submitted)

doughnut-loving caregivers and educators.

Sprinkles is available via online through Amazon, Target, Barnes & Noble and Walmart. Allison and Samuel encourage you to shop local and order from your

local bookstore. Retailers and libraries may order through Ingram. The hardcover (ISBN 978-0578367361) retails for \$20.99 and paperback (ISBN 979-8218011901) for \$10.99.

SHOP LOCAL

EAT LOCAL

READ LOCAL

Enroll Today!

FREE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

The Journey School

thejourneyschool.org

(612) 389-1579

775 Lexington Pkwy N.
St. Paul, MN 55104

CAREER PATHWAYS

Grades 6-12

BLENDED LEARNING - 24/7

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - Internships and Work Credit

PERSONALIZED LEARNING - PSEO and Graduation Plans

651-400-1781 CPATHMN.ORG

Newly remodeled public school!

HAMLINE HEADLINES

Hamline University

wishes our entire community a happy, fun, and healthy summer season!

hamline.edu
HUNAC@hamline.edu

HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA'S FIRST UNIVERSITY

School Employees & First-Time Homebuyers

We want to make your first mortgage payment!

Neighborship Mortgage

NMLS # 2002148 MN License # MN-BR-2002148

Call us

651-800-HOME
651-661-CASA
para español

Learn more at
nsmortgage.com

\$ + = \$ + = % + = \$ + = % + = \$ + = \$ + = % +

DO THE MATH!

It costs 50¢ /piece to mail a promotional flyer to local residents letting them know about your business, organization or upcoming event. That does not include design, production, and printing charges.



For only **8¢/piece** you can have a 4-color flyer **PRINTED AND DELIVERED** with the *Monitor*!

Contact Denis Woulfe for details
Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
(651) 917-4183

DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK

Get solar panels with battery backup!



GET A FREE SOLAR EVALUATION!

\$1,000 OFF WITH THIS AD WHEN YOU GET SOLAR AND BATTERY BACKUP

PROMO CODE: **COMOPOWER22**

EXPIRES 9/15/2022

651-372-2264



AllEnergySolar.com/Monitor

612.729.7608 • www.buck-bros.com



We design & build in your neighborhood

Kitchens, Baths, Additions Restorations



Support your neighbors, live a more sustainable life, and build community.

Tell them you saw it in the Monitor.

NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.

7 out of 10

newspaper readers who read a **CIRCULAR** take action after seeing the ad.*

THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>

- >>> Visit the store
- >>> Save the ad for future reference
- >>> Take advantage of the coupons/special offers*



NEWSPAPER POWER.

Print, Digital & Social Solutions for our advertisers.

*Source: Coda Ventures Newspaper Ad Effectiveness Service

NOW OPEN

Our new **Garden of Grace Cremation Columbaria**



Save with this special offer

and take the burden away from your family members.

Mention code **MONITOR 8/2022**

Questions regarding funeral & cemetery pre-planning?

We have answers.

Call Elmhurst Cemetery today for a no obligation conversation.

www.elmhurstcemetery.org

Elmhurst Cemetery

1510 Dale Street North | St. Paul, MN 55117

651-489-1707

Lloyd's pharmacy



est. 1949

& Compounding Center

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY!

720 Snelling Av. N., St. Paul, MN 55104

Still servicing all your pharmacy needs:

- Prescription compounding
- Blister pack
- Delivery & mail out
- Vaccinations

Independently owned and operated in the Hamline Midway neighborhood since 1918.

LIVE, LOVE, LLOYD'S



Hours

Monday-Friday
8am - 8pm

Saturday

8:30am - 6pm

Sunday

9am - 1pm

Web

www.lloydsrx.com

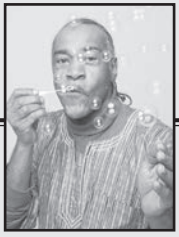
Phone

651-645-8636



PEACE BUBBLES

BY MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com



"It is not that I belong to the past, but the past that belongs to me." ~ Mary Antin

"The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance – it is the illusion of knowledge." ~ Daniel J. Boorstin

Hello Monitor readers,

Our 2022 summer continues to experience extreme heat, extreme double standard lawmakers, extra extreme expanding of the wealth-gap of the 2% salaries vs. the 98% salaries, and unbelievable extreme climate change deniers even in the face of local and global droughts, fires, and deadly floods. And, the extreme stuck-ness and feelings of powerlessness when we try to process senseless acts of violence, mass shootings, and experience a growing awareness of Ukraine being just the tip of the iceberg as far as historic colonization of second and third world countries.

I recently heard a U.S. lawmaker say he wants to bring back \$2 gas. I just want to bring back ethical business CEO leaders who raise their employees'/staff salaries in proportion with their own CEO's salaries, and who are grateful to pay respectful taxes that keep America growing, prospering, and being a global leader of justice, without the outdated biased policies and discriminatory practices that lead to economic, health-care, housing, transportation, and other racial disparities, as well as the obvious injustice perpetrated on people walking, jogging, dancing, or driving while Black or Brown, sending them into the prison system.

MEDITATION ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

We are also beginning to understand the impact of discrimination on health. For instance, discrimination has been linked to anxiety, depression, sadness, helplessness and low self-esteem. Research has shown that experiencing everyday discrimination can harm a person's memory and also lead to faster memory decline. Discrimination can result in poor physical health, including increased risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and respiratory disease. It has also been linked to sleep disturbance and daytime fatigue. I believe the fatigue is simply and sadly due to (the constant stress of) always having to be on guard for being profiled, which is different from having a general awareness of potential crime and being mindful for our safety.

FROM BROTHER ART

I received an email from a friend who is like a brother from another mother/father that I immediately replied to with a request to share his words with Monitor readers. I'm glad Brother Art S. said, "Yes"! The following is the beginning of his email. Due to the length of his reflections and the desire to not extremely overload our minds, his message will continue next month. Please sit with Art's words. Thank you.

Hi Friends,
This is a small meditation on our current state of affairs. I have been puzzling about "what is going on" all around us and in the world for some time. To me, the indications are that we are at some kind of crossroads. The path forward is unclear. I figure if I can understand where we are and the genesis of this situation, I can get an idea of the alternatives and the forces that could influence how we move into the future.

The basic flow of the dots I am trying to

connect is this –

- The capitalist world is in crisis and,
- A direct consequence of this is our social, political, economic, expected routines are disintegrating.
- This means that in the USA, the framework of White Supremacy (which has held this "system" together) is also disintegrating.
- The activism we see from Trumpites and the Republicans is a direct reaction to this.
- This reaction is about their personal identities and they are ready to sacrifice much to restore order.
- This narrative and these emotions are leading to increase authoritarianism.
- Authoritarianism is the default mode in which the USA is headed.
- An alternative vision and movement to support this is urgently needed.
- This alternative vision must be created by Black people and other People of Color.
- Alternatives are not unified with the Movement for Black Lives offering the most cogent vision.
- We all need to step up.

