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Imagine a million monarchs in the Midway

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Volunteers crucial to elders program

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## Midway Como

# Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

May 2014 • Vol. 40 No. 1

www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

21,000 Circulation

By JILL BOOGREN

The closing of Linder's Garden Center on Larpenteur Ave. last fall left a big hole in St. Paul's gardening landscape. You may need to go a bit farther afield, but there are still a few local places you can go to get your green on without going to the big box retailers who don't specialize in gardening.

### Egg|Plant Urban Farm Supply

1771 Selby Ave. (@ Wheeler)

Open since 2010, Egg|Plant specializes in seeds, plants, soils and tools for the small-scale urban garden, with an emphasis on food — fruits, veggies, berries, edible flowers — and plants that attract bees. They sell chicks (by preorder) and chicken-keeping supplies as well as cheese-making and canning equipment. They also carry a large selection of native bee houses.

"We promote native bees and native pollinators through native bee houses and planting,"



## Go Green, Garden Local

Spring has arrived and pansies, a cool weather favorite, are one of the best flowers to plant early for those cool mornings! (Photo by Jill Boogren)

said Audrey Matson, who co-owns Egg|Plant with Bob Lies. Egg|Plant doesn't do land-

scaping, but they do offer a variety of classes in raising backyard chickens, beekeeping, edible landscaping, backyard mushrooms, canning, fermentation, and making cheese.

"We want to help people learn skills to grow and preserve their own food, to learn traditional skills, to lead healthier lives," said Matson.

Check the chicken coops and farmhouse cider containers out back.

**Hours:**  
Tues., Wed., Fri., and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thurs., 10am-8pm; Sun., noon-4pm. Closed Mondays.  
www.eggplantsupply.com

### Highland Nursery

1742 7th St W.

A visit to Highland Nursery is like stepping into a secret garden, where carefully contoured stone paths are lined with plants of all types, and statues abound. Tucked among the pots and greenery are sculpted concrete renditions of children reading, cats, dogs, angels, gnomes, wizards, gargoyles, and dragons. Standing high above them all is a bur oak sculpture, which commemorates Irish pioneers who homesteaded the site in 1850. The children of Narnia would be quite at home here.

"We specialize in ambience," said President Sue Hustings. "You feel like you're in a garden more than a garden center."

Highland Nursery has been in the family since 1947. Their plants, including over 140 varieties of herbs and every conceivable shrub, come from Minnesota and Wisconsin. They are carefully nurtured from one season to the next, with many housed in the adjacent greenhouse. Highland carries an abundance of cast iron pergolas, baker's racks, and trellises, along with garden art (have kids see if they can spot the giraffes), pots, and miniature items for fairy gardens.

They don't do landscaping or carry sod.

**Hours:**  
Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5pm  
www.thehighlandnursery.com

### Leitner's Garden Center

945 Randolph Ave.

The chalkboard out front reads "over 100 years young and still local"! Leitner's evolved from the horse and wagon days until it became a garden center in 1976.

"We pride ourselves in having an entire greenhouse devoted to edibles, organic or sustainably grown," including over 100 varieties of herbs, said Manager Joan Westby, who has been with the company for 30 years. Most plants come from Minnesota and Wisconsin, with some from the west coast.

They also have a year round floral department that specializes in botanical, European-style designs. And, according to Westby, they have a cult following for David Austin English Roses. Leitner's carries gardening supplies, art and pottery, and offers a year-round custom potting service.

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Egg|Plant co-owner Audrey Matson and Leslie Ostrander with two-day-old chicks which they sell by preorder. They specialize in seeds plants, soils and tools for the small-scale urban gardener. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

## Job Corps changes lives

St. Paul-based training site celebrates 35th anniversary in 2014

by TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Over the last 35 years, the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps program based in St. Paul has changed a lot of lives.

A few short years ago, Abdi Warsame was unemployed, without health insurance and living on his friend's couches. After completing the Job Corps medical office support program, he got a job and enrolled in the EMS Academy in St. Paul. Today he's an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with the St. Paul

Fire Department.

Hawi Gelta immigrated to Minnesota from Ethiopia at age 21 and was reunited with her mother after a 10-year absence. But she wanted something better than working at a warehouse and caring for her siblings. She knew she could do more. So she went through the Job Corps nursing assistant program, and focused on improving her English language skills. Today she is working full-time as a nursing assistant and is planning to attend college to be-

come a registered nurse.

Cate Smith Edlund started off as a neighborhood volunteer at the Job Corps program, and then served on the Neighborhood Advisory Council. Today she works full-time as the Job Corps Business and Community Liaison. She is constantly inspired by the students around her.

"They are just great young people," said Smith Edlund. "Some of them have had very

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Job Corps members volunteer at the 2013 Rein in Sarcoma event. Last year, the 300 Job Corps students logged in 7,000 volunteer hours. Among other tasks, they can be found volunteering at Lyngblomsten, working at Como Conservatory, assisting at ComoFest or picking up trash on nearby streets.

1885 University Ave.  
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651-645-7045

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And check us out on the web at: [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

The Monitor is a monthly community publication in the Midway and Como areas of St. Paul, owned and operated by deRuyter-Nelson Publications, Inc. All correspondence should be sent to the Monitor, 1885 University Ave., #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Editorial and advertising offices can be reached at 651-917-4183. Our fax number is 651-645-4780.

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# Flowers and Vacuum Cleaners - A Unique Combination

*Local florist wins Downtown Greening Award four years in a row*

By MARY THOEMKE

For the fourth year in a row Lynne Tischler's Your Enchanted Florist has received a Downtown Greening Award from the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District.

In partnership with The Local (931 Nicollet Mall), Tischler was presented an Encore Award for "exemplary contribution to the environment of downtown consistently, year after year."

Although she was honored for her work in Minneapolis, Tischler and her husband, Randall Prochowitz are firmly rooted in St. Paul. After running her business out of the basement of their home, Tischler moved her florist shop to 1500 N. Dale St., at Nebraska. In 2010, she and Prochowitz purchased the former Ace Vacuum Cleaner business, along with the building. Today they operate Your Enchanted Florist and Vac That Thing Up in an unlikely combination of flowers and vacuums.

Passersby notice the floral displays, the artistic creations, rose petals on the sidewalk, the neon-sprayed vacuum cleaners, and hearts sprayed in the snow.

Tischler, a native of West St. Paul, graduated from floral school in Oregon before she began her work as a florist. She emphasizes that all of her floral creations are unique and made to order for each customer. She and her designers offer a wide array of services including faux finishing, murals, staging, interior and exterior seasonal decorating, seasonal planting and onsite plant care. They also offer one-of-a-kind designs for weddings, funerals, proms, and everyday occasions. They will provide a free initial consultation for any event. Tischler says she has enjoyed the pleasure of doing events throughout the United States.



Lynne Tischler and Randall Prochowitz operate two separate and unique businesses - Your Enchanted Florist and Vac That Thing Up, located at Dale and Nebraska. (Photo by Mary Thoemke)

Customers are invited to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and a cookie while they watch their flowers being arranged. They can bring in their own vase to make their floral arrangement even more meaningful. Your Enchanted Florist also invites people to bring in their vases to be recycled.

In addition to the flowers and plants, Your Enchanted Florist features the work of over 25 local artists whose art ranges from jewelry and plant stands, handmade cards and bags, and manifestation crystals. Over half of the artists live within walking distance of the store.

Every Friday is a special day which is called "Almost Free Friday." An item is selected that is offered at 1/2 off the regular price on Friday only, and the selection is changed every week. The selection is posted Friday morning on their Facebook page.

In addition to her recent award, Tischler has been recognized as professional florist of the year by Koehler and Dramm. She has placed in the Minnesota State Florists "Designer of the Year" Award and has received several nominations and awards from Blooming Saint Paul. Your Enchanted Florist has been featured in The Knot NY, Midwest Home, Bride's Magazine, Lavender, and Minneapolis/St. Paul magazine.

Prochowitz grew up in Winona, and for the past 27 years

has worked at his day job as facilities manager for a condo association. During the day Ryan Clements manages Vac That Thing Up. The store both sells and services vacuums and supplies. Clements says none of the vacuums they sell are bagless because they are very high maintenance for the customer and don't work as well. Prochowitz says, with pride, that he features Made in USA Maytag and Simplicity vacuums.

In addition to selling vacuum cleaners, Prochowitz and Tischler have a collection of vintage vacu-

um cleaners on display at the store, including a 1928 Hoover with a wooden handle. Prochowitz designs artistic creations, also on display, that he makes from recycled vacuum parts.

Devoted to promoting a sense of community, both Tischler and Prochowitz say they are grateful to the neighborhood for the support they have received. "It is phenomenal," says Tischler.

Hours for both businesses are Mon.-Fri., 9am-7pm; and Sat. and Sun., 10am- 5pm. Extended holiday hours are posted at the stores.



In partnership with The Local (931 Nicollet Mall), Lynn Tischler of Your Enchanted Florist was recently presented an Encore Award from the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement Council for "exemplary contribution to the environment of downtown consistently, year after year." This was the fourth year that Tischler has been presented an award from that organization.

**Contact Information:**

**Your Enchanted Florist**

Phone: 651-488-2018  
Email: [contact@yourenchantedflorist.net](mailto:contact@yourenchantedflorist.net)  
Website: [www.yourenchantedflorist.net](http://www.yourenchantedflorist.net)

**Vac That Thing Up**

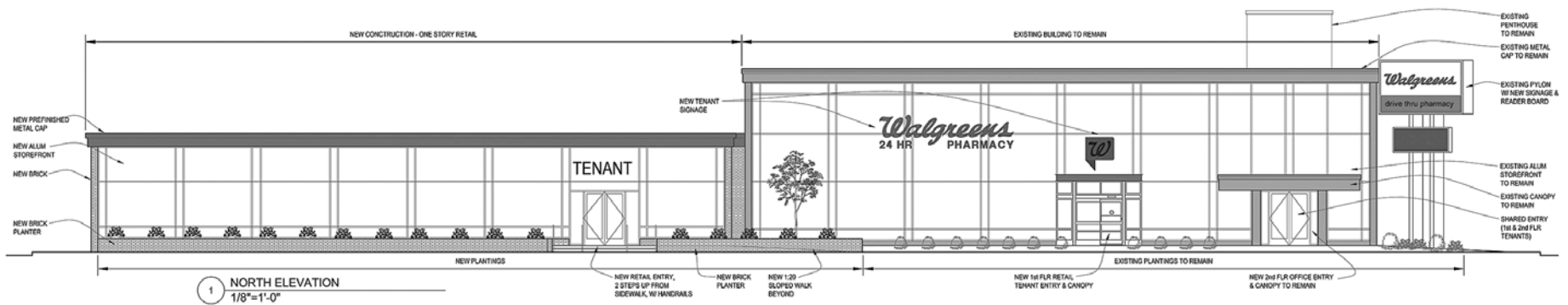
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Both businesses are also on Facebook.

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By JANE MCCLURE

The former Midway Bank building, which many consider to be an architectural landmark, may be renovated to house the Midway Center Walgreens. The project would require that site plan and conditional use permit applications win approval from St. Paul city officials and the city's Planning Commission. Plans to renovate the former bank at 1578 University Ave. were reviewed Apr. 22 by the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee.

