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What's INSIDE

News.....4



Midway Center
up for sale

Feature.....6



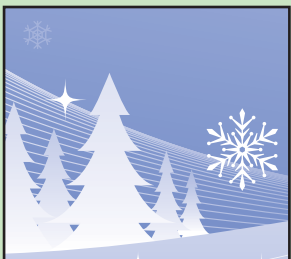
Catholics share
Methodist's home

Feature.....8



Midway native
releases Hot Metal

Feature.....11



Christmas on
the North End

'CSI' murder mystery surrounds Arlington Senior High School

By JAN WILLMS

Visitors to the St. Paul Arlington High School cafeteria during the latter part of November might have done a double take.

They would have stumbled upon a taped-off murder scene, complete with body, upon the stage at the end of the dining room.

"This whole project is part of the Bio-SMART Initiative," said Mary Hanson, forensic science teacher at Arlington. The Bio-SMART grant, which has been in place for more than a year, allows many of Arlington's students to be exposed to scientific fields they might not otherwise consider for careers.

"At the end of the last school year, we voted on a project to pursue," Hanson said. "The CSI theme held the most promise."

This fall, Hanson, who is also a reserve officer with the St. Paul Police Department, began to weave all the forensic science pieces for a murder case into the fabric of the entire school, which houses about 1200 students.



Visitors to the St. Paul Arlington High School cafeteria during the latter part of November would have stumbled upon a taped-off murder scene, complete with body, upon the stage at the end of the dining room. (Photo by Denis Jeong Plaster)

"Two of the custodians found the victim early the morning of Nov. 3," Hanson said. The body, portrayed by a dummy, had drops of blood on its neck.

By measuring the width and length of the blood drops, it was determined the victim had been

killed at the scene.

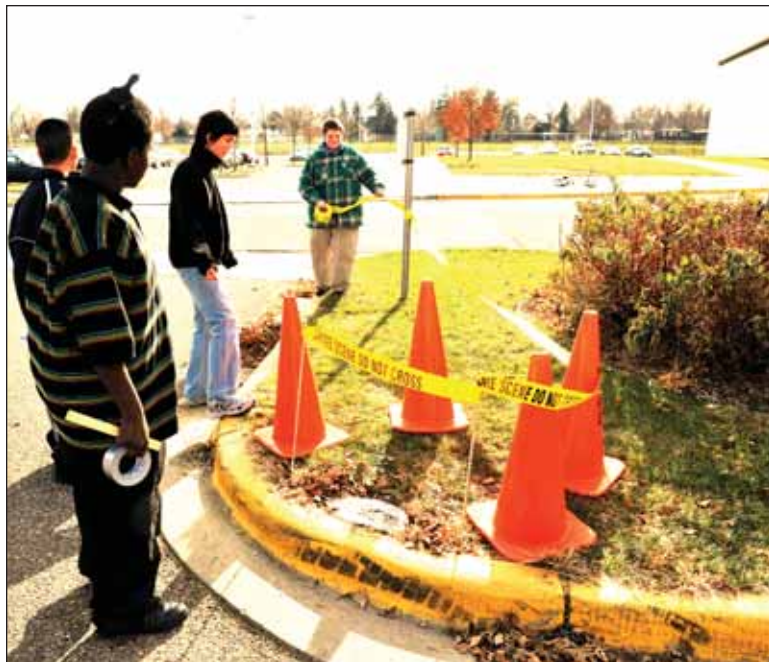
"There were two drops of blood from different sources," Hanson said. "One drop of blood was from the suspect."

She said her forensic science classes helped create some of the clues. Math students made a

graph of stride marks to determine the height of the alleged killer.

"No pun intended, but they were dead on," Hanson said with a smile.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Arlington students rope off an area outside of the school with tire tracks left by the suspect's vehicle. Students used forensic science to sift through the evidence to learn more about the crime. (Photo by Denis Jeong Plaster)

Conservatory's Holiday Flower Show



The Holiday Flower Show in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is a ride of senses with hundreds of poinsettias surrounding six carousel horses from Cafesjian's Carousel which began December 6. The Holiday Flower Show tradition began in 1925 and continues to be the most anticipated and visited flower attraction at the Conservatory today.

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Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Denis Woulfe

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe
Dennis Stern (651-452-5324)

Photographer:

Denis Jeong Plaster

Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Eric Nathanson, Deborah Brotz,
Jane McClure, Tom Conlon,
Jan Willms, Sherri Moore,



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Monitor in a Minute

Transitional housing under review

Two area transitional housing facilities, in Hamline-Midway and the North End, have been under review by the St. Paul Planning Commission in recent weeks. The commission's Zoning Committee and full commission could vote as early as December 11 and 19 on a request from Juel Fairbanks for a conditional use permit for 1754 Blair Av. The dwelling has been used for about 20 years for up to four women in recovery from chemical dependency. The permit would allow the dwelling to house up to six women at a time. The permit and a parking variance are required before the facility can house the additional residents.