The following is a little more detail. I included links to two articles that seem relevant and helped clarify my thinking.

I think it is fair to say that we exist in a world where "order" as I think about it – the disintegration of anchors, mores, expected outcomes of actions, the "usual" routines, the everyday features of moving through life – is tenuous at best and deteriorating at least. This includes everyday things like rising food and gas prices, "supply chain disruptions," changing work environments, out of reach home prices, medical insecurity, inadequate wages and benefits, etc. Institutions are failing us: schools, banks, universities, the post office, mass media, social media, etc. Government is not governing: Minneapolis City Council, federal gridlock, state gridlock and partisan manipulation of law, election districts, etc. Police are terrorizing rather than protecting

(and ineffectual when we need them to stop mayhem). Certain kinds of "criminal activity" is also very visible and increasing: car jackings, shootings, domestic violence and hate crimes and hate violence. And there are big things like Jan. 6 insurrection, Minneapolis going berserk on the 4th of July and major disruptions after George Floyd's murder. This is just a quick survey of the "disorder" here. I am sure you can think of more and this is happening all over the country and the world. Charles Darwin reflected on experiencing an earthquake. He said something to the effect that this was most unsettling since what he had always taken to be solid and secure, was now shaking beneath his feet. To me, this is way more than unsettling. My family and my friend's lives are at stake. Many lives I do not know are at stake.

Many forces have combined to bring us to this moment. The failure of a worldwide capitalist system is one. I believe it is no coincidence that while most people struggle to get by day-to-day, a few elite owners continue to amass huge fortunes. Commonly known as the "wealth gap," this has been increasing steadily. Recently, the increase in wealth comes from paper transactions like stock buybacks and speculation. On the other side, the wealth is extracted from employees through low wages, few benefits and higher prices. All this is not tied to material wealth but paper value. COVID-19 exposed the many fault lines in this system re: health care, education, the work environment, workers' benefits, supply chains, food insecurity, homelessness, disparate effect on communities of color, inadequate transportation infrastructure and public transportation systems.

White Supremacy is a key factor that holds everything together. As the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond describes, "Racism was done." It was an intentional strategy to divide and subdue natural allies against wealthy landowners and became institutionalized throughout the USA. As I am looking at it, in addition to skewing institutional behavior to favor White people, the system

MEDITATION >> 11

Newspaper Readers
Are Voters

Candidates:
Don't ignore the #1
news source!

Broken Window?
We fix them fast!
Windows
Screens
Insulated glass
and great
repair advice!

30th Anniversary

Kendall's
Ace Hardware & Paint
KENDALLSHARDWARE.COM

The friendliest stores in town.

- 978 Dale St. N., 651-489-3210
- 840 Payne Ave., 651-776-6996

Free popcorn!

One stop for all of your homeownership needs.

BUY

- prepare to buy a home
- improve your credit
- Home Stretch workshops
- down payment programs
- COMING SOON: buy with our mortgages and down payment

FIX

- affordable home improvement lending with flexible terms
- lead abatement window replacement
- MHFA Fix Up loans

KEEP

- free and confidential foreclosure intervention counseling
- COMING SOON: refinance your mortgage with us

NeighborWorks Home Partners
533 Dale Street N., Saint Paul MN 55103
651-292-8710 nwhomepartners.org NMLS# 363923

MEDITATIONS >> from 10

is based on very strict and powerful methods of constraining the behavior of Black people and communities of color. These methods are violent and militaristic. The police and national guard come to mind. Police, to me, are state-sponsored terrorists. Since the founding of this county, citizens have lived under a system of constraints (called civil and criminal law) that have worked well enough for White people.

Today, people of color are challenging these and rising up to protect and assert their humanity and to challenge this authority....

Thank you, Mr. Art! To be continued next month...

SHOUT OUT TO TPT

Again, I give shout-outs for TPT's critical conversations and broadcasts. Among their July's shows were Larry Long's "American Roots Revue," "Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America," and "Prince Phillip: For Queen and Country." Please keep sharing critical conversation and needed factual historic and current information, TPT. Truthful information isn't about shaming. It's about acknowledging and honoring – and often about correcting, repairing, and reconciling bad booboos, like the Jan. 6, 2021 failed domestic terrorist attack on our nation's capital, the current intentionally stacked Supreme Court with an extreme political-agenda or the continuation of outdated biased systematic laws that favors and gives privilege to White people (who do not necessarily want it).

In other words, constructive critical conversations and learning is only opposed seemingly by people who would like to

keep the outdated supremacy thinking that men (majority White) should control the destiny of People of Color and women; and who are rightly feeling shamed and guilty and acting out their dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors. Likewise, People of Color and women are rightly feeling victimized and mad as a firestorm and acting out their internalized oppressed attitudes and behaviors.

In short, we all need to keep breathing, stepping back, and allowing some ongoing healing to happen by cultivating healthy trusting relationships with ourselves and with others, which is part of bending the arc of justice and being good and necessary trouble makers. Thank you, TPT-PBS and thank you to all the past (RIP), current (Be Strong), and future (Elders In-Training) justice champions' shoulders we stand on and knowledge we share. Also, on-going shout-outs to the water protectors and for those advocating for alternatives to Pipeline 3 and respecting First Nation Peoples and promoting green jobs!

Enjoy the Great State Fair month and stay optimistic even in extreme times!!!!!!

In Gratitude: Keep the positive vibrations flowing, stay optimistic; and, keep hope alive by striving and digging to hear, see, and be the truth.

May Peace Be In the Rondo, Frogtown, Hamline/Midway, Como, and Surrounding Communities...

May Peace Be In Our Homes & Communities...

May Peace Prevail On Earth (MPPOE)! BE SMART! DO YOUR PART! Get Your vaccination shots and booster shots if you feel comfortable doing so!!!

Before Nextdoor

GUEST COLUMN

BY SONJIE JOHNSON
Como resident



Chloe Sterk

You remember the one. The one who knew the best car repair shop. The one who knew someone to get your snow blower started, or find your dog that got out. If somebody's kid was playing a local gig, or it was time for a picnic, you'd get an email with a time and place. Every neighborhood had one. In our North Como neighborhood, that neighbor was Chloe Sterk.

Chloe is a native St. Paulite, born and raised. She attended Murray High School and the University of Minnesota. She now lives across the alley from the home where she grew up. Chloe has lived in Como Park for 58 of her 80 years.

Her deep connection to Como Park goes back to its beginnings. Her great-grandfather, Frederick Nussbaumer, was an early and influential superintendent of St. Paul Parks (31 years). He designed or collaborated on most of the current attractions, including the observatory and the zoo.