The project could be completed sometime this year and would be a step in a longer-term plan to redevelop the aging Midway Center. The strip mall and two vacant parcels to the south are being studied by a city-Metropolitan Council-St. Paul Riverfront Corporation task force, with participation from the shopping center ownership.

The move would give Wal-

## Midway Bank building to be Walgreens?

greens a more prominent location, kitty-corner from pharmacy competitor CVS. And for the time being, it would preserve the 1960 granite and glass bank building, which has been praised as an example of Classic Mid-Century Modern architecture. The bank was built by the Ritt family who founded Midway Bank in 1927 and owned it until 2002, when it was sold to Dakota Bancshares. Dakota Bank, which later became American Bank, closed the University Ave. location to the public in late 2012. Some internal operations and storage remained there until July 2013.

The UPDC Committee is slated to review concept plans for the entire 35-acre development area on May 27. Hamline Midway Coalition's Land Use Committee

is monitoring the plans, because the shopping center's superbloc is just south of District 11.

Joe Finley is attorney for property owner RD Legacy LLC, which is an arm of New York City-based shopping center owner RK Midway and RD Midway. He described reuse of the bank building as an interim step until a mixed-use building with higher density can be built on the site. Land along University Ave. was rezoned a few years ago in anticipation of light rail's start June 14. The entire Midway Center parcel is now zoned for denser, mixed-use redevelopment. Ideas for the site include having the area's street grid extended through the property. The current Walgreens location is where a street could go through.

"Walgreens has a long-term

lease and we need to move them to another spot," Finley said. That move accommodates Walgreens and frees up the shopping center main building for redevelopment.

The bank's exterior would remain largely intact, said Sara Kelzenberg of Afton Architects. The interior would be renovated to house Walgreens on the first floor. Offices could be on the second floor. The building has 11,891 square feet on each of its two floors.

A new, 2,800 square foot one-story retail building would be erected just east of the bank's front door, along University. That space was the main bank drive-through exit onto University. The new building would be designed to be compatible with the bank's design, Kelzenberg said.

Four of the bank's six drive-through lanes would be removed and the drive-through window relocated near the building's southeast corner. Drive-through traffic would be redirected onto what is now a shopping center interior street. Long-term development plans call for extending Asbury St. along there.

Tom Beach oversees site plan reviews for the city. He outlined the upcoming review and approval process. The property is zoned for traditional neighborhoods 4 use, which allows for a large mixed-use structure or structures. Walgreens or any pharmacy is a permitted use under that zoning. But the relocation of one drive-through lane requires St. Paul Planning Commission approval of a relocation of a non-conforming use.

The new building will either have to get a height variance or be designed to be at least 25 feet tall.

## Monitor In A Minute

### Development Summit

The Midway Economic Development Summit Apr. 16 attracted a large crowd. It is one of several events and activities meant to promote the June 14 opening of Central Corridor, or Green Line, light rail service. Midway Chamber of Commerce hosted the summit to promote business retention and growth, and to share information with business owners.

### Dancers Studio fined

The Dancers Studio, 415 N. Pascal St., must pay the City of St. Paul a \$500 fine for functioning as a nightclub and violating its rental hall license. St. Paul City Council members imposed the fine Apr. 16.

The city's Department of

Safety and Inspections (DSI) wanted to impose a \$1,000 fine, given the nature of the violations and the fact that business owner Marcy McHenry had been warned against hosting public events. But Ward One Council Member Dai Thao, hearing McHenry's request for leniency, changed the penalty to \$500. If there are no further rental hall license violations in the next 18 months, the remaining \$500 fine goes away. But if there are violations, the \$500 fine can be imposed on top of any new penalties.

Dancers Studio and its related business DS Events Center are in Midway Shopping Center. The business offers dance lessons and

is licensed as a rental hall. The license allows the facility to be used for private receptions, banquets and parties.

Assistant City Attorney Geoffrey Karls said the \$1,000 fine was recommended because McHenry allowed Dancers Studio to offer public events despite being warned not to do so by city officials. Karls and city staff met with McHenry in January, after hearing that Dancers Studio was going to be used for public events. Then city officials got word that public events were being held in February and March.

"Essentially Dancers Studio was being run as a nightclub on Friday nights," Karls said. Patrons were charged \$10 to \$15 dollars to attend events. A cash bar was operating. "There were a number of regulatory issues."

But McHenry explained that she had misunderstood city offi-

cials to say that Dancers Studio could host "dance events." She said her impression was that the D Nightclub events fell within the definition of a rental hall since the events were organized by outside groups.

The incidents aren't the first time that Dancers Studio has tried to open its business to public dances. In late 2011, the business tried to obtain a conditional use permit to host public dance. But its landlord opposed the request and it was withdrawn.

### Hamline Park Plaza

Hamline Park Plaza can continue to use its parking ramp for motor vehicle and boat storage. The St. Paul Planning Commission approved establishment of nonconforming use for the property May 2, following an April vote of approval from the commission's

Zoning Committee.

No one appeared at a Zoning Committee public hearing to speak against the request.

The office complex and parking ramp are at 5709 Asbury St. The office building and ramp were built as part of the former Samaritan Hospital complex. The hospital was closed and torn down in the early 1990s and its site redeveloped as townhouses.

The parking ramp has 327 spaces, with about 100 spaces used for the office building. The rest have been leased out since the 1990s. But the office building and ramp are considered non-conforming uses because their underlying property has long been zoned for residential use.

The current property owner, James Councilman, has owned the ramp and building since

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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# Job Corps

Continued from page 1

tough lives and they've managed to figure out where they need to go to get what they need to be successful."

Smith Edlund isn't the only one who comes and discovers they want to return. Congressman Keith Ellison made an obligatory stop once. "Next thing you know he is teaching math classes," said Smith Edlund.

## AT-RISK PERSON TO TAXPAYER

The Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps location at 1480 N. Snelling Ave. was originally the campus of Bethel University. The St. Paul site is one of 125 Job Corps located throughout the nation, and it serves all of Minnesota.

One of the goals of the program is that students be able to live independently and become good taxpayers, according to Smith Edlund. For every \$1 spent, \$1.81 goes back into the economy. "You're taking that at-risk per-

son and you're turning them into a taxpayer," Smith Edlund noted.

"These are young adults with very few resources, but they have potential," Smith Edlund added. "They want something more."

Many of them have been working at minimum wage but find they can't get ahead. When students enroll, an individual plan is developed. Some begin with academic classes while others head straight to vocational training. Meals, housing, uniforms, classes and basic health care are free. Students get a small stipend, but many also get evening or weekend jobs. Eighty-five percent of students live on campus.

Students ages 16-24 choose from six basic trade programs: culinary arts, office administration, medical office support, facilities maintenance, painting and certified nursing assistant. There is one advanced program based at the St. Paul Job Corps location -- transportation communications union -- that prepares students to work with railroads, airlines and barges.

"What we do is a basic training that includes a whole body of work," observed Smith Edlund.

The average length of stay is 13 months, but students may stay as long as two years.

The campus has zero tolerance for drugs or alcohol. "They know to toe the line," noted Smith Edlund. "It's a very rigorous program."

Students are up at 6am and sign in by 6:45am. Dorm rooms are inspected daily and rotating floor jobs completed. They must be in uniform and ready for roll call at breakfast. Classes begin promptly at 8am.

"If you're going to have a job, you're going to do these things to get to work," explained Smith Edlund. "So we do these things."

When the regular school day ends, many opt to continue their education, participating in English language and written communication classes. Tutors are also available.

"The program itself is successful," said Smith Edlund. "It's tested. The system is refined in terms of what works and what doesn't."

"I can't stop telling people how Job Corps is a good place to become successful," said Gelta. "I'm very happy that I came to Humphrey and so blessed that I

have had this opportunity to make my dreams come true."

"I can say it was life changing experience," agreed Warsame.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Job Corps students can be found caring for seniors at Lyngblomsten care center, painting at AEON, working at the Como Conservatory, volunteering at Shop for the Cop, assisting at Regions Hospital, and picking up trash on nearby streets. They assist at the annual Rein in Sarcoma, Festival of Na-

tions, and ComoFest. Last year, the 300 students logged in 7,000 volunteer hours.

"This is a scholarship program and they know it. They want to give back," stated Smith Edlund.

In 2013, the Job Corps received the Red Cross Student Group Award. In January 2014, they were named to the District 10 Neighborhood Honor Roll.

Learn more by attending the 35th anniversary party on Aug. 20 at 1:30pm, or browse <http://huberthumphrey.jobcorps.gov>.

## HAWI GELTA

by TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Hawi Gelta has overcome much in her 23 years. She was born in a small village in Ethiopia. When she was 13 years old, her mother moved to United States and she was left in charge of the house and her siblings. "I took my mom's place," said Gelta. "I planned meals, cooked, and cleaned."

On Jan. 28, 2012, when she was 21, she immigrated to the United States with her brother and sister because she wanted a better life. They had not seen their mom for 10 years. "We were so excited to be reunited," recalled Gelta.

During her first year in United States, she lived in an apartment with her family. Her mother had to work a lot, so Gelta continued to take care of her family and did chores around the home. She got a job at a warehouse.

"I soon realized that I needed something better so I could support my family and myself," said Gelta. "I stated looking for adult education programs, but I didn't find anything that fit. I didn't give up. I knew that, with training, I could do more. I could be more."

Then a close friend of hers told her about Job Corps: a place where she could get a free education and get certified in a career. "At first I didn't believe it," said Gelta. She and her friend went to an orientation and she made the decision to enroll the same day.

"I began my education, but I did not think this would work out for the best," remarked Gelta. "Then I started taking communication classes and working to improve my English. I felt the language barriers begin to break down as I began to feel more comfortable communicating with people."

Her next step was to enter a trade. "I've always been a caregiver and connect to the people that I'm helping, so nursing assistance was the perfect choice," said Gelta. "Each class I took taught me things I never thought I would have the opportunity to learn. I succeeded by paying attention, staying on task, and asking for help when I needed it."

On Jan. 28, 2014, two years to the day that she moved to the United States, she was offered a full-time job at an assisted living facility.

"I'm proud that I've been hired for a position in my career field," said Gelta. "But things don't stop here for me. I plan to go to college to become a registered nurse. Even though things were hard for my family and I in the beginning, I know now that we will be able to live the American dream -- we will work hard and never give up."

She added, "Job Corps has blessed me with the chance to learn English, receive career training, and get help I needed to find a career that I love. I can now take of and help others. I'm so thankful for the support I have received from staff. I'm so proud to become one of the Job Corps students. I can't stop telling people how Job Corps is a good place to become successful. I'm very happy that I came to Humphrey and so blessed that I have had this opportunity to make my dreams come true."



Hawi Gelta

## ABDI WARSAME

by TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Abdi Warsame was born in Somalia. Before enrolling in Job Corps, he was living with friends. "You can call it couch-hopping through friends," said Warsame. "I was 21 at that time. I was also unemployed and didn't have health insurance. I was a high school drop out and was running around places. ... I did not have a GED and could not get jobs because of it."