Transition Homes, 1609 Jackson St., was granted a conditional use permit for housing 21 residents November 14. District 6 Planning Council supported the request and only one neighbor attended a Zoning Committee public hearing to ask questions about the project.

The Jackson Street building, which dates from about 1960, has been used as transitional housing for many years. It housed persons with mental and physical disabilities for a long time before becoming a home for women in recovery from chemical dependency. It most recently was known as the Tapestry Center.

Transition Homes Corporation is buying the property for use as a facility for 20 residents and one on-site staff member. It will house adults with chemical dependency and mental illness issues. Transitions Homes staff appeared before the Zoning Committee to explain how the property is being improved physically and the rules residents will follow in a safe, sober environment.

Conditional use permits are

required for transitional housing facilities so that city staff, district councils and neighbors can ask for various operating conditions and physical improvements to a facility. These can range from limiting the number of residents to requiring adequate off-street parking.

St. Anthony Park adopts plan

St. Anthony Park is the latest district council to have its district plan adopted, an action the St. Paul City Council took November 12. The plan outlines a future vision for the neighborhood including goals for future land use, transit and transportation, parks and recreation, and residential, commercial and industrial redevelopment. The plan was drafted by the district council in cooperation with city Planning and Economic development (PED) staff and was recently recommended for approval by the St. Paul Planning Commission.

Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark praised the plan, saying it is one of the best he has seen. He said it will serve as a good guide for the neighborhood for years to come.

District plans become part of the city's comprehensive plan. The city is working to finish its entire comprehensive plan, which has to be submitted to the metropolitan Council next spring. The comprehensive plan was due at year's end but the city had to ask for more time.

District plans are used to guide future land use and zoning decisions, to advise various capital plans and projects, and to obtain support for funding for neighborhood projects.

Of Monitor area neighborhoods, St. Anthony Park is the last to complete its district plan. A few other neighborhoods throughout the city have plans pending at the city staff level.

The plan replaces a St. Antho-

ny Park plan adopted in 1983. District councils are supposed to adopt new comprehensive plans every decade but cuts to city planning staff and grant funding over the years has made that difficult.

In the current realm of neighborhood planning, some districts including Hamline-Midway are updating plans adopted in the 1990s while other districts are still working on updates to 1980s-era plans.

Council awards money to Como Circulator

Como Park is the beneficiary of two actions November 5 by the St. Paul City Council. The council allocated \$150,000 toward the Co-

mo Circulator project, which will provide three buses for the Como Campus to provide transportation to and from the park. City officials hope the new circulator buses will ease traffic and parking congestion at the park.

The funds are coming from a parks supply and maintenance fund. The money will be used along with a federal grant for the project. The grant of \$1.6 million was approved in 2005 for Como.

The council also accepted a Metropolitan Council Regional Parks and Open Space development grant for \$637,000 toward the work on the new Como Park Pool (see related story) and \$503,000 for the design and reconstruction of Eastbrook Drive.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

St. Paul city officials grapple to balance 2008 budget

By JANE MCCLURE

With just a few weeks left in 2008, St. Paul city officials are working to balance the 2008 budget and set spending and financing plans for 2009. The council needs to adopt its 2009 budget and levy December 19, following the December 11 truth-in-taxation public hearing.

But before adopting the 2009 budget and levy, the council must also bring 2008's books into balance. That means approving a budget-balancing resolution as soon as December 17.

At this point it appears that the city will be filling fewer budget holes in 2008 than previously anticipated. Council members and city staff have spent much time in November discussing options for 2008. Revenues are down in a number of areas, including sales tax revenue, hotel/motel taxes, parking meter revenues and building

permit fees. But revenues are up in other areas, including paramedic fees, franchise fees and vacant building inspection fees.

General fund revenues for the city for the first 10 months of 2008 show revenues of \$187.1 million, with spending at \$186.5 million, for a balance of \$620,000. Mayor Chris Coleman's administration would like to use some of that funding to address the city's growing problem with vacant buildings.

The resolution the City Council is considering calls for shifts of \$1.470 million in special funds and \$2.668 million in the general fund. Those shifts reflect additional revenue as well as spending. The bottom-line change and amount that must be taken from budget reserves is likely to fluctuate before the council votes on the 2008 balancing measures.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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Continued from page 1

She said that only five people in the school knew the identity of the killer.