All that history made Chloe the perfect go-to neighbor when she started collecting North Como neighborhood emails 18 years ago. She coordinates referrals, sends info on crimes, and tracks the who, what and where in our neighborhood.

After 34 years as a chemical/tech rep, Chloe retired to become a VW service writer. Retired again four years later, she now works part-time at Kathe Wohlfahrt, a German Christmas ornament company with only one retail store in the U.S. (Stillwater). Chloe often plays Mrs. Santa Claus at Hollidazzle. (She prefers the German term, Mother Christmas.)

Although the advent of the hyperlocal Nextdoor has somewhat reduced her activity, Chloe currently maintains 100 emails in her Chloe-net, and is arguably the most well-known neighbor in North Como. She laughingly explains her years of neighborhood service as "being snoopy." I think her motivation goes far deeper than that. We sometimes forget, in this widening world of social media, how much we can, and should, depend upon our neighbors our neighborhoods to maintain the connections that make us who we are.

Sonjie Johnson has lived in Como Park for 28 years. An avid nature-lover, she has run or walked Como Lake all of those years, and find the park's history unique and compelling. She also gardens, reads, and writes. She belongs to the church of the open sky.

HARVEST FEST COMING TO TILDEN PARK

DISTRICT 10 COMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BY SHEVEK MCKEE
Executive director
district10@district10comopark.org



HARVEST FESTIVAL AT TILDEN PARK

The Como Community Council will be hosting a Harvest Festival at Tilden Park on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 3-5 p.m. Whether you come with your neighbors or come to meet your neighbors, we would love to see you there! Everyone is invited to this free event!

This event is still being planned. If you're interested in helping plan or volunteering at this event you can fill out our volunteer interest form, come to our Neighborhood Relations Committee meetings (1st Wednesdays), or reach out to organizer@district10comopark.org. Find out more at district10comopark.org/sd1event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CITYWIDE DROPOFF

The city partners with local district councils to organize annual citywide drop-off events for residents to properly dispose of large refuse items and recyclable materials not collected via the residential recycling program. D10 Como Park helps coordinate the event held annually at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. This year it will be Sept. 17, 8 a.m.-1p.m.

Volunteers get a voucher for a free drop-off. If you're interested in volunteering please sign-up in the link below or email district10@district10comopark.org. View the accepted items list, rates, and more online.

LAKE COMO CLEANUP OCT. 8

D10 Como Park is planning our next Lake Como Cleanup for Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-noon. These events, in partnership with the Capitol Region Watershed District, focus on the shoreline and lake itself. Our July 26 cleanup event drew 21 people who helped clean over 50 pounds of trash from the lakeshore!

District 10 provides trash-grabbers, rakes, buckets, nets, trash bags, and nitrile gloves for those who need them. Or, feel free to provide your own gear. Registration (before Oct. 7) is not required, but it helps

us plan and communicate if changes come up. Register and find out more at District10ComoPark.org/Como-Clean-Up

BLOOD DRIVE DATES ADDED

D10 Como Park partners with the American Red Cross and the Como Zoo & Conservatory to coordinate community blood drives at the Zoo. Reservations are required to donate (may not be available until date gets closer). We've already collected over 150 units of blood in 2022 and are excited to share that we've agreed to continue our partnership on this effort, adding four more dates through May of 2023!

If you're interested in volunteering at the check-in table, you can sign-up for an opening on our volunteer schedule or email district10@district10comopark.org. The drives are split into two shifts of two volunteers each, 9 a.m. to noon and noon to 3 p.m. It's light work and a great way to connect with another neighbor. Find out more at District10ComoPark.org/Blood-Drive.

D10 COMMUNITY MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Our monthly meeting schedule has changed! Starting in August, our three committee meetings (Neighborhood Relations, Environment, and Land Use) and Board meetings happen on two nights per

month instead of four. Combining our meeting dates means it'll be easier for community members to attend multiple meetings and be part of more discussions.

Our trial period began in August and will go through the end of the year. In December, we'll gather community and board feedback on the new meeting schedule. We'll make any necessary adjustments to the schedule starting in January and announce those changes to the community through all of our communication channels.

The Environment Committee and the Neighborhood Relations Committee now meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

- Environment Committee, 6 to 7:15 p.m.
- Neighborhood Relations Committee, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

The Land Use Committee and D10 Board Meeting now meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

- Land Use Committee, 6 to 7:15 p.m.
- D10 Board, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

As always, you can find meeting details on our website: District10ComoPark.org. All D10 board and committee meetings are open to the public and have space for community members to bring topics for discussion.

your Lutheran Church on the

Making Waves with Faith

- Divine Service: 9:30am
- Growing in Faith (birth to 13 yrs.): 10:45am
- Living by Faith (14yrs. to 100+): 11:00am



Jehovah LUTHERAN at Thomas and Snelling

Pastor Joshua Miller

www.jehovahlutheran.org • 651-644-1421

C O R N E R



Benita Warns
Michael Warns

Mr. Michael RECYCLES BICYCLES

www.mmrystore.com
info@mmrystore.com
651-641-1037
520 N. Prior Ave., St. Paul MN 55104

Changing lives one bicycle at a time.
The ultimate bike junkyard.

BACK TO SCHOOL BIKE DEALS BY APPT.

TWIN CITIES DIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTED IN ANTHOLOGY



Writers and editors celebrate the launch of "We Are Meant to Rise: Voices of Justice from Minneapolis to the World." Left to right: Tess Montgomery, Samantha Sencer-Mura, Carolyn Holbrook, David Mura, Anika Fajardo, and Suleiman Adan. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Writers reflect on pandemic and George Floyd's murder in 'We Are Meant to Rise: Voices of Justice from Minneapolis to the World'

By JAN WILLMS

Carolyn Holbrook loves to bring people together to discuss difficult issues. As an educator, author and advocate for the healing power of the arts, she has spent much of her life doing just that.

David Mura is an author, poet, novelist, playwright, critic and performance artist whose writings explore the themes of race, identity and history.

The two of them, who have worked together before, collaborated as editors of "We Are Meant to Rise: Voices of Justice from Minneapolis to the World," an anthology by Minnesota writers reflecting their thoughts and experiences in the wake of the pandemic and the George Floyd murder. Some of the authors also write about their cultural history.

Holbrook, who teaches at the Loft Literary Center and Hamline University, in 2015 created "More Than a Single Story," a group of BIPOC writers who presented panel conversations throughout the Twin Cities. She was inspired to do so when one of her African American women's writing groups was giving a presentation. A White member of the audience expressed surprise that they did not all sound alike or tell the same stories.