He saw a Job Dig ad for Job Corps, and was drawn to the idea of getting paid, housing and learning. He started Job Corps at end of 2011 and was enrolled for a little over a year. "I got a room that I shared with a roommate and small allowance money to get me through the week," said Warsame. "I went through some basic test at first did not do well, but later on passed them and then I got my GED." He began his trade skill classes in the Medical Office Support program, which focuses on the administrative and clerical work in the medical field. "The only thing left was to get a weekend job while I was working on my trade," said Warsame. "I did couple of job searches with the help of Lisa Nabbedled and then I got job at the airport working at a ramp agent."

"My first week there I did not like the rules and the regulations," admitted Warsame. "My plan was to get my things done and get out as fast as I could. Eventually, I started to like the place. It had free gym, plus I made a lot of new friends and close ones, too. I can say it was life-changing experience."

He graduated and staff helped him make a moving transition out of Job Corps into his apartment. They also told him about the EMS Academy in St. Paul. He enrolled, completed it, and became an Emergency Medical Technician.

"I enrolled myself in college for the first time at Inver Hills Community College and now work as an EMT with St. Paul Fire Department," said Warsame. "I also work as a volunteer CPR and First Aid Instructor for St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department. My major is in paramedicine. My future goal is to finish my martial arts in karate, and to work as a fire medic in St. Paul."



Abdi Warsame

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Next deadline:  
June 2

By JILL BOOGREN

The Homework Center is packed with people of all ages working with tutors. Almost all of the 30-plus computers in the main room are in use. Teens hang out at a table chatting. A young girl sits at a terminal and plays a Spongebob game; her friend looking on exclaims, "How'd you do that"?! Over the loudspeaker is an announcement for a free poetry reading and conversation, with cookies.

It's Wednesday afternoon at Rondo Community Outreach Library, but it could be just about any day at any St. Paul Public Library (SPPL). As the world moves online, our local libraries are on fast forward.

"Libraries are evolving just as fast as technology is," said Ann McKinnon, director of communications and marketing for The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. "And they're anticipating the changing learning needs and styles of people they serve."

Beyond the stacks of books are CDs, DVDs, printers, scanners, copiers, and computers. And then there's the invisible but ever-present internet. It's already been possible to browse materials and search databases from the library website. But now you can check out eBooks, magazines, and music, and even take classes online.

Freegal lets you download up to three songs a week, yours to keep, at no cost. Over 80 language classes from Transparent Language Online are available to library card holders, and Treehouse teaches basic coding skills to build your own website and create a mobile app. Cost prohibitive for most people, these are completely free and available through the SPPL website.

"We're about democratizing access to sophisticated software and to highly technical and creative kinds of software," said SPPL Director Kit Hadley.

The library has always been about access, and that is especially true for technology. The first time



Self checkout is just one of the many features moving the library system into the 21st century. (Photo courtesy of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library)

using a computer for many people was, and still is, at the library. Not everyone owns a computer, and not every household has internet. Yet technology is changing everything about how people work, apply for jobs, and learn.

"People who don't have access to technology can get left behind in a hurry," said McKinnon. "The library is a great way to be on the train. And stay relevant. And adept enough that you can keep up with the rest of the world."

Rondo Branch Supervisor Charlene McKenzie said there's a great need for access to computers and the ability to scan and make copies, as well as instruction around those things. A lot of curriculum is taught for basic computer skills, from using the internet and social media to creating an Xcel spreadsheet. The SPPL WORKplace program gives one-to-one help writing resumes and looking for jobs, and holds workshops on running a business. Rice St. has a "Tech Petting Zoo" that

lets people try out an e-reader or other digital device.

Technology aside, libraries are being used differently now, too. Having storytimes for kids is not new, but now they're offered in eight different languages, including Karen (at Rondo and Rice St.), Oromo (at Rondo), and Mandarin Chinese (at St. Anthony Park). This is very intentional.

"What children need to learn is love of reading, language, narrative," said Hadley. "We want their parents to be their first teachers. They can teach in any language."

More and more, libraries are playing the role of community centers, what Hamline-Midway Library Manager Mark Kile calls a

"community living room." At Hamline-Midway this spring, Ruthanne Bredenberg and Tim Hegman led a Swedish weaving class. May is Monarch Month: Butterfly art by Andrea Martin is on display in the children's area; a workshop on Raising Monarchs will be held May 31; and soon a master gardener will be creating a butterfly garden out front.

At Rice St., volunteers from Collectors' Corner (in partnership with the Science Museum) showcase rocks and fossils for kids to trade; Toastmasters meet; and on Mondays teens enjoy the Library After Dark. At Merriam Park there's a *Doctor Who* group, and in Paw Pals, kids read to dogs. At var-

ious locations, films are shown in the "Women's Human Rights Film Series" and in the labor history series.

Not everything happens inside library walls either. You can already use the website from anywhere, and now there's a mobile library App for the android and iPhone that lets you browse and put a hold on materials, register for classes, check out an eBook, download music, and more. It's already had 1.2 million visits since 2011, its first full year available.

Library staff go to other locations, too. A Bookmobile brings books to hi-rises and other locations, and a mobile WORKplace brings skill-building tools to a broader community, especially settings where non-English speakers congregate.

János McGhie, associate librarian at Rice St., calls it a "blurry library." "We're not just a building, we serve the whole community," he said.

McGhie takes a suitcase full of iPads from the Rice St. Library up the road to the Teen Zone at Marion St., where kids can try them out. Part of the Createch program, this is a collaboration between the Science Museum and St. Paul Parks and Recreation to give kids a chance to experiment. One day it's exploring helium balloons, another it's creating things with dowel rods and rubber bands, while another it's circuit bending, or creating sound art, with Beatrix\*JAR.

Here, the spirit of HOMAGO - Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out - is alive and well. A mantra that has been embraced by SPPL, HOMAGO is seen as an important part of development and learning. It's not about finished products or specific outcomes. No pressure, just play.

No matter what changes take place in technology or how people want to use their library, its core mission, affirmed Hadley, is the same: to support learning, whether it's for school, work or fun.

"The library is the place where people can pursue their lifelong learning ambitions," said McKinnon. "It's free for everyone, accessible to everyone, because there's a library in every neighborhood."

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library invite you to share your library story at #BecauseOfTheLibrary on Facebook and Twitter.

## Local Library Locations and Hours

### Hamline-Midway

1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.  
Mon. and Wed. noon-8pm; Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10am-5:30pm;  
Sat. 11:30am-5pm; Sun. closed

### Merriam Park

1831 Marshall Ave.  
Mon.-Thurs. 10am-8pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm

### Rice St.

1011 Rice St.  
Mon. and Wed. noon-8pm; Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10am-5:30pm;  
Sat. 11:30am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm

### Rondo

461 N. Dale St.  
Mon.-Thurs. 10am-8pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm

### St. Anthony Park

2245 Como Ave.  
Mon. and Wed. noon-8pm; Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10am-5:30pm;  
Sat. 11:30am-5pm; Sun. closed

### Bookmobile

Has stops throughout St. Paul. For schedule and locations, contact 651-266-7450 or see [www.sppl.org/bookmobile](http://www.sppl.org/bookmobile)

### To Get a Library Card

You can apply for a library card in person at any Saint Paul Public Library. Bring a current picture ID with name and current address (or a piece of recently received mail with name and current address). Children can get a card if they meet the same ID requirements as adults, or if they're with a parent or guardian who does. They can also present a postcard mailed to them by the Saint Paul Public Library (and can request a card be mailed to them). There's no minimum age.

### Website

For a list of programs, go to [www.sppl.org](http://www.sppl.org) and select Events + Classes then browse by location or type of activity.



The outside appearance of the Hamline Midway Library, opened in 1930, masks the 21st century library housed inside. In addition to books, there are CDs, DVDs, printers, scanners, copiers and computers--and now you can check out eBooks, magazines, music, and even take classes online all through the modern library system. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



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Photo: Eric Wheeler, Metro Transit

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**[www.StPaulFarmersMarket.com](http://www.StPaulFarmersMarket.com)**

As the long winter gives way to spring, it's a good time to reflect on how each of us can play a stewardship role in maintaining the natural beauty that characterizes our Como neighborhood. Over the years, the District 10 Como Community Council and its volunteers have worked hard on behalf of Como's natural environment. We hope you'll join us and take part in several neighborhood initiatives coming up this year.

### Tree Appreciation Awards

Our neighborhood's trees perform many vital functions. In addition to beautifying our landscape, trees clean our air, reduce rain runoff, help us save on heating and cooling costs, reduce noise pollution, increase our property values, and support wildlife - especially birds. Trees work hard for us, yet many of us take them for granted.

Each year, the District 10 Environment Committee sponsors the Como Tree Appreciation Awards as a way to treasure our valuable



## Como Community Council Corner

JON KNOX, BOARD CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT 10 COMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Appreciating our natural environment

neighborhood trees and promote the planting of new trees. You can participate by nominating a residential tree - big or small, old or new, yours or a neighbor's - for consideration for an award. Winners will receive a certificate of appreciation and will be able to display a yard sign announcing their award-winning tree. Nomination forms are available through our website, [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org).

### Como Park/Falcon Heights Garden Tour

What better way to enjoy the beauty of our neighborhood than to spend a summer morning visiting some inspiring gardens? The

Como Park neighborhood and City of Falcon Heights have teamed up this year to open a dozen private gardens to the public for our annual garden tour, on Sat., June 21 from 10am-2pm. Meet fellow gardeners, share stories, and enjoy the variety of gardens that reflect the creativity and personality of the gardener.

The Como Park/Falcon Heights Neighborhood Garden Tour is free, but supported by financial donations from attendees. For more information, including how to get a garden tour map, visit our website at [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org) during the week of June 16.

### Give Composting a Try!

In April, the City of St Paul, Ramsey County, and Eureka Recycling launched an expanded recycling and waste-reduction plan. One new "green" option is the availability of drop-off sites for compostable waste generated in your home. "Organics" - the term for compostable materials, such as non-recyclable paper and food scraps - are now accepted at Ramsey County Yard Waste sites. Compostable materials will be collected in green, compostable bags and taken to an industrial compost site where it will be turned into nutrient-rich soil. Keeping organics out of the garbage is a great step towards

becoming a zero-waste household. District 10 is happy to provide a free starter kit for households interested in starting to compost organics. Call us at 651-644-3889 or stop by our offices in the Historic Streetcar Station every Sunday from noon-4pm for more information, or to obtain your starter kit.

### Join the Environment Committee

District 10's Environment Committee is working on several projects ranging from public education to developing a community solar farm. If you're interested in environmental topics of all sorts, I'd encourage you to consider joining this very active committee. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Historic Streetcar Station (1224 Lexington Pkwy. N.). For more information, visit them on our website, [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org) or call us at 651-644-3889.

Hamline Midway neighbors are joining Hamline University students to premiere two years of collaboration at a special event at the Turf Club (1601 University Ave. W.), Tue., May 20, 5:30-7:30pm. All neighbors, students, families and friends are invited to participate in this celebration of community through video. The event is free for all ages and open to the public.

For the last two spring semesters, students in Professor David Davies' visual anthropology class at Hamline have partnered with local neighbors to create a series of mini documentaries that provide a snapshot of the people, places, pets and happenings that make up this community.

While students and residents live side by side in the Hamline Midway neighborhood, it can often seem like they reside in two different worlds. Davies, who is also an area resident, sees these class projects as a unique way to begin bridging that divide.

"The students are constantly in awe of the way neighbors invite them into their homes, cook

## News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

### Hamline students, neighbors to premiere neighborhood documentaries at the Turf Club

meals for them, let them film them cooking and interacting with their families," Davies said.