"The victim was a stranger with several aliases," she noted. "We gave him the name of Bulmer Lemark."

Some students came up with a biography for the victim, placing items in his briefcase that belonged to him and helped determine his identity.

"The Junior ROTC has served as security for the crime site," Hanson said.

She said the school principal, Patty Murphy, has been a big proponent of the project.

"She has been known as Commander Murphy and she made the first announcement to the school, informing everyone of the crime. She has continued to make announcements as the case has progressed."

Hanson said updates on the case have been announced each day, and students can sign in and enter the crime scene to investigate.

"One class is looking for fibers, and taking photos," she said. "We designed this so the whole school could experience it."

U.S. history students have been competing for places on the jury, and going through the process potential jurors go through. Once the crime has been solved, a trial is planned.

"The criminal justice class has divided up into prosecutor and defense teams," Hanson explained. "Their teacher, who is a real-life attorney, will preside as judge."

She said English classes collected handwriting samples from the suspects and analyzed them for personality characteristics.

"The human geography class took full sets of fingerprints," she said.

Hanson said several adults had volunteered to serve as one of the five suspects in the case.

Environmental science students used GPS tracking devices and figured out coordinates.

Photography students took mug shots of the five suspects, and there have been student-generated videos on the school's website.

"Some classes wrote descriptions of the suspects' faces, based on mug shots," Hanson said. She said an art teacher used a faces biometric program that Hanson has. "They looked through 4,000 facial characteristics, with 250 different noses and eye shapes."

As the investigation continued, all of the school was brought into play in some fashion.

A note was left at the scene of the crime, written in French, and the French classes translated it. An anonymous call was made in Spanish, interpreted by the Spanish classes.

Hanson said teachers involved with the investigation of the case wore Special Agent ID badges and dark sunglasses, adding a bit of humor to the intensity of the criminal pursuit.

The investigation lasted until Nov. 21, when an arrest was made.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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Buyer would take over existing mortgage...

Midway Center property up for sale

By JANE MCCLURE

Midway Center, which has anchored the southeast corner of Snelling and University for 50 years, is for sale. Welsh Companies is working with owner RD Management Corporation to sell the 15-acre site and its 293,732 square feet of retail space. The active marketing of the property was to start in early December, according to Welsh Companies Senior Vice President Bob Pounds.

Word of the sale has University UNITED calling for a joint marketing, sale and planning process for the Midway Center property and the adjacent 10-acre site that was occupied by many years by Metro Transit's Snelling bus maintenance facility.

UNITED Executive Director Brian McMahon said the prop-

erties combined, which total about 30 acres, offer a unique opportunity for redevelopment. UNITED has pushed for more dense, transit-oriented development all along the proposed Central Corridor light rail line.

The UNITED Board passed a resolution in November calling for the joint sale and a city planning process, as efforts by the city to identify private and public sources of financial assistance for redevelopment. McMahon is hoping to meet with city officials soon to discuss the UNITED proposal.

Despite a difficult economy, Pounds said he believes there will be strong interest in Midway Center. The University-Snelling intersection is a high-traffic, dense area, surrounded by strong neighborhoods.

The center is owned by RK

Midway, which is part of RD Management. The center itself is more than 90 percent leased, with tenants including Rainbow Foods, OfficeMax, Walgreens, Jo-Ann Fabrics, Foot Locker, Big Top Liquors, Family Dollar, Midway Bowl and several smaller shops and restaurants. The pending plan to relocate Walgreens and Big Top to new buildings just east of Snelling is a plus for a new owner, Pounds said. Having a grocery store in place is also important.

The property will be listed without a price and is tied to assumption of existing debt on Midway Center. A buyer would take over the existing mortgage on the property.

Midway Center is in an area with more than 1 million square feet of retail space. Past UNITED studies have focused

on the amount of retail in Midway Center, Midway Marketplace and SuperTarget, citing it as a strength for the area. It's also next to the proposed Central Corridor light rail line, which would be built in the center of University Avenue. While Pounds said he personally believes light rail will be an asset for a new owner, the potential downsides include construction impacts as well as any taking of property. The current construction plans call for no property to be taken from Midway Center.

It's not clear what new ownership would mean for a proposal to put a home improvement store at Pascal and St. Anthony avenues. In 1998 the city worked with RD Management to clean up the Pascal-St. Anthony site, using grants

and tax increment financing to pay for the \$1.6 million project. In return RD Management agreed to spend \$4.4 million to redevelop the site, but only if it could be combined with the bus barn property.

RD Management obtained St. Paul Planning Commission approval in 2007 for a home improvement retailer at Pascal and St. Anthony. That project has languished but the site plan is valid until June 2009. Zoning goes with property, not with ownership, so that plan could be valid for a new property owner.