Holbrook set out to prove that a group of women who are of the same race can have many stories to share. She set up panel discussions hosted by the Loft in a series that first featured African American women, then women of Caribbean descent and finally, women of East African and West African backgrounds, all who lived in Minnesota. The series of conversations expanded, and Holbrook had Mura join her and moderate BIPOC men's panels discussing their experiences.

When the two started looking for stories for an anthology, they were hoping to get writers from "More Than a Single Story" to tell about some of the panel discussions they had held over the past several years.

"Then the pandemic hit, and we told them that if they preferred, they could write about how the pandemic had affected them. And then George Floyd was murdered, so we ended up with pieces about George Floyd, some about the pandemic and others about family and the environment, as well as other topics," Holbrook said.

Some of the writers selected were from "More Than a Single Story" discussions and others were asked because they were obvious choices, according to Mura. "We wanted to have a mix of writers who represented different communities," he said.

Holbrook added that it was difficult to select writers, because they could only have a certain number. "We wanted to have as many BIPOC communities represented as we could, and we wanted a mix of well-known and emerging writers. It was not an easy task to choose the authors."

"So many writers grew up in the neighborhood (where George Floyd was killed), or live or work there, and we got a very visceral response from people," Mura stated. He said Floyd's murder was traumatic and upsetting and indicative of "something horribly wrong with the justice system here. This was all confirmed by the recent government study, showing systemic racism in the Minneapolis Police Department."

Holbrook said, "Many of us who grew up here knew what happened behind closed doors, but people in government would not believe us, and not believe the police were as horrible as they were. With George Floyd's murder, so much has come to light."

Mura said that Black people have talked about police abuse since 1865, but have not been believed. "Technology has caught up with racism," he noted. "The event with George Floyd could have happened, and all the people who were there could have testified, but the public wouldn't believe it. So the video was the crucial proof." He was speaking of the video recorded by 17-year-old Darnella Frazier, who filmed the murder of George Floyd and received a special dedication in "We Are Meant to Rise."

'WE STICK TOGETHER, WE TALK TO EACH OTHER, AND WE HOLD ON'

The close connection of the Twin Cities is emphasized in the anthology, Mura explained. "We have these stories from Somali Americans, Native Americans, Korean Americans, and Black Americans. The authors are all commenting on the same event from their own particular vantage point and relationship to the neighborhood."



Carolyn Holbrook said, "Many of us who grew up here knew what happened behind closed doors, but people in government would not believe us, and not believe the police were as horrible as they were. With George Floyd's murder, so much has come to light." Holbrook teaches at Hamline University and the Loft Literary Center. (Photo by Terry Faust)

In light of the struggles Black people have endured over the years, Holbrook said, "We stick together, we talk to each other and we hold on. We've been holding on for how many hundreds of years. Historically, in the American Black experience, whenever we make gains, they come and knock it down. We get back up, and they come and knock it down again."

"We had eight years of peace and hope with Obama, and then they brought in Trump. It's not a new cycle or phenomenon, it's the American way."

Mura said the book features people writing about their communities and the historical experiences of their communities. "You see how entrenched systemic racism is, but I do have hope because of the brilliant voices that are part of this anthology," he said. "All these writers from different perspectives are bringing us their language, their input, their stories."

He cited one of the anthology's essays by Louise Erdrich, writing about her grandfather's fight against the government and describing the history of boarding schools. "When we see we have all been dealing with this, it makes us stronger. We are fighting in many ways the same anti-democratic, racist movement that is part of our country."

Mura spoke of the current debates about what is being taught in America's schools. "We will either get past this or fall apart as a country," he said, referring to the concern that bringing anything about the United States' racial history into the



Our diversity is our strength."

David Mura

classroom will hurt White students.

"D. Kearney writes in the book about having to have a talk with his six-year-olds about the shooting of Philando Castile, and then talking

to them when they are 10 about the murder of George Floyd," Mura stated. He said D. Kearney wrote that he will never forgive White Supremacy for putting him in a position that he has to have this conversation with his children.

Mura commented on White parents being afraid for their children to hear in the classroom about the story of Ruby Bridges, an eight-year-old Black girl who integrated school while adults spat upon her.

"Why couldn't they take courage and inspiration from that? I don't believe White kids are so fragile."

Kevin Yang, one of the essayists in the anthology, wrote about being in a school system where he felt bad about being Hmong, and how a teacher introduced him to the work of a Hmong poet. This changed his life.

"This is an argument for teaching a diverse range of history and literature," Mura said. "You begin to feel pride and understand these stories are important."

Holbrook noted some White kids do learn these stories, after hearing that they shouldn't. "They ask why they aren't being taught about this, and the censorship blows their minds."

WHAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT

Both Holbrook and Mura have a long history of working in the Twin Cities as activists, besides their other roles.

Mura said he came to the Twin Cities in 1974 to attend graduate school, and he never left. He resides in Minneapolis, just a few miles from where he lived when he first moved here. "I helped start the Asian American Renaissance, and I have worked with Carolyn on so many things," he said. "I stayed here because this is a great place to be an artist and raise a family." He said his children all attended South High, and he has a daughter who has been endorsed as a DFL candidate for District 63-A.

Holbrook said she grew up in Minneapolis down the street from what was Bryant Junior High School and is now Sab-bathani.

She has two sons and three daughters. She said her youngest son and his wife have moved to LA to follow their dreams. "They got their kids through college, and now my daughter-in-law just graduated from architecture school. My son is creating sound tracks for films."

Holbrook said she hates to cook, and her children living in the area often bring her dishes.

The message Mura would like readers to take from the anthology he and Holbrook edited is to understand it is providing them with a portrait of the Twin Cities, of Minnesota and of America. "The testimony of these writers of different ethnicities and races is part of what makes America great," he said. "Our diversity is our strength."

Holbrook said she hopes the book inspires readers to learn and study more about who lives in Minnesota, and who its people are. "Each group has a lengthy history," she said. She cited some examples of Black residents. "Dr. Richard Green was politically active for a long, long time. We may know of slaves like Dred Scott, but not that he was imprisoned at Fort Snelling. And enslaved Eliza Winston gave testimony to the courts. I really hope this book also inspires enslaved people to learn more about what Minnesota is."

Mura said he and Holbrook have been writing and working as activists for a long time. "It gives me hope that these young talented writers will be coming after us, carrying the torch."

1897 A small group of women from the Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church Ladies Aid Society sold sandwiches and cold drinks at the Minnesota State Fair, to raise money for the church.

1900S By the early 20th century the dining hall was in its own white wooden building with a cupola on top, near the Hippodrome/Coliseum. The building had a loft, where children would hide from time to time after getting into mischief.

1920S Hamline Church operated smaller food stands in multiple spaces, including food stands near the roller coaster and the main gate.

1927 Hamline Church had one just dining hall again, across the street from its current location. The Fair Committee took a number of actions to equip the hall and stock the kitchen, including voting to bake as many pies as possible and buy the rest as needed.