Students want to share the fruits of their collaborations with neighbors and the public, and where better to do so than the Turf Club?

The variety of "mini" documentaries to be aired will focus on neighborhood pets/pet companions, gardens and gardening, homes/homespaces, hobbies/crafts chicken farming, definitions of success, little free libraries and public art.

### Friends of Hamline Park plan summer fun

While the slides, basketball courts and picnic tables at Hamline Park

lay dormant and covered in snow this winter, a dedicated group of Hamline Midway neighbors was busy planning for a vibrant, inviting, clean and safe summer of events and fun in the park.

From planting and gardening,

to a puppet show and basketball tournament, the Friends of Hamline Park have put together a slate of events to engage the people, young and old, who enjoy and make use of this wonderful neighborhood park. Mark your calen-



The Friends of Hamline Park began meeting monthly last fall. Here they are pictured meeting at the park to discuss ways of rejuvenating this valued public space in 2014. (Photo by Kyle Mianulli)

dars for these exciting opportunities to enjoy this public space and the community it can foster.

The park is a one-block square area between Snelling and N. Asbury St. and W. Thomas and W. Lafond. Planned events include:

### Spring Clean Up! Sat., May 24, 10am-2pm

Plants have been graciously donated from both Hamline University and the city of St. Paul to rejuvenate and beautify the park. Swing by and dig in the dirt as you get to know your neighbors and bring new life to the park. The group is also looking for people to adopt one or more of the iconic mosaic planters along Snelling Ave. Rain dates are May 25 and 26.

### Music in the Park with XIBABA Sun., June 29, 5-8pm

### The Amazing Cow Boat Puppet Show and a Swashbuckling Stage Combat Demonstration Sat., July 19, 1-2:15pm

### Neighborhood Basketball Tournament August, TBD

For more information on any of these events and dates or to get involved in the effort to revitalize Hamline Park email Jonathan Oppenheimer at [oppenhooa@gmail.com](mailto:oppenhooa@gmail.com) or Lily Shaw at [lilshaw@gmail.com](mailto:lilshaw@gmail.com).

# Hampden Park Co-op

## Mayfest Plant Sale

May 9, 10 & 11th

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### Mayfest Activities!

Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> \*\* 10 a.m. - 2p.m.

### Music & Food Sampling

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M-F 9-9 Sat. 9-7 Sun. 10-7  
651-646-6686

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by TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

For over a year, Megan Quick of Minneapolis has yearned for a good beer. Every so often, she has tasted a sip of someone else's, but she's stayed away from drinking any more than that since she became gluten-free.

She was very excited to check out the recently opened taproom at Burning Brothers Brewery, 1750 W. Thomas Ave. in St. Paul. It's the only gluten-free brewery in the Midwest.

"This is a niche that is growing," said Quick. She appreciates that Burning Brothers owners Dane Breimhorst and Thom Foss recognize that Minnesotans are gluten-free for health reasons, and it's not part of the latest diet fad.

Quick admits that she has never drunk pale ales before, but instead prefers stouts. "But being gluten-free, I'll take what I can get," Quick said, as she tipped back a mug of Burning Brothers' American Pale Ale, the only variety currently available. She is looking forward to new flavors. An IPA (India Pale Ale) will be released in mid-May. "I know I'm going to like it because they're trying different things," Quick stated.

"I love that they're pushing the boundaries of gluten-free beer," she added.

"It's good beer," agreed her husband Daniel Quick, who isn't gluten-free.

"It's nice to see people doing something different," observed Nathan Steigman, a Como resident who is also a homebrewer. "It's a very good quality beer." Steigman, a chef himself, recognizes the chef in head brewer Dane Breimhorst, which comes across in how Breimhorst describes his beer-making efforts and the detailed knowledge he has about ingredients.

"You can taste the passion," remarked Steigman.

## HEAD BREWER DIAGNOSED WITH CELIAC DISEASE

Breimhorst knows how hard it is to find a good gluten-free beer. Diagnosed with Celiac disease five years ago, Breimhorst and long-time friend Thom Foss were in the middle of developing beer varieties for what would eventually become Burning Brothers Brewery (named after their former fire-eating antics at many fairs, including the Renaissance Festival). Following Breimhorst's diagnosis, they started from scratch and relearned how to brew. It took three years to perfect a gluten-free recipe.

"It's a really big thing for the Celiac community to have a real multi-beer," remarked Breimhorst.



# Burning Brothers Brewery and taproom opens in Midway

*Gluten-free beer so popular company expanded in its first month*

At Burning Brothers, they don't use gluten-free filtering, gluten-free enzymes or any other gluten-free gimmicks. Instead they use naturally gluten-free ingredients to create great-tasting and unique beers, including sorghum, buckwheat and millet.

Foss and Breimhorst have known each other since they were 19 years old. "My head is in the clouds," remarked Breimhorst. "I come up with the ideas. He scales them down to reality."

## FROM THEIR BASEMENTS TO A WAREHOUSE

In July, Breimhorst became a full-time Burning Brothers employee, and Foss followed him in December (after having worked in operations at his former IT company for exactly 10 years and a day). The brewery moved from their garages and Breimhorst's basement in December to the warehouse in Midway. In the last month and a half, Foss and Breimhorst have taken one day off — Easter Sunday.

"It was a big slap-in-the-face difference," remarked Foss. Instead of making five gallons at a time, they're brewing 270 gallons, which means that the timing is completely different. "We can't brew the same way," he said.

"I've become an engineer, microbiologist, chemist and chef," noted Breimhorst.

They started with two 7-barrel fermenters and quickly added three more 15-barrel fermenters, expanding in month one, instead of month four when they had planned. "I wasn't surprised that we grew," noted Foss, "but I am surprised at how quickly."

When it's time to brew beer, the perfectionist in both Foss and Breimhorst comes out. "When I am brewing beer, I am brutal," Breimhorst admitted. "I am an absolute stickler. I demand my own standards because my name is on the beer." A lot of beer has been poured down the drain. It can't just be "good enough," added Foss. Before they'll release it, it has to be great.

They are currently on target to produce 150 barrels a month or



Nathan Steigman, Daniel Quick and Megan Quick raise a glass during their visit to Burning Brothers Brewery, the Midwest's only gluten-free brewery, at 1750 W. Thomas Ave. Megan Quick, who is gluten-free, said, "I love that they're pushing the boundaries of gluten-free beer." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

1,500 cases.

Despite the stigma regarding cans, its what Burning Brothers opted to use. "Beer is better out of cans 100%," said Breimhorst, who explained that a beer is fresher from a can than a bottle. Part of that is because it is not exposed to light, which degrades the beer. Burning Brothers also makes sure that no air touches the beer, pumping a bit of foam into the can as the last step in their bottling process to ensure there's no space for oxygen.

Their process is environmentally friendly. "I love fishing so I don't want to kill my fish," remarked Breimhorst. "We try to stay as environmentally safe as possible."

Why did they opt to locate in the Midway neighborhood? "We are St. Paulites," noted Breimhorst. "We live in St. Paul. This is where we want to work."

Foss, who lives near Lake Como, added that St. Paul has very good water, and considering that water makes up 95% of the beer, "it plays a tremendous role in how beer tastes." He noted, "We do very little to treat the water," pri-

marily removing the chlorine and fluoride that the city has added.

Both have appreciated how supportive the neighborhood has been.

"I honestly didn't know what to expect," said Foss. "I'm tickled we've gotten the exposure we've gotten, even just having one style of beer."

## VISIT THURSDAY TO SATURDAY

Right now, Burning Brothers beer is available only in Minnesota, but they hope to expand to surrounding states soon, and from there to Chicago and the west coast. They also have plans to partner with Minnesota growers to use barley. And they're eyeing up 30-barrel fermenters.

Breimhorst, who is always working on a new recipe, jokes that perhaps, in true-Minnesota style, he'll make a rhubarb lambic next.

Taproom hours are Thursday from 4-9pm, Friday from 4-9pm, and Saturday from noon-5pm. Learn more at [www.burnbrosbrew.com](http://www.burnbrosbrew.com).



Burning Brothers Brewery owners Thom Foss (left) and Dane Breimhorst chat with a tour group. Right now they only offer an American Pale Ale, but plan to introduce an IPA (India Pale Ale) in mid-May at the taproom. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

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Plants are in abundance at Highland Nursery, along with their collection of statuary, pots and other garden accessories. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

## Garden local

Continued from page 1

They don't do landscaping, but their **Leitner's Landscape Products Center** (across 7th St. at 630 Juno Ave.) has a huge selection of products for do-it-yourself-ers: bulk landscape rock, flagstone, pavers, gravel, soil, mulches, ready-mix concrete, and sod.

On shopping local, Joan said she loves going to her neighborhood store. "I hope everybody feels that way and gives neighborhood stores the first shot," she said.

### Hours:

Mon.-Fri., 8am-8pm; Sat., 8am-6pm; Sun., 9am-5pm  
www.leitnersstpaul.com

### Mother Earth Gardens, NE Mpls.

2318 NE Lowry Ave. (@ Stinson)

Opened last year, Mother Earth

Gardens is the second of two garden centers owned by Karen O'Connor and Paige Pelini, the other being in Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood. Their aim is to be an affordable urban boutique garden center with what O'Connor calls "a small footprint, huge selection." Their plants, nearly all of which are organic, are grown in Minnesota and Wisconsin and include annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables. They also offer hundreds of native varieties, including trees and shrubs.

Their main emphasis is organic gardening and sustainably-grown plants. They carefully vet all their products—no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides are used or sold, and they're committed to using compostable pots.

Bird baths, garden pots, and steel trellises are for sale, as well as locally-made art pieces for pot, garden, and home. They also carry bird feeders, birdseed, and feed and supplies for backyard chickens.

Mother Earth has a garden consultation business that ranges

# The Buzz About Bees

By JILL BOOGREN

By now you may have seen reports that a widely used class of pesticides thought to be bee friendly may actually be harming bees and other pollinators. Called neonicotinoids, or "neonics," these were hailed as a non-toxic alternative for growers, but might actually be contributing to Colony Collapse Disorder, a dying off of bees.

Neonics "can mess with bees' ability to find their way home," said Erin Rupp, partner at The Beez Kneez in Minneapolis. They can also affect reproduction, mobility, and bees' ability to find food. Beekeepers are losing 30-40% of their hives annually due to pesticides and other factors.

Bees may be tiny, but this is no small matter. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators pollinate about 75% of our flowers and crops, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lose the bees, and we lose our food.

As a precaution, the use of certain neonics has been banned in Europe, and now growers are struggling with what to do here in the United States.

"It's a really complicated issue, the entire horticultural in-



Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators pollinate about 75% of our flowers and crops. Beekeepers estimate they lose 30-40% of their hives annually due to pesticides and other factors. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

dustry is involved in it," said Karen O'Connor, co-owner of Mother Earth Gardens. The challenge lies in knowing when a treatment results in pollen that has neonics in it, which can vary depending on how and when it is applied. Neonics are systemic, or absorbed by the plant, but how long they remain toxic is unknown and likely differs from plant to plant.

You can be reasonably sure that organically-grown annuals, edibles and natives will be free of neonics and other pesticides. But where it gets complicated is with trees and shrubs, which take much longer to grow and are more likely to have been

treated with something along the way.