The fate of a pending redevelopment agreement may be another matter. RD Management has tried for years to buy the 9.5 acre former bus maintenance facility southwest of the center. That property is owned by Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council. A new owner for Midway Center could be in a prime position to purchase that site. RD Management has a redevelopment agreement for that property, which the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board approved in 2005. The agreement lapsed in December 2007 but was renewed in March 2008 for a period that ends in June 2009. Renewal of the development agreement was controversial as UNITED and area district councils objected. RD Management proposed a \$12 million retail development; area groups objected to what they saw as suburban-style development on a site that should have more density. Any reassignment of the development agreement would have to go back to the HRA Board, which is made up of the City Council.

The Metro Transit site has been vacant since the bus maintenance facility was relocated several years ago. The buildings there were demolished in 2002. Besides the controversy over redeveloping the larger site there has also been the obstacle of trying to find Metro Transit a new east metro bus maintenance facility site. Without a new site, council officials contend they cannot give up the Snelling property.

For the past two decades, changes proposed for Midway Center have sparked debate. The development of frontage lots for a McDonald's and Perkins restaurants was controversial because of concerns about traffic. Various redevelopment plans floated in the 1990s called for office, theater and hotel uses around the center. Allina eyed the bus facility site for its headquarters several years ago. The site was also considered for a National Guard armory and even for new Metropolitan Council offices.

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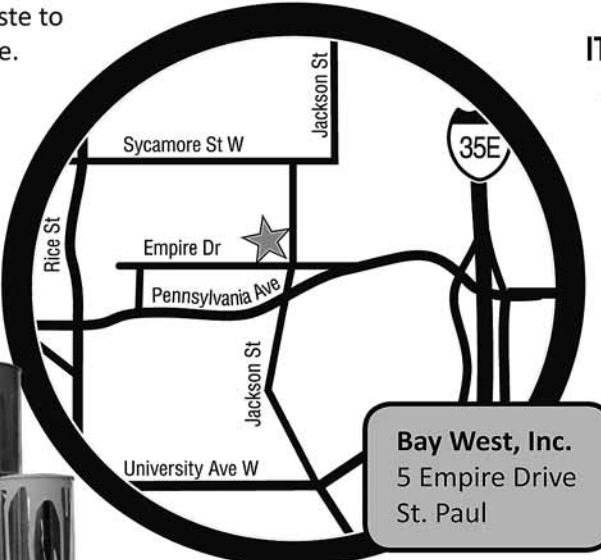
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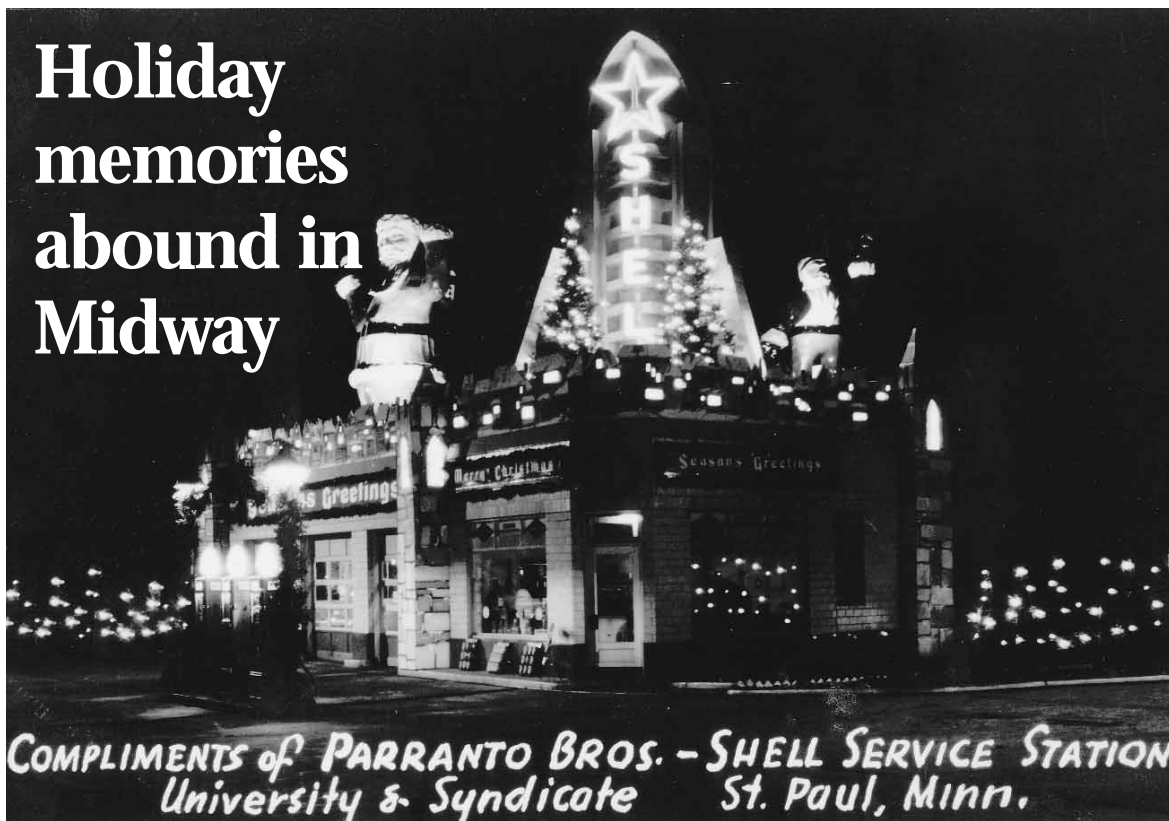
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Holiday memories abound in Midway