HAMLIN DINING HALL

>> from 1

raising money for the church, even though they didn't have the same standing in the church as men," she said.

Methodist denominational historians have largely ignored Ladies Aid Societies. But the organizations, which date from before the Civil War, played key roles in funding early churches. Ladies Aid Societies nationally helped pay pastoral salaries and cover other bills.

The Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church Ladies Aid Society had its first meeting on Sept. 29, 1887, at the home of Mary Bridgman, wife of Hamline University President George Bridgman. Helen Evans was elected as the first society president.

The women decided to raise money by holding "sociables" or social events on a monthly basis. The society raised \$91.96 in its first year.

Soon the Hamline Ladies Aid Society became a powerful fundraising arm of the church, even though women often didn't have a direct say in how money they raised was spent.

One early focus was to raise money for the congregation's own building. Meeting at Hamline University meant scheduling congregational doings around the university's schedule.

In 1897, the society opened what is now the Hamline Church Dining Hall, taking the lead in raising money for a church building. The women sold cold drinks and sandwiches, bringing in

\$373.97 in 1897. The food stand was in a larger building with other attractions, near the bandstand.

The first church, designed by noted architect Clarence Johnston, was dedicated in 1900 and was valued at almost \$20,000.

The dining hall was one fundraiser to support the church and its operations. Another way the ladies aid society brought in revenue was by catering the Hamline Six O'Clock Club, a group of male movers and shakers who met bi-monthly on Mondays at the church for dinner and talks by community leaders.

The talks were often covered by the St. Paul daily newspapers. Candidates for elected office vied to attend. In 1901-1902, topics included state universities, city government, the mission of the daily press, and the life and times of George Washington.

Only women who were guest speakers could attend the Six O'Clock Club. Ladies Aid Society members toiled in the kitchen.

A 1925 Christmas fire not only destroyed the church, it changed the work of the Ladies Aid Society. While a new house of worship had already been envisioned by then-Rev. George Zentz, the sudden loss of the first church accelerated those plans.

The Six O'Clock Club dinners and other kitchen activity moved to neighboring Knox Presbyterian Church for a time, by invitation of the Knox Ladies Aid. Within a few years the dinners would end. But the dining hall continued, with added pressures for fundraising.

The Ladies Aid Society rolled up its

sleeves to assist with fundraising, making a \$15,000 pledge in early 1926 from dining hall proceeds. They also took on the task of equipping the new church's kitchen.

By the mid-1920s, dining hall operations were turned over to a church committee. But women still played active roles, cooking much of the food and transporting it to the fairgrounds, doing food shopping and taking on other tasks.

Part of this year's dining hall proceeds support an effort the church women first supported in 1917. What is now Emma Norton Services began as a residence for young women, with support from Hamline and other Methodist churches. It evolved into family housing and housing for women in transition.

The new Emma Norton Services residence, Restoring Waters, will receive financial support from the dining hall. The new women's housing facility will be built as part of the Highland Bridge project on the former Ford Motor Company Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park neighborhood. Read more about Emma Norton and its new housing at <https://emmanorton.org/>.

Read more at www.hamlinechurch.org

Jane McClure co-chairs the Hamline Church Women and is a member of the church's Ministry of Memory Committee. She'll be a morning greeter at the dining hall's breakfast shift.

1935 Diners paid 35 cents for a full meal at the diner - meat loaf or ham loaf, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, beet pickles, pie, ice cream and beverage. Second helpings were free.

1939 The Great Depression came to an end. Only 16 church dining halls made it through tough times. Hamline Church members debated its dining hall future at length, before deciding the operation needed to continue to pay the balance of the 1926 building pledge.

1944 Hamline purchased the building on its current site, from the East Immanuel Norwegian Evangelical Church of St. Paul. Building and its contest are purchased for \$900. This building featured a "cold room" where large blocks of ice were stored, along with raw meat. This room was replaced with refrigerators.

1945 The fair was canceled during the final year of World War II.

1946 The fair was canceled due to the poliomyelitis epidemic.

1950S Chow Mein, made with a recipe from a church cookbook, was a popular dish.

1966 It's the final year for the "Hamburger Hut," which began operations in 1942. Young married couples and teens ran the "hut."

1968 The dining hall is torn down and replaced with the current building, after a vote by congregation families. Forty-four families voted for the dining hall to continue and 31 voted against.

1992 After so many church volunteers had received the Minnesota State Fair 50-year volunteer award, the church itself was given the award.

2022 The Hamline Church Dining Hall celebrates its 125th anniversary. It will donate part of this year's proceeds to the Emma Norton Services for family housing and housing for women in transition.

2020 The fair was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1998 Hamline, Epiphany, St. Bernard's School and Salem are the four church or church-affiliated dining halls left. St. Bernard's closed in 2009 and Epiphany in 2013.

Home Improvement

Reach local folks who want to hire a local company.



Coming in October.

Contact us today.

Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com 651-917-4183

ads@MonitorSaintPaul.com 612-260-7967

Lay the Groundwork for a Beautiful Landscape



WE DELIVER ALL PRODUCTS

- ✦ ORGANIC GROWER'S BLEND
- ✦ RAISED GARDEN BLEND
- ✦ MULCHES
- ✦ CLASS FIVE
- ✦ COMPOST
- ✦ TOP SOIL

Under new management

651.646.1553

www.kernlandscaping.com

915 Albert St. N. St. Paul
between Hamline & Snelling on Pierce Butler Rt.
M-F 8 A.M.-5 P.M. SAT. 9 A.M.-3 P.M.



Wellness Education



Living Well with Chronic Conditions

Held online weekly from Sept. 28-Nov. 2

- Open to adults 60+ with any chronic health condition (e.g., diabetes, Parkinson's, arthritis, etc.)
- Create an action plan for managing your chronic health condition and receive support from your peers.

Wellness classes offered throughout the year! Others scheduled for the fall include *A Matter of Balance* and *Powerful Tools for Caregivers*.

For more information and to register, visit www.lyngblomsten.org/WellnessEducation.

(651) 632-5330 | 2ndHalf@lyngblomsten.org

WIN
TICKETS
TO THE
REN FEST



TELL US WHAT YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT THE MONITOR.
SHARE STORY TIPS. JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

Email Tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com or
use our online forms @ www.monitorsaintpaul.com

Letters should be under 200 words.

HISTORIC STATUS >> from 1

neighborhood activism directed at getting a library built.

Bezant, a former HPC commissioner, cited the role of the neighborhood, especially women's clubs and organizations, in getting the library built. The city acquired the site in 1919, but it took years to get anything done.