O'Connor empathizes with growers, because they thought they were doing the right thing.

"They tried to use a pesticide that's less toxic," she said. "Nobody wants to kill the bees. Everybody needs pollinators, especially the growers."

"We're in transition about it, everyone is," said Joan Westby, manager of Leitner's. "We can try to say we're neonic-free, but who can say that? We get plugs from the same people... No one can know that for sure, unless they're only growing what they sell, they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

from an hour's worth of garden coaching all the way to a full-scale plant list. They do very little installation (and only after the busy season) and no hardscaping.

They have a smart watering system on their lot: a 1200-gallon cistern in the ground allows them to use rainwater to water ornamentals, with overflow going into their rain garden.

### Hours:

Mon.-Wed., 9am-7pm; Thurs.-Fri., 9am-8pm; Sat., 9am-6pm; Sun., 10am-6pm  
www.motherearthgarden.com

### Hermes Floral

1639 Larpenteur Ave. W. (across the street from its old location)

Hermes is now cut flowers only. They also carry locally-made cards, jewelry and pottery.  
www.hermesfloral.com

### More Gardening Resources

In addition to gardening tools and supplies, ACE Hardware at Lexington and Roselawn carries a huge selection of soils, manures, and mulches, including many organics. Other ACE Hardware stores in the vicinity carry a selection as well.

100% local, the St. Paul Farmers Market has flowers, plants (many organic), and shrubs available. Check out the big weekend market in Lower-town or weekday markets at satellite locations on Summit Ave. and in Roseville.

Boasting 2,300 varieties of plants, the annual Friends School Plant Sale is held Mother's Day weekend at the State Fairgrounds.

## Happy Gardening!

**Ace Hardware**  
www.acehardware.com

**ACE Suburban Hardware**  
1930 Lexington Ave. N., Roseville  
Mon.-Fri. 8am-8pm,  
Sat. 8am-6pm, Sun. 10am-6pm

**Kendall's ACE Hardware & Paint**  
978 Dale St. N.  
Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-8pm,  
Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 9am-5pm

**St. Paul Farmers Markets**  
www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com

**Lowertown**  
290 E. 5th St.  
Sat. 6am-1pm, Sun. 8am-1pm

**St. Thomas More Church**  
1079 Summit Ave.  
Fri. 1:15-5pm

**Church of Corpus Christi**  
2131 Fairview Ave. N., Roseville  
Tues. 8am-noon

**Friends School Plant Sale**  
www.friendsschoolplantsale.com  
State Fairgrounds  
Fri. May 9 9am-8pm;  
Sat. May 10 10am-6pm;  
Sun. May 11 10am-2pm



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# You don't need to be big to make big impact

Local 2nd grader receives grant to fight childhood hunger on Global Youth Service Day 2014

Johan Rafael (Rafa) Bastida-Rickmyer, a 2nd grader from Great River School (1326 Energy Park Dr.), was awarded a Sodexo Foundation Youth Grant through Youth Service America. The grant supported Bastida-Rickmyer's efforts in leading a community service project on Global Youth Service Day 2014 that addressed the issues of childhood hunger. Great River is an urban Montessori serving children in 1st - 12th grade.

Rafa's classroom (28 students from 1-3rd grade) spent the two weeks in April presenting



28 students in grades 1-3 from Great River School donated over 600 pounds of food to the Merrick Community Services Food Shelf. They collected, packed and delivered the food to observe Global Youth Service Day 2014.

to the upper classes the statistics on childhood hunger and how this community could help do something about it. Their hard work culminated with a field trip to Merrick Community Services in Maplewood where they were able to deliver the food, weight, sort and present to the clients of Merrick extra food for the week.

Merrick Community Services serves over 150 families a week. The children engaged the smaller children waiting with their parents to help distribute the groceries. Rafa is not new to this work. This is his second year winning the grant. Last year they delivered over 400 pounds to this community.

Courtney Roessler, the administrator of the food shelf, said, "We were so pleased with how willing these children were to just dig in and do whatever job it was they were asked to do." With their increased advertising and decorated custom t-shirts, they were able to donate over 600 pounds of food this year. The bags streamed on and took a good chunk of time loading onto the bus and into the shelter. Not even the rain could dampen the lightened spirits of both the children and the recipients.

"As communities are challenged by the reduction in public resources, it makes our vision of a hunger-free America more difficult to attain," said Robert A. Stern, chair, Sodexo Foundation. "Each Sodexo Foundation Youth



First to third grade students at Great River School, 1326 Energy Park Dr., gather for a group photo during the Global Youth Service Day Event. Second grader Johan Rafael (Rafa) Bastida-Rickmyer applied for and received a grant through Youth Service America for the second year in a row to address the issues of childhood hunger.

Grantee is doing their part to tackle an issue that directly affects one in five of their peers. It will be through their actions and ingenuity that we will one day see an end to childhood hunger in America."

All in all it was a great event. The children worked up an appetite and their hunger created a perfect opportunity for a learning moment filled with compassion and empathy. "Your hunger is easily solved with the lunch you brought today. These people live

with hunger more often than they should. And this works helps ease that pain," said main teacher Erik Akre and aide Jenny Thompson. The children were accompanied by their teachers and volunteers from the community.

YSA (Youth Service America) improves communities by increasing the number and diversity of young people, ages 5 to 25, serving in substantive roles. Through campaigns, grant programs, resource development and training opportunities, YSA promotes a

global culture of engaged youth committed to a lifetime of service, learning, leadership and achievement. As a campaign of YSA and the largest service event in the world, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through service, and is held in more than 135 countries on six continents. For more information on YSA, visit [www.YSA.org](http://www.YSA.org) and [www.GYSD.org](http://www.GYSD.org).

## The buzz about bees

Continued from page 8

stopped doing it years ago, and didn't buy any plugs or seeds from someone else."

None of the garden centers featured in "Go Green, Garden Local," pg. 1, use neonics themselves. All are aware of the problem and are talking to their growers. For their part, Mother Earth Gardens has transferred a large portion of their tree and shrub order, as well as all of their plants that are bee-pollinated, to a grower who made a commitment to stop using neonics. The Friends School Plant Sale, according to its brochure, has dropped some plants and switched suppliers to become as close to neonic free as possible.

So what can you, the home gardener, do?

Ask your garden centers if they or their growers pre-treat plants or soils with neonics. Eliminate pesticide use. Sue Hustings, president of Highland Nursery, suggests shooting water, pruning, and even using a shop vac can help rid pests without using chemicals.

Plant more flowers (and a greater variety of flowers), and plant untreated seeds. And when planting, keep the wild critters in mind.

"You absolutely cannot go wrong by planting native species," O'Connor said. A quick lookup found the bur oak, for example, to be home to 534 butterfly and moth species. "If it has insects, then it has birds, then it has mammals."

What's good for the bees (and the butterflies and the hummingbirds) is good for us all.

[www.healthybeeshealthyhomes.com](http://www.healthybeeshealthyhomes.com)

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# “Imagine One Million Monarchs in the Midway”

Hamline Midway Library dedicates month of May to imperiled insect

By KYLE MIANULLI

The monarch butterfly is one of North America’s most beloved insects. It’s distinct orange and black flitting wings are a recognized symbol of summer throughout the upper United States. Spotting one this year might be significantly more difficult than last year, though, as it was the year before, and the year before that. Monarch butterflies are disappearing at an alarming rate, leading many in the Midway area to take action, including the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

Following the lead of neighbors who have taken to planting milkweed—the most vital plant to monarch reproduction—and other conservation efforts, the library

is dedicating the entire month of May to the imperiled monarch.

Dubbed “Imagine One Million Monarchs in the Midway” the library is rolling out a slate of programming and activities geared toward raising awareness and spurring local action.

Over the last two decades, the monarch populations of North America have been dwindling. Every year monarchs from all over Canada and the United States migrate thousands of miles to wait out the colder months at various overwintering sites in Mexico’s forests.

Last year alone, researchers with the World Wildlife Federation (WWF) found a 59 percent decrease in the area of forest typi-



Last year alone, researchers with the World Wildlife Federation found a 59 percent decrease in the area of forest typically occupied by the monarch butterfly during the winter months—indicating the numbers of the iconic insect has hit a 20-year low. (Photo by Kyle Mianulli)

cally occupied by the migratory insect during the winter months—indicating the number of monarchs has hit a 20-year low.

The WWF identifies a range of

probable causes for the monarch’s disappearance, including habitat loss due to deforestation and widespread pesticide use, as well as climate change and the loss of milkweed plants, which are their primary food source.

While the driving factors might be global in nature, there is a lot that can be done in your own backyard to begin to address the issue, as many area residents have already shown.

“These are desperate times,” says Hamline Midway resident Erin Pavlica. She keeps a large crop of common milkweed in her plot at the Midway Green Spirit Community Garden. “A whole generation of monarchs were lost in the migration process last year.”

Pavlica says she generally brings the caterpillars hatched on her milkweed home for her kids to raise and nurture as they transform into healthy monarch butterflies. Last year wasn’t a fruitful one for her milkweed plants, though.

“Sadly, I did not get a single egg laid last year,” she says.

Another Hamline Midway resident, Stephen Mitrione, has seen a similar decline in monarchs at his lush rain garden in front of his home on Hubbard Ave. He keeps a large crop of milkweed

and other native plants attractive to monarchs and other pollinating insects.

“It’s interesting, there’s been a lot fewer these last couple years,” he says. “I think that has a lot to do with the habitat destruction that’s been going on.”

Monarchs are just one piece of the puzzle. Insects that pollinate a large range of edible fruits, vegetables and plants vital to our food supply and ecosystem are suffering from the same loss of habitat as the monarchs.

Organizers at the Midway Green Spirit Community Garden have already taken measures to provide habitat for pollinators. Pavlica, who heads an orchard team at the garden, says they are discussing adding more milkweed and other pollinator-attracting native perennials into the orchard this year.

The garden has its own colony of pollinator insects, as well. They may not be as endearing as the monarch, but the two hives of bees on site are no less important to the health and productivity of the garden.

“Theoretically the output increases by about 30 percent with reliable pollinators,” Mitrione said.

The integral nature of pollinators, and more specifically, monarchs in our food and bio-systems will be on full display at the Hamline Midway Library throughout the month of May. Anyone interested in learning more about the valuable role of monarchs and their precarious position in today’s world will find an array of helpful resources, activities and events there.

The library has expanded their collection of books on the subject, and will have new books on display daily. “We are hardly able to keep the bookshelf stocked,” says library Branch Manager Mark Kile.

The collection includes both fiction and nonfiction books for all ages, and cover every topic of monarch butterflies and other pollinators, from gardening to biology, picture books and more.

An art display will also feature butterfly paper cuts from local artist Andrea Martin. The



## At the library

display includes several different butterfly species, which will not be labeled. Instead, visitors will be encouraged to flip through one of the butterfly field guides on hand to identify each of the colorful winged creatures.

There will also be a display from Kathryn Malody of Hamline University featuring monarchs and viceroys—another butterfly that looks similar to the monarch but is poisonous to potential predators.

On Sat., May 10, 1:30-3pm,

the Saturday Club will feature a monarch butterfly-themed craft for school-aged children.