This picture is from the Parranto Brothers Shell Service Station, which stood at the corner of University and Syndicate. The picture, which was found on eBay and is also in the Minnesota Historical Society collections, apparently is reproduced from a postcard or other giveaway items.

By JANE MCCLURE

Years ago it just wasn't the holiday season unless the family piled into the car or donned boots and layers of clothing for a trip out to see brightly lit Midway businesses. While many area home owners enjoy decorating their homes and yards today, for many years it was businesses that staged some of the most gaudy and elaborate lighting displays. Organizations including the Midway Club (now Midway Chamber of Commerce) would encourage businesses and industries to be all decked out for the holidays. Some years there were contests to see which businesses could put up the best and bright-

est decorations.

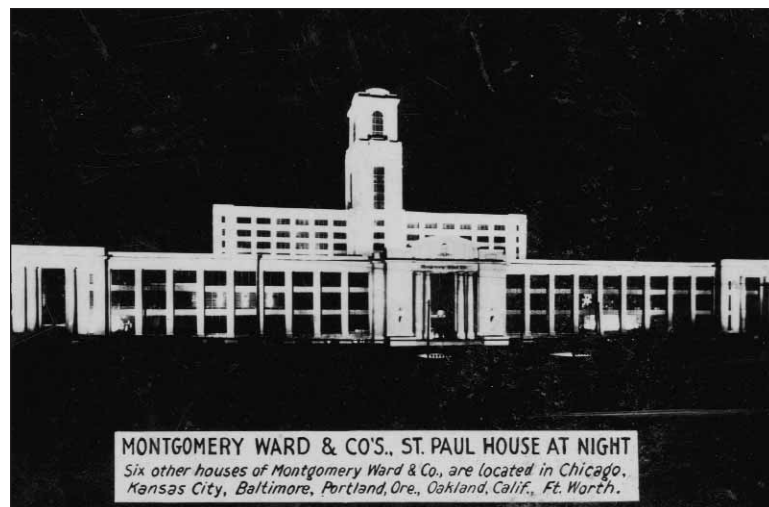
This picture is from the Parranto Brothers Shell Service Station, which stood at the corner of University and Syndicate. The picture, which was found on eBay and is also in the Minnesota Historical Society collections, apparently is reproduced from a postcard or other giveaway items. (Remember when almost every business handed out calendars, blotters, postcards and other free items in December thanking you for your patronage?)

Santa, Christmas trees and what appears to be an elf are atop the service station, with what appears to be a little town at their feet. The building and

grounds are emblazoned with holiday banners and more lights. The picture is believed to be from the late 1940s.

The tradition of businesses decorating for the holidays is centuries old. In the days before electricity, wreaths, garlands of greens, cardboard decorations, plaster figurines, woolly snow blankets and snow made of mica were common. Even simple holiday window displays helped draw shoppers at a time when most people spent their money close to home.

Electricity turned on the desire to decorate more. The book *Holiday Lights!* by David Seidman points out that in the early



Montgomery Ward, which was located where Midway Marketplace is now, had opened its doors a month before the new street lights were lit.

20th century, big-city retail stores were among the first to string lights. But the earliest strings of lights burned out quickly, making them too expensive for most home owners and small businesses to use. Seidman points out that years ago a string of lights cost \$12 - a week's salary for millions of Americans. Only after World War II did more people start decorating their homes and businesses with lights.

Some of downtown St. Paul's most elaborate light displays went up in the late 19th and early 20th century time frames. Lights were also strung downtown for parades and special occasions. Typically newspaper scribes of the day could not resist describing the displays as a wonderland or fairyland. Neighborhood business districts followed suit. It wasn't unusual to travel University, Rice, Dale or other business streets and see garlands and lights strung overhead.