"Community input played a large part in persuading the St. Paul Public Library system to construct a building in the area," the nomination stated. "Storekeepers had, by 1908, volunteered to set aside space in their retail locations for book lending stations." By 1914, when the city designated the last of the Snelling Avenue library station locations as the 'Hamline Branch Library,' statistics began to show heavy use. By 1927, circulation numbers outpaced even the 10-year-old Carnegie libraries (at Riverview, Arlington Hills and St. Anthony

Park), though the 'Branch' had just a tiny collection of books. In St. Paul the main library downtown and the three Carnegie branch libraries, all completed in 1917, were far enough away from Hamline that it was difficult for residents to reach them easily. One of the arguments in favor of the establishment of a library in the neighborhood was the distance between Hamline and the other libraries."

Bezant also researched Hale, a St. Paul attorney who died in 1890. His will designated funds for a free medical dispensary and a free library. Libraries were by subscription at that time. The money was tied up in disputes for many years before it could be spent.

In an addendum to his will, Hale suggested establishing a library in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. His preference had been to provide for the central library downtown and a public hospital.

Library staff sent an 18-page response asking that the nomination be denied,

stating that there had been extensive public process before the decision was made to demolish the library. They also cited building condition as a reason for demolition and replacement of the building, and the need for improved accessibility for patrons with disabilities.

"Hamline Midway was the only library in St. Paul where the interior was closed to the public for more than one year during the COVID-19 pandemic due to its outdated HVAC system, which does not supply ventilation air to the occupied spaces," the library letter stated. Library staff also cited the \$400,000 on repairs and maintenance at the library.

They also took aim at Hale and his trust, stating that Hale had no living connection to the Hamline Midway community and his intention to invest in a central library did not come to fruition. "The fact that his will ultimately supported construction of the Hamline Midway Library was more happenstance than personal his-

toric legacy." Library staff went on to say that their research found that the terms of Hale's will were convoluted.

Another point made was that historic features of the building will be included in a new structure.

The HPC heard from Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, which spoke against the historic designation, and two citizens who spoke for the nomination and building presentation. The HPC received about 40 written comments, with only two against designation or preservation.

Tom Goldstein, a leader of renovate 1558, objected to Library Director Catherine Penkert's comments about library ownership of Hamline-Midway Branch Library's Paul Public Library, saying that city facilities are owned by the public, not city departments. He asserted that community members want preservation, not demolition of the library.

After the vote, Goldstein said he's not sure what Renovate 1558's next steps will be.

Celebrating cultures of the Midway

BUILDING A STRONGER MIDWAY

BY CHAD KULAS,
Midway Chamber of
Commerce Executive Director
chad@midwaychamber.com



One of the best things about the Midway is that it has always been a melting pot. University Avenue, like so many Main Streets throughout the country 100 years ago and now, has been a home to immigrants as they opened businesses. These examples, both locally and elsewhere, can save a town's economy and also become its lifeblood. The many multi-cultural organizations in the Midway go far beyond

just restaurants and other retail. Here are some of the exciting things happening in the Midway around multi-cultural communities.

I recently got a tour of the new Dawah Islamic Center at 605 Fairview Avenue North. The move is occurring because the mosque has once again outgrown current space, previously on University Avenue. The building will have four separate functions: a bazaar for about 20 vendors, a youth center, a school, and a mosque. The mosque will hold around 1,000 people, making it the largest occupancy for a mosque in Saint Paul. Unlike previous space, this site is built to be a mosque. Completion of the construction should occur soon, in time for the upcoming school year.

Udo's Market has been a longtime tenant at 1459 University Avenue West.

The owner, Mike Udo, a Nigerian immigrant, specializes in west African ingredients and has plans to open a restaurant. At 995 University, Gloria Wong operates Century Plaza which houses many Hmong businesses on two floors. I recently met with one of the tenants, NorthStar Health, a nonprofit that "aims to build a culturally, socially, and economically competent community-driven resource center." Part of this mission includes food and clothing donations.

Festivals and events are another way to learn about different cultures. Earlier this month, the Midway was site of the Little Africa Fest, which included vendors, food, live music and a parade. It was fun taking my family as my kids played drums, saw traditional African clothing, and took in the smells from the food vendors.

We are also fortunate in our community to have the International Institute of Minnesota. Located across from the State Fairgrounds, the expanded building can

double the number of workforce program participants and serve over 500 new Americans. Currently, they are working to help resettle many Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

I recently heard a panel of workforce experts talk about DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) initiatives by employers. It was apparent the important role immigrants and a diverse population play in helping connect job seekers and employers. Some on the panel are from greater Minnesota and lamented the additional struggles they face.

As I talk with contacts throughout Minnesota, it makes me realize more how lucky we are to have such a diverse community in the Midway. I encourage everyone to make the effort to meet new people, learn about different cultures, and show support by shopping and eating at small businesses owned by immigrants.

IN BRIEF

SAINT PAUL COLLEGE HONORED

The State of Minnesota has designated Saint Paul College as a Yellow Ribbon organization, becoming the 84th Yellow Ribbon Organization in Minnesota. Being identified as a Yellow Ribbon organization shows that key areas within an organizational structure create a network that proactively supports veterans, service members, and military families. In order to become a Yellow Ribbon Organization, an organization needs to develop a sustainable action plan demonstrating long-term commitment to current and former U.S. military service members and their families. Some specific commitments and steps Saint Paul College has taken include:

- Recognizing veterans and their families at the Spring Graduation Ceremony.
- Expanding staffed hours at the campus Veteran Center.
- Hosting a Connect Veterans Military Outreach event with community leaders this November.

On Oct. 28, Saint Paul College will host a Proclamation Ceremony to enact the designation. Saint Paul College, a comprehensive community and technical college, is part of the Minnesota State system, which includes 26 colleges and seven universities.

MANDALA DAY OF SERVICE

Twenty-four Africans from 15 countries who are part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders volunteered at the Books For Africa warehouse in St. Paul (717 Prior Ave. N.) on July 14, where they sorted and packed books for students in Africa. They were attending a six-week leadership institute at the University of Minnesota, sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Their service was in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela International Day, named for the late South African leader and dedicated to service in his honor. The Young African Leaders are part of a group of 1,000 dynamic young leaders who come to the U.S. each year under the program begun by former President Barack Obama in 2010.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship Public Management Institute is a 6-week experiential learning opportunity with the goal of building and sustaining a prestigious network of African leaders across critical sectors, cementing stronger ties with the United States and offering follow-on leadership opportunities in Africa. Fellows participate in team engagement, site visits, workshops, experiential learning activities and have local government interaction.

PLAN IT

AUTHOR AT RICE STREET LIBRARY AUG. 20

Summer may be winding down, but there is still a lot of fun to be had at the library. Summer Spark, the library's reading and activity challenge program for kids and teens, continues until Aug. 31 with free book giveaways and hands-on exploration activities at all 13 library locations.

Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice Street, invites families to a special Summer Spark event on Aug. 20 from 1-4 p.m. with local children's author V.T. Bidania who is introducing four new books in her Astrid & Apollo series. Bidania will offer a brief reading, a Q&A, and book signing from 1-2 p.m. and afterward there will be a Hmong dancing performance and activity tables for families to engage in hands-on creating inspired by the Astrid & Apollo books.

BLACK YOUTH HEALING ARTS CENTER

Irreducible Grace Foundation is creating a safe space in Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood for Black youth to receive healing for their un/under-processed historical trauma. Unearthed historical trauma blocks the potential of full humanity and expression of gifts. The Black Youth Healing Arts Center (BYHAC) will provide

cultural, ancestral, and innovative processes to healing for Black youth foremost, while creating safe spaces and healing opportunities for youth of color. An open house is planned for Saturday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 643 Virginia Street. There will be musical performances, food truck, make and take art activities, building tours, and a credit union fair.

FALL MARKET AT HAMLIN SEPT. 24

The Hamline Church women host a fall vendors, arts and crafts market 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24 at the church at 1514 Englewood Ave. Vendors of all types are needed, and space is available inside and outside. Contact hamlinewomen@gmail.com for details.

APPLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

World Without Genocide offers part-time funded fellowships for law students, graduate students in related fields, or recent law school graduates to work on research, policy development and assessment, and action in the following areas: the International Criminal Court; the climate crisis and ecocide; persecuted minority groups; and violence and discrimination against women and girls. Submit a completed application, résumé, and a 200-250 letter of intent to admin@worldwithoutgenocide.org by Sept. 1.

A-1 VACUUM

* Sales, Service & Supplies
* Free Estimates * Trade-ins Welcome
* Bags, Belts & Filters
* Dyson, Miele & Riccar, etc.

651-222-6316
2575 Fairview Ave. N | Roseville
9-5 Mon & Fri | 9-6 Tues-Wed-Thurs | 10-2 Sat

www.A-1Vacuum.com

LULA

VINTAGE CLOTHING 651.644.4110
1587 Selby Avenue, St. Paul MN 55104
www.lulavintagegear.com

Mosaic
ON A STICK
1564 Lafond Ave., Saint Paul
651-645-6600
www.mosaiconastick.com

An artist-owned mosaic supply shop, community classroom & artist studio

MINNESOTA MADE SOAP & CANDLES

BG SC BEARDED GENTLEMEN SOAP CO
FINE QUALITY SINCE 2019

@BEARDEDEGENTLEMENSOAPCO
BEARDEDEGENTLEMENSOAPCO.COM

MIDWAY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

CONNECT NETWORK BUILD SUPPORT

CHECK OUT THE MIDWAY CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

SCAN THE QR CODE



651.646.2636 | info@midwaychamber.com | midwaychamber.com

Home

ATTORNEY

Creative Solutions with a Personal Touch. Legal Services in the areas of: Small Business, Wills and Trusts, Probate, Real Estate, and Family. Kirsten Libby, 855 Rice Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN, 651-487-1208. www.libbylawoffice.com.

AUTO STORAGE

Secured auto and boat storage near Snelling and University. Short term or long term. Heated and unheated available. 570 Asbury Street. 651-641-0166. hamlineparkstorage.com.

CRISIS HOTLINE

Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a dangerous relationship or needs to create a safety plan.

LAWN CARE

Lawn mowing, yard clean-up, gardening/planting, etc. Call Larry 651-635-9228.

PAINTING

Painting, wallpaper patch. Interior, exterior. Small jobs wanted. Jim. 612-202-5514.

ROOFING

30 years experience hail and wind damage specialist. Replace or repair. Free estimate. Licensed/insured. 612-724-3934

SERVICES

Lawn care. Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways, roof tops. Gutter cleaning. 651-699-2832.

Gutter cleaning. Let the Rain Drain Away. Call Larry 651-635-9228.

WINDOW WASHING

Window washing, inside and out. "You will see the difference." Call Larry. 651-635-9228.

Jobs

OFFICE SPACE

Quiet, professional office space with free attached parking. Single offices up to 10,000 sq. ft. Building information available at hamlinepp.com. Contact Eric with The Terrace Group at 651-621-2550.

Get busy. GET A CLASSIFIED.

AFFORDABLE \$1/word



AFFECTED BY THE GREAT RESIGNATION?

Advertise here for talented staff who want to live and work in the neighborhood.

Ads@MonitorSaintPaul.com 612-345-9998 Or, post online at MonitorSaintPaul.com

HIRING: CARRIERS FOR WALKING ROUTES



Work flexible hours.

Save up for that trip. Support democracy. Say hi to your neighbors. Get exercise.

TMC Publications is looking for newspaper delivery carriers for walking routes in Hamline-Midway, Como and Merriam Park. Reliable car needed to pick up papers, or we can drop off to you. Routes available every week.

Email Delivery@SWconnector.com or call/text 612-235-7197.

Get a job delivering newspapers and earn \$11-15/hr

6 of 10 people who get the Monitor at their front doors read it.

Merriam Park Painting

- Exterior & Interior Painting - Enameling
- Ceiling Texturing
- Wallpapering

• FREE ESTIMATES

Call Ed 651-224-3660



STUMP GRINDING

612-724-6045

"Adin and his team did a great job.

The result was better than we anticipated." ~ Homeowner

Small, family-run business. 20+ years experience.

CB CONCRETE AND MASONRY LLC CBCONCRETEANDMASONRY.COM ADIN_BLY@YAHOO.COM 651-583-4713

KERNLAWNSERVICE.COM

KERN
LAWN SERVICE, INC.

Total Lawn Maintenance
Large or Small
Landscaping Projects

Office: 651-207-5396

Cell: 612-328-6893

Since 1984 / Major Credit Cards Accepted

LANDSCAPING

CONCRETE SIDEWALKS, STEPS
NEW OR REPAIR

GLASS BLOCK WINDOW
good for basements any size

BRICK, BLOCK & STUCCO REPAIR

Over 25 years experience

Call Mark Larson



651-642-5090



GROW YOUR CAREER

At WestRock, we are motivated by a shared desire to shape a better future. With the broadest portfolio of differentiated, sustainable products in the industry, you have career choices in how you learn and grow.

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Whether engineering or manufacturing, sales or safety, finance or IT, you have a tremendous opportunity to help shape our company culture, build your skills and grow your career in over 300 global locations. Join our team in

APPLY ONLINE AT [JOBS.WESTROCK.COM](https://jobs.westrock.com)
ST PAUL - POSITIONS START AT \$23.82/HR



SCAN ME WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE.

WestRock is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We strive to create and maintain a diverse workforce where everyone feels valued, respected, and included. WestRock does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law.
westrock.com
©2022 WestRock Company. WESTROCK, WestRock and Design, and the WestRock Logo are trademarks owned by WestRock Company. All rights reserved.