On Wed., May 21, from 5-7:45pm the library will host a community seed swap followed by a screening of the PBS/Nova documentary, “The Incredible Journey of the Butterflies.” Gardening expert Mary Hedenstrom will lead a discussion on how gardeners can help protect the fragile monarch butterfly population following the movie.

Sarah Weaver, of the University of Minnesota Monarch Lab will also present a hands-on workshop on the best way to raise monarch butterflies Sat., May 31, 1:30-3:30pm. Volunteers and participants will also plant milkweed and other native species of pollinator plants in the demonstration garden during that time. Ramsey County Master Gardeners Diane Dodge and Mary Hedenstrom will be on hand to orchestrate the planting and provide insight and information.

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# Volunteers are crucial to Hamline Midway Elders programs

*Never a lack of ways to volunteer, from teaching, driving, to baking, or just paying a visit to someone alone*

By JAN WILLMS

Hamline resident Joni O'Connell calls volunteering a double payback. Those being assisted receive services, but the volunteer is also rewarded and gets a lot out of the process.

O'Connell knows of what she speaks, having volunteered as an exercise teacher for the past seven years for the Hamline Midway Elders, an organization that has been providing volunteer and professional assistance to enable elders to remain in their homes with independence, dignity and choice since 2001.

"My husband Gerry broke his foot, and we heard about this exercise group at Hamline Midway Elders," O'Connell said. They joined the group, and after about a year the instructor was leaving for another job.

"They asked if I could get certified and teach, so I did," O'Connell recalled. She received her certification at the Arthritis Foundation.

"People are so appreciative, and the feedback is great," she said. She teaches classes in strength and endurance twice a week in the basement of the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave., where Hamline Midway Elders has space.

"We don't do aerobics or go down on the floor," she explained. "It would be hard for a lot of us to get up off the floor," she added with a chuckle.

O'Connell said her class usually has about three men and about 12 women participate, some using canes or walkers.

"Hamline Midway Elders does so much for people," O'Connell said, adding that she feels so lucky to be able to help. "I am 22 years beyond my expiration date for ovarian cancer," she added. With only a 4 per cent chance for survival, she was diagnosed while planning a tour to Ireland. She conducted tours as a hobby while managing an office full-time. She said she told her doctor "I don't have time for this. Let's go." She started treatment and never looked back.

Some of the more than 150 volunteers, who provided over 2,500 hours of service in 2013, who support neighborhood seniors come from beyond the Hamline area.

Kathy Lilly lives outside the neighborhood, but joined a friend to wrap books at Borders to help



Joni O'Connell leads a weekly exercise group for seniors in the basement of Hamline Church United Methodist, where the Hamline Midway elders program has space. (Photo by Jan Willms)

raise funds for the Hamline Midway Elders. When Borders closed, she started driving seniors to medical appointments. Then she had the idea to bring a little more sweetness to their lives.

She started baking cookies and banana bread, and now makes a cookie delivery every week to the Hamline Hi-Rise at 777 Hamline Ave. N. "Gingersnaps, oatmeal cookies and banana bread are the favorites," she said.

Up at 5 every morning to walk her dogs, Lilly bakes on Sundays for the seniors, but also for some of the shops near where she lives.

Lilly said she perceives two different senior communities in the Hamline-Midway area.

"There are people who have lived in their homes in the neighborhood and are now surrounded by people they don't know," she said. "They're fond of their homes, but they feel very isolated."

Lilly said she has found that in the Hi-Rise, many residents living there are not from the Hamline area and have no affiliation to the Midway. "But they get to know each other and develop their own community in the Hi-Rise," she said.

There is never a lack of ways to volunteer. Lillie said people residing in their homes often need help with shoveling or lawn mowing, installing air conditioners or repairing old doorbells. Those in the Hi-Rise need help with rides to the doctor and to the grocery store.

Assisting Kathy with distribut-

ing cookies as well as making errand runs is Mike McCarthy, a Vietnam vet who has lived in the Hi-Rise for the past 17 years.

"I had some health problems related to the war," McCarthy said, "and I'm confined to a wheelchair. But I like going down to the Midway, and I'm happy to get something for the residents when they need it. Some like candy and chocolates, and a few have to have their cigarettes. They say it's the only pleasure they have left."

McCarthy said when Kathy comes with the cookies, "They're almost on top of me. Everyone wants cookies."

But as well as sharing cookies, one group at the Hi-Rise also keeps in good shape by walking every day of the week except Sunday. Jerline Clark is the treasurer and spokesperson for Proud Hamline Walkers, a group of women (with a few men partici-

pating), who walk about a mile each day. During the winter, or if the weather is bad, the group walks inside. Otherwise, they walk around the park.

"We go at 8am every day," Clark said. Originally from Chicago, Clark used to live on the east side of St. Paul. But now she is getting to know the Hamline-Midway neighborhood.

"In the summer it's great, because people have gardens," she noted. She said the walking group is also thinking of getting a garden plot at the community garden at Pierce Butler and Hamline.

"I was born on a farm, and I like fresh vegetables," she commented. Clark said she goes out early every day and gets one mile walked on her own before starting with the group.

For Kathy Carlson, the Hamline Midway Elders program was there for her parents before she

became a volunteer and board member of the group.

"They moved here from Illinois and didn't know anyone," Carlson said. "My mom looked forward to the monthly luncheons, and someone would stay with my dad while we took her to doctor appointments."

Carlson said the Hamline Midway Elders can always use more volunteers. "We need more, even if to cover when other volunteers go on vacation or are ill or have surgery," she said.

The organization operates with just two part-time staffers. Tom Fitzpatrick is the program director and Monica Gallagher is service and volunteer director.

Fitzpatrick said the budget for Hamline Midway Elders for 2014 is \$81,429. "We expect to raise that amount through a combination of government support, grants from foundations and contributions from neighborhood individuals and businesses," he said.

Gallagher said a wide variety of services are offered to assist Hamline-Midway seniors in living a healthy lifestyle in their own homes, including homemaking, shopping, rides, and access to Medicare-certified homecare. There is a monthly caregiver support group, a monthly lunch and education session and exercise groups.

"When we were founded in 2001, two of the greatest areas of volunteer service were volunteer and/or affordable chores and affordable, flexible door-to-door rides," Gallagher said. "We continue to provide these services but still have more demand than supply," she added, saying drivers and seasonal chore help are greatly needed.

## Upcoming **summer events** at Hamline University

**MAY 23-24**

### Commencement

Commencement ceremonies and other activities will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 23, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 24. We ask for your patience as we welcome friends and families of our graduates to the neighborhood.

Information: [hamline.edu/commencement](http://hamline.edu/commencement)

**JUNE 23-27**

### Minnesota Private College Week

Attend an open house, go on a tour, and learn more about Hamline during this week for prospective undergraduate students and their parents.

Information: 651-523-2207

**AUGUST 21 TO SEPTEMBER 1**

### Hamline at the Minnesota State Fair

Visit the Hamline University booth at the Education Building while you're at the Great Minnesota Get-Together this summer. Don't forget to stop by and see us at the Eco Experience Building also!



(L to R) Hamline Hi-Rise residents Sven Olness and Mary Murphy are joined by resident and volunteer Mike McCarthy on a day when volunteer Kathy Lilly delivers her baked goods. "Gingersnaps, oatmeal cookies, and banana bread are the favorites," she said. (Photo by Jan Willms)

# In Our Community

## Monitor

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for both the newspaper as well as the Monitor Facebook page (facebook.com/monitorsaintpaul). You can also go to our website, MonitorSaintPaul.com and enter the information in the online Event Calendar.

### Police open house scheduled May 13

The St Paul Police Department's Western District will be hosting a community open house, in honor of National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, on Tues., May 13 from 2-7pm at the Western District Headquarters, 389 Hamline Ave. N. All are welcome to tour the headquarters building, meet the patrol officers and staff, meet members of the Mounted Patrol, K-9 and SWAT units, and learn crime prevention strategies. The event is free, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 651-266-5512.

### Rummage sale set at Jehovah Lutheran

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas at Snelling, will host a rummage sale Fri.-Sat., May 9-10, on the main floor of the church's education wing. Hours will be 8am-6pm Friday and 8am-4pm on Saturday.

### Dance performance runs May 15-17

Hamline Dance Ensemble's "Outside/Other Than" opens on Thur., May 15 and runs May 16 and 17, at 7:30pm in Hamline University's Anne Simley Theatre.

Hamline Dance Ensemble's "Outside/Other Than" is a collage of new and slightly used work by students and noted Twin Cities' choreographers including Yung-Tsi Bolon, Judith James Ries, and Gabriel Anderson. Under the artistic direction of Kaori Kenmotsu, this concert investigates the definition and perceptions of Otherness and plays with the transitory space between belonging and not-belonging.

The Ensemble presents visually arresting and conceptually complex works through the styles of Flamenco, Jazz, and Modern Dance. In addition, "Outside/Other Than" features the capstone project of Nathan Gebhard, which explores the dilution of our voice via the Internet. This collection of pieces truly embodies the Ensemble's mission of being a laboratory for movement exploration and risk taking.

Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults and \$5 for outside students and seniors. Advance reservations are recommended and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

### Donate a bike, employ a teen!

Keystone Community Services is holding a bike drive, in honor of

### Volunteers ready for carousel's 100th B-day



Ken and Mary Clausen and Vicki Tobin, Monitor area residents who volunteer at Cafesjian's Carousel in Como Park, recently helped clean and polish the carousel to get it ready for its 100th birthday season. The carousel opened May 1 and operates Tuesday through Sunday each week. The carousel was at the Minnesota State Fair from 1914 through 1989, when it was scheduled to be broken up and sold at auction. Members of the community rescued it, and volunteers now operate it, selling and taking tickets, selling merchandise, and monitoring riders' safety. A large 100th Birthday Party is scheduled for Sat., Aug. 9, and smaller activities will occur each week. For hours, to volunteer, or for other information, contact 651-489-4628 or director@ourfair-carousel.org, or see www.ourfaircarousel.org.

May as MN Bike Month, on Sat., May 10 from 1pm-3pm at Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. Any bike, in any condition, is accepted. Ice cream provided!

"It's pretty simple," says Randy Treichel, Enterprise Director at Youth Express, when describing the need for donated materials. We're able to convert the donated bikes into a resale product that brings in revenue, while at the same time supporting the apprentice program - helping develop the entrepreneurial, work, and leadership potential of young people in the East Metro." Treichel estimates that the bike shop needs to take in about 2,000 bikes each year to fuel the operation. "That's a lot of bikes," he smiles, "and we are hoping the community will respond by donating to our Bike Drive on May 10. Reaching our goal of 500 donated bikes that day would provide support for 20 youth apprenticeships this summer."

### Native Plant Expo slated for June 7

Mark your calendars and come out to learn about, and purchase, native plants at the "Landscape Revival, Native Plant Expo and Market," Sat., June 7, 9am-3pm at Rainbow Foods Community Pavilion, Corner of Larpenteur and Fernwood in Roseville.

Landscape Revival Native Plant Expo and Market offers gardeners one convenient spot to shop for Minnesota native plants from 12 different growers and to learn more about native plants from local conservation organizations. Gardeners use native plants for their beauty as well as their benefits to pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds.