By the early 20th century the Midway business owners were decorating their establishments.

What may have been the Midway area's first and brightest light display was not held at Christmas-time. It celebrated the installation of the new electric University Avenue street lights, in May 1921. The Midway Club joined with area residents and business owners to stage a daytime parade of more than 300 decorated floats and touring cars, which wound its way through the Midway and both downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul. The lighting ceremony was held at dusk at Montgomery Ward where there was a community dance and military band. Newspaper accounts report that cheers rang through the neighborhood at 9 p.m., as the lights went on.

Montgomery Ward, which was located where Midway Marketplace is now, had opened its doors a month before the new street lights were lit. April 28, 1921 was billed as "Midway's Big Night," when the sparkling new Midway Montgomery Ward store opened its doors to the public.

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The Catholics join the Methodists at Hamline United Methodist

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Is there such a thing as a match made in heaven? Well, sort of. That may be the best way to describe how Hamline United Methodist Church, at 1514 Englewood Ave., came to open its doors to the "Old Catholic" Church of St. Anthony. That's right: One building, two churches.

"We're glad to have them here," said the Rev. Patricia Hinker, pastor of Hamline United Methodist Church. "It's a beautiful church with magnificent stained glass windows. We're glad to share it."

The idea for the Church of St. Anthony to share space took hold the earlier part of this year when

Monsignor Anthony Dinzeo decided he wanted to open a new parish for his Old Catholic denomination here in St. Paul.

"There is no one to go to for money for expenses to start a church," he said. Most churches around the country are in one or more denominations. They're in the facility of a rented church."

After getting approval from Old Catholic Bishop James Judd to proceed, Dinzeo decided he didn't want to go too far from where he lives in St. Paul to start a parish.

"There was St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Summit, but they didn't have a time slot for mass," he said. "I went to a couple of Lutheran churches. Then, a friend men-

tioned checking out the Methodist Church. Their mission statement is very similar to our mission statement. They were very happy with us. Within a week, they made a decision about us using their church."

Dinzeo chose the Midway location for his church for many reasons.

"I thought it would be good for Hamline students on campus who would have a mass at their disposal," he said. "It's good to be in the Midway. There's good access to freeways. It's close to the bus line. There's easy access to public transportation."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Father Tony Dinzeo of the Old Catholic Church of St. Anthony shares space with Rev. Patricia Hinker of Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Avenue. Dinzeo chose the Midway location for his church for many reasons. (Photo by Denis Jeong Plaster)

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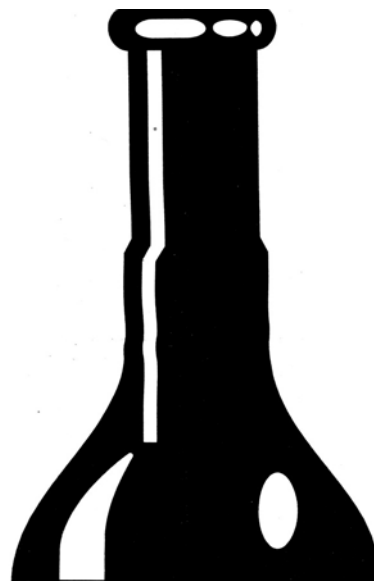


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Hamline United Methodist

Continued from page 6

The location seems just about perfect for the church.

"Being on the campus is a nice place for us," said Dinzeo. "They were willing to take us. So many Protestant churches already rent to start up churches. We were very fortunate they didn't have anybody."

Sharing the church space has worked out well with Hamline United having their services on Sunday morning and the Church of St. Anthony having their services at 1 p.m. on Sunday. While Hamline United will have their Christmas services on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., the Church of St. Anthony will have Christmas mass at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day.

"Our first mass was Trinity Sunday, May 18," said Dinzeo. "We've had five baptisms at the church. Because we had to start from rock bottom with finances, we had to search for parishes willing to let us come in and pay minimal rent. We pay \$100 a month. We had a six-month lease in the beginning. They were so impressed with us, they extended our lease automatically. The rent barely covers turning on the lights and heat."

Many people are not aware that there are four branches of the Catholic Church: Roman, Eastern Orthodox, Episcopal, and Old Catholic. Old Catholic is different from Roman Catholic.

"It was 1789 when we broke away from the Roman Catholic Church due to issues over the infallibility of the Pope and celibacy of priests," said Dinzeo. "Our denomination worldwide is very strong in Europe—Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Germany—and now we're in Italy, Indonesia, and England. We're big in Canada but small in this country."