Get the word out. GET A CLASSIFIED. Just \$1/word.

>> Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Friday, Sept. 2 for the Sept. 15 issue. Call 651-917-4183 or email Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

RETHINKING I-94

>> from 1

Cities from Marion St. west to Hiawatha Ave. It carries about 160,000 cars a day between the two cities. When the roadway was built in the 1960s, it displaced the homes and businesses that were there, as well as the city streets.

The underlying structure of the pavement and bridges is deteriorating, and the normal approach by MnDOT is to reconstruct the entire roadway.

"When MnDOT asked in 2016 if we should think about I-94 differently, the community resoundingly said yes," stated Levin. "We should not only be thinking about the roadway and the traffic on the roadway. We should be considering the health impacts of the roadway. We should be considering climate change, and the impact of driving on climate change. We should be thinking about equity, not only the historical wrongs but also the future."

"I-94 is a significant gash on the community, and it acts as a barrier," according to Levin. "It makes access much more difficult."

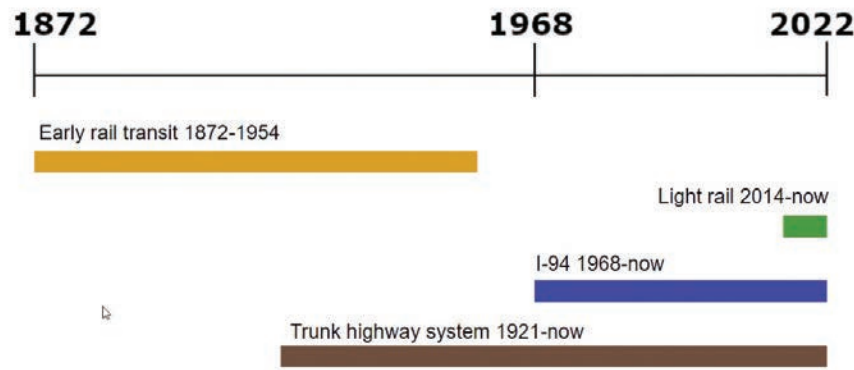
Priorities identified in an October 2021 community letter said that the Rethinking I-94 project must repair the highway's harms and put the needs of adjacent communities first. This includes:

- Reduce air and noise pollution and resulting health disparities
- Advance racial equity and economic opportunity
- Reconnect neighborhoods
- Improve transportation access
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Reduce traffic injuries and deaths
- Prevent displacement

EFFECT ON NEIGHBORHOODS

"For a lot of us, it feels like I-94 has run through St. Paul forever," observed

150 Years of Transportation Systems



Ande Quercus, HMC Transportation Committee member. "St. Paul had a rail transit system for longer than the freeway has been there."

Rail transit was popular before the automobile industry gained momentum in the 1920s, pointed out Quercus. But the Twin Cities experienced large changes when the interstate system was created.

One in 20 Minneapolis residents lost their home due to highway construction of I-94, I-35 and Highway 55. In St. Paul, 6,000 people were displaced. Black and low-income communities were specifically targeted; 80 percent of Black residents in Minneapolis lived in the neighborhoods where highways were routed, and 80% of St. Paul's Black population lived in Rondo.

Levin observed that it is important to understand the huge change the freeway had on the neighborhoods it went through. "It was destructive," said Levin.

28% DON'T HAVE A CAR WHO LIVE NEXT TO I-94

While the freeways enabled many to move out from the cities into the suburbs and still get to work, it didn't offer the same benefits to all. "Twenty-eight percent of the people in the I-94 corridor don't have access to a car," said Levin.

In Minnesota, transportation accounts

for one-quarter of greenhouse gas emissions, Levin pointed out. "We will not really be able to address climate change until we address transportation in the region."

The people who are harmed by I-94 are the ones who use it least, said Burns. Air pollution in the Twin Cities is worse following roadways, particularly the heavily-trafficked interstates. "One of the things that's really important to know about these urban highways is that the traffic pollution creates these rivers of pollution and poison through the communities through which they run," said Burns.

Pollution impacts include asthma, cardiovascular disease, cancer, reduced lung function, impaired lung development, pre-term and low-birthweight infants, childhood leukemia, reduced academic performance in children, dementia and premature death. Some of the city's highest hospitalization rates for asthma occur along the interstates. Asthma hospitalization within the Rethinking I-94 corridor is three times the state average and two times the county average. It is 9.05 per 10,000 residents.

A look at household income shows that those who live in the Rethinking I-94 corridor make much less than those who live elsewhere. In the corridor, the median

household income is \$45,164, compared to \$57,876 in St. Paul, \$62,583 in Minneapolis, \$68,871 in Ramsey County, and \$82,369 in Hennepin County, according to the American Community Survey.

OTHERS HAVE TAKEN OUT FREEWAYS

Other large cities have converted their highways into boulevards. In San Francisco, the Embarcadero Freeway was ripped out to provide better access to the waterway for residents and tourists. In Seoul, South Korea, the multi-story Cheonggye Freeway was removed to daylight a creek and add a linear park.

The city of Syracuse, N.Y. is set to remove a 1.4-mile stretch of Interstate 81 that has sliced through its downtown since the 1950s. A new community grid will reconnect neighborhoods.

The 11-lane Paris Beltway will be converted by 2030 into an eight-lane system with two lanes for streetcars with a linear park in the center.

Electric cars won't save us, asserted Burns. It will take decades for mass adoption. Right now, they make up 2% of new car sales and less than 2% of Minnesota cars are electric. They still produce greenhouse gas emissions depending on the grid source. They produce air pollution, create noise pollution, and require metals with harmful mining practices.

Our Streets representatives have knocked on 4,000 doors between Seward and Frogtown neighborhoods. "People don't believe the state and the city will invest in them and their neighborhoods," said Raquel Sidie-Wagner. Overall, people have been enthusiastic, said Sidie-Wagner. "It's been an overwhelmingly positive experience."

"In the long run, we want to change the way people live and work in the region," said Levin.

Learn more about the effort to transition I-94 and Bring Back 6th (Highway 55/Olson Memorial Highway) at: twincitiesboulevard.org.

Free trees for Hamline Midway!

Sign up now to get a FREE TREE for Hamline Midway private properties in the Fall of 2022 (limited quantities available)



Scan here for more information or contact trees@hamlinemidway.org

Choose from 6 available species
Have a site visit
Dig a hole
Water your tree regularly!



Hamline Midway Garage Sale

Friday & Saturday September 9th & 10th
9:00am-3:00pm
Location: Hamline Midway Neighborhood



Buy and sell within the Hamline Midway neighborhood!



SCAN ME

Scan Here to Sign-Up



For More Information:
651-494-7682
communications@hamlinemidway.org