### Sports registrations open at NW Como Rec

Northwest Como Recreation Center, 1550 Hamline Ave. N., announces that registration is now open (until spaces are filled) for pre-tball (ages 3-4), t-ball (ages 5-6), nearball (ages 7-8), machine pitch baseball (ages 7-8), softball ages 11-12, and Lacrosse for ages 6-9.

They are also taking registrations for summer camps and classes, including:

- Computer camps Minecrafting, grades 2-6
- Computer camp: Star Wars Battle-Droids, grades 4-8
- Got Goo Art Class, ages 4-9
- Hip Hop for Boys, ages 8-12
- Tween Jazz/Ballet/Hip Hop, ages 11-14
- Tae Kwon Do, ages 6 & older
- Artist Workshop, ages 5 & older
- Ladies Night Out Art Class for adults
- You Are The Actor, ages 5-12
- Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Badminton, Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Football, Snag Golf, Rugby American Flag Sport Camps
- Archery Camp, grades 3-12 completed
- Yoga Classes, ages 3-12
- Tumbling Classes, ages 3-10
- Mini Hawk Camp, ages 4-7
- Clay Making Class, ages 8-14

Northwest Como Rec Center also hopes that you note on your calendar the Second Annual Family Overnight Camp Out for Fri., July 11. This event is for families (parents present at all times). Families must provide their own tent and camping gear. Jump Castle and Climbing Tower begin at 6pm with tent set up by 8pm and outdoor movie beginning at 9pm ending in a bonfire before bed. Preregistration is required, and cost is \$30.

To register go to [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks). For questions or to register by phone with a credit card call 651-298-5813.

### Keystone sponsors "wills and estates"

Shaun Gaustad, from Top Line Federal Credit Union, will provide the most current information on wills and estates to a meeting sponsored by the Keystone Senior Program on Wed., June 11, 11am-noon. Bring your questions for Gaustad to answer. Call to register for this presentation (651-645-7424) which will be held at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

### Zion Lutheran plans rummage sale May 30

There will be a rummage sale at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., on Fri., May 30, 9am-6pm and on Sat., May 31, 9am-5pm. If you have items to donate, please call the church at 651-645-0851.

### Oratorio Society plans local concert

The Oratorio Society of Minnesota will perform "Let My People Go! A Spiritual Journey Along the Underground Railroad" at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave., on Sat., May 10, 7:30pm. The Oratorio Society of Minnesota is an auditioned 80-voice choral ensemble based in the Twin Cities.

Celebrating two of America's most venerable cultural treasures—the African-American spiritual and the Underground Railroad, the oratorio "Let My People Go!" explores the ingenuity of America's slaves, who cleverly created code songs by burying hidden or "coded" messages within much of their music, messages that not only inspired fellow slaves to escape but also instructed them in when, where and how to use the Underground Railroad in their freedom flight.

This is the Twin Cities premiere of this concert length oratorio by composer Donald McCullough that interweaves spirituals into an historically-based script.

Tickets are \$30 for preferred seating, \$20 for general admission and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at <http://oratorio.org> or by calling 866-811-4111.

### Chelsea Carnival scheduled May 16

Chelsea Heights Elementary will be hosting their annual Spring Carnival on Fri., May 16, from 5-8pm, rain, sun, or snow! Pre sale tickets are available through

Chelsea Heights Elementary. New ticket price this year will be 50 cents per ticket. There will be games (with prizes!), food trucks, raffles, bouncy houses, climbing wall and other activities. They have added new free activities this year including preschool stations, craft table, and an obstacle course. All proceeds will help support student activities such as Destination Imagination, field trips, 5th grade ski trip, playground maintenance and classroom supplies. Be sure to bring your friends, family, and neighbors!

### Le Leche group meets on May 13

The Advantages of Breastfeeding is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche group on Tues., May 13. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information as to time and place.

### Spring Carnival scheduled May 30

Como Park Elementary School, 780 W. Wheelock Pkwy., will be hosting its annual Spring Carnival on Fri., May 30 from 5-7:30pm. The carnival is a fundraiser event that assists with revitalizing the school playground, supports the literacy program and provides funds for field trip activities.

This year there will be two new activities at the carnival: the Raptor Center and Como Zoo will be participating by sharing birds and animals with our guests. The Como Planetarium will again be offering free shows during the evening (get your free tickets early and there is limited seating available). We have over 15 carnival games, three large bouncers, Snack Walk, Scholastic Book Fair, Basket Raffle, Bingo, a Silent Auction, and our usual activities of Pop Ring Toss, the Dunk Tank, Crazy Hair and Face Painting.

The St. Paul Mounted Police will be visiting with their horses and the St. Paul Canine Unit will be doing a demonstration as well.

Food is available for purchase and best of all, the popcorn is free!

### In Defense of Crows talk set May 22

Popular St. Paul Audubon birder and author, Clay Christensen, will present his humorous talk, "In Defense of Crows" and answer your spring birding questions at Roseville Public Library on Thursday, May 22 at 7pm. Suitable for adults and children. His recent book, "The Birdman of Lauderdale" will be available for purchase.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# In Our Community

Continued from page 12

## Tech Dump set for May 10

Hamline Church United Methodist and Tech Dump will co-host a Tech Dump on Sat., May 10, 9am-1pm at the church parking lot on Minnehaha Ave. between Simpson and Asbury. The event is a great way to get rid of electronic waste (no appliances this year) and it also raises funds for the church as free will donations are accepted. Tax receipts are available.

There are charges for some items due to the materials they contain. For example, charges are \$15 for TVs and monitors with CVTs of less than 30 inches in size, \$25 for TVs and monitors larger than 30 inches, \$35 for console TVs and \$45 for rear projection TVs.

Items that can be disposed of for free include game consoles, cell phones and PDAs, LED and LCD flat panel monitors and TVs, cords, cables, mice, switches, routers, hubs, CPUs, memory and disk drives, laptops and desktop computers, satellite, cable and TiVo receivers, peripheral cards and hardware, and anything else with a battery or cord.

For questions call tech Dump at 763-432-3117, ext. 1.

## Hamline library schedules events

Throughout May, the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., is featuring the theme "Imagine One Million

Monarchs in the Midway" (see story on page 10). A variety of events will highlight ways community members can help protect and preserve monarch butterflies, in addition to the library's usual range of activities.

The library is hosting many more programs for all ages in May and early June.

Fridays through June 6, 10:30-11am, the library features Toddler and Pre-School Storytime, with stories, finger plays, and songs.

On Sat., May 10, 2:30-3:30pm, acclaimed young-adult fiction writer Carrie Mesrobian teaches a workshop for teens on writing about difficult, controversial topics. In this class, teen writers can explore how to tackle difficult subjects close to their hearts and spin them into realistic, complex fiction.

On Sat., May 17, 1-2 pm, dancer Sarah Weaver will teach the workshop Irish Dance for Teens as part of the Creative Movement series. No experience necessary—come learn reels, jigs, and traditional circle dances with other teens.

Also on Sat., May 17, 1:30-3pm, the library hosts Paw Pals. Toby and Marsha are a dog and human team trained to encourage young readers 6-12. To reserve a 15-minute reading time slot, please call the library at 651-642-0293 or register in person.

All St. Paul Library branches will be closed on May 24, 25, and 26 in honor of Memorial Day.

On Wed., May 28, 7-8pm, Tricia Cornell will present from "The Minnesota Farmers Market Cookbook," featuring recipes and tips just in time for farmers market season.

Sat., June 7, 1-3pm, mystery book lovers can join the Saints and Sinners Book Club for a discussion of good mysteries. Contact Geraldine Balter at gerrib13@q.com or 651-

224-5570 for the latest titles under discussion.

## Hamline Elders sponsor events

Hamline Midway Elders are sponsoring numerous activities throughout the area. Events are at Hamline Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. unless otherwise noted. For more information on any of these events contact Monica at monica@hmelers.org or 651-209-6542 for more information.

Volunteers are needed to help neighborhood seniors with spring raking, driving to/from medical appointments and shopping trips, and a variety of other tasks. Volunteers can be individuals (ages 16+) and/or groups.

A new 4 week series of Chair Yoga for seniors led by Nancy Giguere begins on Thur., May 29 from 10-11am. Sessions are offered at no cost and this class focuses on range of movement, alignment, stretching, strengthening, awareness, breathing and relaxation. All movement is done while seated or standing using the chair for balance. Contact 651-209-6542 to register or for more information.

The Caregivers Support Group meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8pm. This group is designed for caregivers to find support and exchange information, and is facilitated by Hamline Midway Elders staff and trained volunteers. There is no cost to participate, and the group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs. Refreshments are provided.

"Riding the New Light Rail" will be the topic for the Tues., May 13 luncheon at 11:30am. Doug Cook from Metro Transit will share information about the light rail slated to begin service in June. Free blood pressure checks are provided, and free transportation can be provided to seniors in the Hamline Midway neighborhood by contacting Hamline Midway Elders.

"Writing Minnesota Mysteries" will be the topic for the Tues., June 10 luncheon at 11:30am. William Kent Krueger, local best-selling author, will discuss the 13 books he's written in the popular Cork O'Connor series. Free blood pressure checks are provided, and free transportation can be provided to seniors in the Hamline Midway neighborhood.

## Family support group meets

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in St. Paul from 6:30-8:30pm at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., Room 123, on the fourth Tuesday of the month (May 27). For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524 or 651-645-2948.

## Hmong Academy plans carnival/sale

Hmong College Prep Academy, 1515 Brewster St., will be hosting their annual carnival on Fri., May 16 from 5-7:30pm. The public is invited to stop by to play games, win prizes, and eat some traditional Hmong food.

In addition to the carnival, the 2nd annual community garage sale will also be happening at the same time. There will be a variety of vendors selling their items. If you are interested in selling your items at the sale, please contact Nicholas Hooper at nhooper@hmongacademy.org.

## YMCA Garage Sale set at fairgrounds

The YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord Spring Garage Sale will be held May 14-17, at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart. Free admission to the event that is open 9am-7:30pm, Wednesday to Friday with the Saturday Bag Sale from 9am-4pm. More than 250 families contribute good quality camping equipment, clothing, household items, toys, books, antiques, furniture, sports equipment, etc. All proceeds go to the YMCA camps. For more information, call 651-614-6605.

## Free summer SAQ training scheduled

This summer, from June 16-July

25, The JK Movement is hosting the 2nd Annual Speed, Agility, and Quickness Training Camp at Jimmy Lee Recreation Center (270 Lexington Pkwy N.). 1st-8th graders will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-3:30pm, and 9th-12th graders will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-3:30pm.

The program is suitable for all athletes, in all sports and will include:

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- starting techniques for sprinters.

Contact Johnny Allen Jr. at 612-275-0804 or by email at Johnny@thejkmovement.com for further information on registering.

## Midway Lions plan Fun Day Sunday

The St. Paul Midway Lions are having a "Fun Day Sunday" on May 18, 1-5 p.m. at Magillycuddys, 2016 1st Ave., in Anoka. Call the Event Coordinator, Lion Dottie Norgard, for tickets and bus information from the Midway area at 651-587-6864. The \$25 ticket includes a spaghetti dinner, a raffle for \$1,600 in cash prizes, other prizes, and 5 bingo games for prizes.