There are three essential differences between Roman Catholicism and Old Catholic Catholicism.

"We don't recognize the Papacy," said Dinzeo. "We have an option for married clergy and women priests. About 90 percent of our clergy are former Roman Catholic priests and deacons."

The Church of St. Anthony is a very inclusive church.

"We do not discriminate against sexuality," said Dinzeo. "Everyone is welcome around the table of the Lord for Eucharist. We would not be welcomed at the Methodist Church unless we were inclusive. We accept people for who they are."

Before he was an Old Catholic priest, Dinzeo was a permanent deacon in the Roman Catholic Church.

After his friend, Bishop Charles Braun, who was a Roman Catholic priest in Washington, D.C., decided to switch over to Old Catholic and was appointed a bishop, Dinzeo decided to switch to Old Catholic, too.

"I was a banker at the time," he said. "I decided I was going to become a priest with him. I was ordained 10 years ago here in St. Paul. I'm 70 years old and still working in the ministry. I love it. I'm a kid at heart. I've been in ministry over 45 years."

At the State Fair last summer, the St. Anthony congregation got to know the Hamline United parishioners by helping out at the Fairgrounds dining hall.

"About 30 of us volunteered," said Dinzeo. "Our parishioners got to know their parishioners on a one-to-one basis."

The St. Anthony congregation is pleased to share space with Hamline United.

"We're extremely happy," said Dinzeo. "We felt very welcomed. When we started to work at the dining hall, they were wonderful and accepting of us. They always say it's been a blessing to have our congregation in their church."

Hamline United feels sharing their church building is part of their mission.

"We believe the building is here to serve the needs of the community," said Hinker. "Sharing the church space is what we see as our mission. They pay us a very modest stipend. We want to share our building. We see it as a ministry not a fund-raiser. The space is worth far more than what we get for renting it."

Hinker looks forward to the partnership with the Church of St. Anthony continuing.

"Our hopes are that they find it a meaningful place to worship," she said.

Dinzeo hopes to make Hamline United their permanent home.

"I truly believe we can be a family—an ongoing family continuing to unite people to come to worship and be considered a family," he said. "We both love the same God."

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Merry-Go tidings at Conservatory's Holiday Flower Show

The Holiday Flower Show in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is a ride of senses with hundreds of poinsettias surrounding six carousel horses from Cafesjian's Carousel beginning December 6, 2008. The Holiday Flower Show tradition began in 1925 and continues to be the most anticipated and visited flower attraction at the Conservatory today. This year's show offers a variety of cultivars new to the market including Carousel Dark Red and Carousel Pink.

This January, Cafesjian's Carousel will celebrate its 95th anniversary and in honor of that, guest will see six of the original horses from the Carousel amongst the poinsettias. In 1914, an enterprising man named Austin McFadden paid the Philadelphia Toboggan Company \$8,500 to build

a carousel, bring it to Saint Paul, and assemble it on the grounds of the Minnesota State Fair. In 1988, the Carousel was saved from auction and in the spring 2000, Cafesjian's Carousel opened in a new pavilion in Como Park.

The poinsettia is a native to Mexico and was cultivated by the Aztecs, long before the arrival of Europeans. During the 17th century a community of Franciscan priests found the bright red flowers blooming naturally on the slopes during the Season of Advent and they used it to adorn the Nativity Celebration. This custom soon became a tradition throughout Mexico. Today there are over 100 varieties of the plant and represent over 85% of all potted plant sales over the holiday season.

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By JAN WILLMS

Tall and lean, Nick Garafola has a quiet demeanor. The Midway resident speaks in measured tones, enunciating softly as he speaks about his recently published book, "Hot Metal Boys."

But as he warms to his subject, his tone takes on a passionate bent. He is talking about the labor union movement, and he cites pension reform acts and dates with no hesitation.

He talks about company bankruptcies and corporate restructuring and labor contracts with an intensity that also comes through in his book.

"Hot Metal Boys," published in September of this year, is about a factory worker who becomes swept up in a labor strike.

"I never worked for a labor union," Garafola said, "but I understand the value of unions because they have helped to bid up the price of labor for all fringe workers. Most of the benefits I have, such as an eight-hour workday, health care or paid vacations, came from unions. None came for free, and I wouldn't have those today if strikers had not gathered out on the picket lines."

Garafola has a degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota, and he has worked as an associate editor for the Utne Reader. He currently works in the shoe business.

He started working on his book in 2005, and he interviewed people from the steel and airline industries.

"I got some first-person narratives from the picket line," he said. "People were happy to tell someone their stories, what they were heartened by. They also talked about broken hopes and dreams, the promise of a good living wage and good health care that could all be jerked away by a bankruptcy judge."