Visit the Monitor Event Calendar online at:  
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## Local women in Diva Gala May 9-10



Midway residents Phyllis Beatty, Laura Chesnut, Chris Kwong, Carolyn Marty, Karen Olson, Ronna Puck, Joan Raymond, and Barb Vallecillo will perform with The Twin Cities Women's Choir (TCWC) at the choir's annual Divas and Desserts Gala on May 9 and 10. This year's gala theme is "Minnesota! Nice!" featuring musical stories about growing up and living in Minnesota, and what we treasure most about calling this state home. The gala features music, desserts, live and silent auction.

In keeping with TCWC's mission of supporting new choral music by and for women, the choir will premiere two new works written specifically for this concert. The debut of "Bdote" ("where two waters come together"), a piece by well-known Minnesota composer Janika Vanderveelde and supported by donations to a project funded through GiveMN. Also, the debut of "Funkytown Remix," a piece sponsored by the Carol Rue Commission Fund and composed by TCWC's assistant director, Randi Grundahl Rexroth.

On both nights, the silent auction starts at 6:30pm and doors open at 7pm for seating for the 7:30 performance and live auction. The gala will be held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave. S., Minneapolis. Pre-sale admission for adults is \$25 and for seniors and students is \$22. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$30. Order tickets at [www.TwinCitiesWomensChoir.org](http://www.TwinCitiesWomensChoir.org) or 612-333-8292.

# Monitor in a minute

Continued from page 3

2005. The leasing of spaces began many years before that. Councilman was able to prove that leasing began in 1994. The property is being refinanced, so either a zoning change or use

permit are needed.

Neighboring property owners signed a consent petition for the permit.

A Planning Commission decision is final unless it is appealed the St. Paul City Council in 10 days.

## Como Golf Course

Full on-sale liquor licenses will be added at all three St. Paul municipi-

pal golf courses, including Como. The St. Paul City Council approved liquor licenses and patio liquor service at Como, Phalen and Highland National Apr. 16. Class B entertainment licenses were also approved for all three.

Liquor licenses typically require a 45-day waiting and public comment period. Como Community Council recommended waiving that waiting period, in support of the license. The city noti-

fied residential neighbors all around all three golf courses and didn't hear objections to the liquor licenses.

Any outdoor events that could potentially impact neighbors will also trigger another round of public notices.

At Como and Phalen the licenses can be used by course manager Prom Management. Prom took over those two courses earlier this year. Prom is planning

to offer golfers expanded dining options, so the liquor service will be a complement to that.

All of the golf courses have offered beer and wine to clubhouse visitors in the past. The city can add on-sale liquor licenses at its facilities thanks to a state law that doesn't count those licenses in the per-ward license cap in place.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before June 2 for the June 12 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Want ads must be in the Monitor before June 2 for the June 12 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

## AIR CONDITIONERS

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## ANTIQUES

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## ATTORNEY

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## BATHROOMS

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# Zoo Mom: The Life of Arlene Scheunemann

Can you imagine taking a gorilla on a road trip? Or sharing your dinner table with a growing orangutan? Or walking a lion cub on a leash? The late Arlene Scheunemann did it all in her early years as a Como Zoo docent, responsible for the care and feeding of hundreds of zoo babies at her own home in the 1960s and 1970s, before Como had the facilities to care for infant animals. Scheunemann's "wild" family life, raising teenagers and primates in the same house, is the subject of "Zoo Mom: The Life of Arlene Scheunemann," a new biography that will be released on May 8.

Arlene Scheunemann was the beloved "Zoo Mom" of Como Zoo. It began one significant day in 1968, when a small lion cub named Janice came to stay in the Scheunemann home. Spanning 45 years, Arlene was mother to four human children

and foster mom to over 200 wild animals. She was a tireless advocate for improving the lives and safety of animals, procuring funding for zoo improvements, and promoting sustainability on the campus of the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

Arlene was on the ground floor of establishing the Docent program to promote awareness of Como Zoo and helped establish foster-care standards for the animals she would come to care for—including Bruno, an orangutan who loved tipping over the dining room chairs; Turkey, a parrot who put Arlene in a potentially precarious situation; José, a jaguar who accompanied the family on vacations; and, Tamoo, a lowland gorilla who taught herself to open the refrigerator and retrieve her favorite, strawberry yogurt.

Sometimes referred to as a "velvet hammer," Arlene's pa-

ience, perseverance, tenacity, and never-ending dedication ensured survival for many of the animals she cared for and helped make Como Zoo what it is today.

Scheunemann was a board member of Como Friends and was also vital to the 2013 addition of Gorilla Forest to the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. She was a strong advocate of Como's shift toward operant conditioning training, a progressive approach to animal care that keeps animals from becoming bored, and encourages them to participate in their own health care.

You can get your copy of "Zoo Mom: The Life of Arlene Scheunemann," by calling Garden Safari Gifts at 651-487-8222. Proceeds from the book will be donated to Como Friends, the non-profit partner of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.



Arlene Scheunemann was sometimes referred to as a "velvet hammer." Her patience, perseverance, tenacity, and never-ending dedication ensured survival for many of the animals she cared for and helped make Como Zoo what it is today. The book about her was published this month.

## Noise variance denied in Como Park - glimpse of city policy shift?

By JANE MCCLURE

The Twin Cities' 2014 March for Babies was a little quieter than planned – and not because any babies were napping. Event organizers were denied one of two sound level variance or noise permits for the Apr. 26 event, at the behest of neighbors and the Como Community Council.

The denial may be a sign of things to come, as a balance is sought between a growing number of walks, runs, races and other events, and neighborhood complaints about noise, traffic, litter and disruption. The paths around Como Lake are just one of the places where a popular venue is bringing community pushback.

The city hosts thousands of events each year, said Jake Spano, St. Paul's director of marketing. The city's Department of Parks and Recreation alone permits more than 2,000 events annually in city parks.

But a growing chorus of complaints from residents has put pressure on city officials to make changes. The economic benefit of events that bring visitors to restaurants, retail districts and hotels has to be weighed against the inconvenience created in neighborhoods when streets are blocked and music is blaring. St. Paul City Council members are looking at ways to better regulate events, so ordinance and policy changes are likely in the near future.

The March for Babies, an event that raises money for the March of Dimes, wanted two variances, one in a field area and the other near homes at Lakeview Dr. and Como Lake Dr. The latter location is what is sometimes described as a "cheer zone." The zones are meant to encourage walkers or runners along a route. Jack FM radio station would have provided music by the lake, with volunteers monitoring the sound levels.

Como Community Council recommended denial of the variance. Kim Moon chairs the district council's Land Use Committee. He received more emails opposed to the variance than on any other issue in years. The council had no opposition to the variance in the park itself. But putting a music truck next to homes was

another matter.

"This would be akin to having a lawn mower run on your porch for four hours," Moon said.

Abby Walker, an events coordinator for the March of Dimes, said the music would only play for one hour, not four. She said sound levels would be monitored and that the music van would motivate and inspire the walkers.

But Ward Five Council Mem-

ber Amy Brendmoen said the variance should be denied, indicating it is too close to homes.

"The noise isn't just at the beginning of a race anymore," said City Council Research Director Trudy Maloney. Many events have upped the volume with "cheer zones" along a route, to encourage runners and walkers with chants and music. One change the City Council is poised to

make an attempt to better handle spread-out noise.

Other ideas being considered include expanded notification to neighbors and district councils, and longer application process timelines.

Dispersing events throughout the city is another goal for some council members. "It would be interesting to see if we could steer events to other places," said

Brendmoen. What adds to confusion at Como is that some events are scheduled by Parks and Recreation and others are scheduled by Black Bear Crossing, which leases restaurant space in the Como Park Pavilion.

"We had a race during the parks cleanup (Apr. 12) and it was a mess," Brendmoen said. "People were trying to pick up trash and they were getting run over."

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# A fateful decision at age 12 plays out 30 years later

Como resident is songwriter for the band Mitchell Yards that releases CD on May 16

By JAN WILLMS

When Paul Seeba was about 12 and living in Hibbing, he realized he wasn't going to make the hockey team and chose to play guitar instead. Today, as a father, teacher and musician, he is glad he made that fateful decision.

He saved himself from some bumps and bruises, and he chose an interest that he will be able to pursue long after a hockey player hangs up his skates. Although he has played guitar all these years, it has just been in the past year that Seeba has reunited with his old band.

The group will perform May 17 for a fundraiser at Chelsea Heights Elementary, where Seeba's daughter attends. Another daughter is a student at Murray Middle School.

"I've been playing guitar for over 30 years, but now that my kids are getting older it seemed like a perfect time to get back to the music," Seeba explained. The Hibbing native, who has been a Como resident since 1999, describes his band as an acoustic-based, Americana-style group with an emphasis on lyrics and harmonies.

"I have known my bandmates forever," Seeba said. His brother, Bob, plays bass. Rod Tahija, an old friend from Hibbing, plays guitar; Greg Tiburzi from Duluth plays drums, and he and Paul both are songwriters for the band, Mitchell Yards.

"We used to play together, and then the drummer moved away. He has recently moved back to Duluth, and so we got together again," Seeba noted. They practice on week nights.

"Through the magic of digital devices, we can rehearse with Greg, who is 150 miles away," Seeba said. "It's a good thing to do in the winter."

The band will officially release a CD May 16, also titled "Mitchell Yards," at a performance at Manitou Station.

Seeba said people can check his website, [www.paulseeba.com](http://www.paulseeba.com) or get the new CD through CD Baby or on Spotify.

"It's amazing, all the different kinds of ways to get music these days," he said.

Seeba, who teaches geography at North High School in White Bear Lake, and has previously taught history and economics, said he weaves history and geography into his songs at times.

The band's name is based on an old switching station located just outside of Hibbing.

"It was on the verge of being razed," Seeba said, "but cultural preservationists made a case for not tearing it down. I became fascinated, writing a song about it and getting a little bit involved in saving old buildings."

Seeba said his songs tend to gravitate toward the Arrowhead region. His early years on the Iron Range provide him with a multitude of history to draw from.

One song on the new CD is "Science Fair" and relates to the fact that years ago the Communist headquarters in the United States was located in the Hibbing area.

"One of my teachers told me how as a younger man, he was

stopped in the 1950s by an FBI agent and investigated. The FBI believed he was a member of the Communist Party," Seeba recalled.

The Greyhound Bus Line, recently celebrating its 100th anniversary, had its start in Hibbing. The basis for another song.

"I do a lot of my writing in the winter," Seeba added, "especially with a winter as rough as this last one."

He finds it beneficial for his songwriting to live in a climate that offers four seasons, finding the different weather enables him to be more productive than living in a warm climate all year long. The bitter cold of winter, especially, seems to hone his writing skills.

Mitchell Yards performs at different locations, and Seeba performs solo at local gathering spots

like Ginkgo's and Coffee Grounds. The band is playing at the Stone Arch Festival in Minneapolis on June 15.

"It's a struggle and hard to juggle it all, but it's exciting," Seeba said. His wife, Louise, is a member of the St. Paul School Board and also has a busy schedule.

He considers himself fortunate to be able to take this time in his life to focus on his music. And he does not regret his decision at 12 to play the guitar rather than play hockey.

Como resident Paul Seeba is a member of the band Mitchell Yards, who will perform May 17 at a fundraiser at Chelsea Heights Elementary. The band will also release a CD, "Mitchell Yards," on May 16. (Photo by Jan Willms)



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