Garafola said that even before he knew about labor strikes, he knew that he wanted to write about a working class kid who had

Midway local publishes 'Hot Metal Boys'



"Hot Metal Boys," published by Midway author Nick Garafola in September of this year, is about a factory worker who becomes swept up in a labor strike.

not been stimulated by his job or education. His main character, Buck, meets a young woman who has been active in the labor movement and inspires something in him.

"As Buck learns how workers have been marginalized, it's like a veil has been lifted," Garafola said. "He goes from black and white to color."

Garafola also draws from his interest in muscle cars for part of the narrative for his novel.

"The title of the book is a double entendre," he said. He explained that the steel mill and the car club are both components of the "Hot Metal Boys."

Buck and his friends have formed a car club, and spend their weekends and spare time driving and fixing up their cars.

"It's like you could find at Porky's, the muscle car lot, on a Saturday night," Garafola said. "Growing up, I went to Porky's every weekend." Garafola has a '77 Nova, 10 years (newer) than the one the book's protagonist has.

Garafola said he listened in on conversations as he spent time at Porky's, wanting to someday work that experience into a story.

Although Garafola never worked in a steel mill, he had a brother and uncle who did.

"I think a lot of my passion about labor came from being disheartened by partisan politics," he said. "If people are crying to get the things they need to survive, that is what the government should be about. It has been about employers, and it should only really be about employees."

Garafola said legislation has allowed companies to underfund and mismanage pension funds. Some have stopped funding the plans altogether.

He referred to Steve Miller, currently at the helm of Delphi, a GM parts manufacturer.

"The company has been in bankruptcy since 2005," Garafola said. "They were asking for bonuses for upper management, then rushed to bankruptcy to exploit these benefits. He called Miller, who also was at the helm of Bethlehem Steel, a bankruptcy professional."

"CEOs are earning 250 times what the average worker makes," Garafola said. He added that the vast majority of people have been conditioned to vilify the employees, who are earning \$10 to \$15

an hour.

"The idea that a labor contract is negotiable used to be about how much employees could get, not about how much they are willing to give up," Garafola said.

He said he believes the cost of living is going up at a much higher rate than the government admits.

"Maybe it has to get real bad before people wake up," he lamented. "That's how the labor movement began in the first place. People had nothing to lose, and they were fighting for improved labor conditions and improved pay."

Garafola said that if organized labor is going to grow, he believes it has to go into the ranks of the white-collar worker.

As he researched his book, Garafola said he was surprised at how much information was out there that he had not learned in school.

"It was amazing to me, reading about these historic events," he said. "American citizens killing other American citizens, people being hanged, leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World being killed."

When he began his book, Garafola could not have known the big three auto companies would be in such dire straits when his book was published, but he said he thought something might be happening in the auto industry. "I knew it would be awhile for the water to slowly boil," he said. That slowly boiling water has erupted into the auto companies begging for a bailout.

"I think with a buyout, the ultimate goal is to have less of a health care plan and lower wages," Garafola stated. "It's pure theater on TV. The Big Three have lobbied and given hundreds of millions to Congress."

Referring back to his book, Garafola said Buck had to learn, sometimes painfully, about what was going on around him and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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City Council agrees to negotiate for Advance Shoring property

By JANE MCCLURE

Employees and supporters of Advance Shoring can rest easier – for now. The St. Paul City Council decided November 26 to postpone action on a St. Paul Port Authority request to condemn the longtime area business's property. Instead the Port Authority will set aside its efforts to obtain the property at 1400 Jackson St. and negotiate with Advance Shoring officials.

The negotiations are governed by a confidentiality agreement that expires in May 2009. That is meant to give the two sides time to discuss options. The Port Authority would like to relocate Advance Shoring and redevelop its site as part of the second phase of the Arlington-Jackson Business Park. Advance Shoring doesn't want to move.

Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen asked other City Council members to approve the delay, which they did November 26. He said it would give the two sides time to discuss options for the property and for a possible new home for Advance Shoring. He said the balance is between wanting to retain Advance Shoring and its jobs, and wanting to continue the Arlington-Jackson project.

The Port Authority had asked the St. Paul City Council to use the power of condemnation or eminent domain to take the Jackson Street property. Two public hearings this fall drew more than 50 people to speak against the condemnation, saying they don't want the company to be forced to move and possibly close. Advance Shoring, which was founded in 1960, is a company that rents out heavy equipment for construction projects. It has been involved in many of the region's major con-

struction projects over the past 409-plus years.

Advance Shoring has about 40 employees with wages averaging around \$24 per hour.

The Port Authority and city could condemn the land because of underlying pollution, caused by decades of other area industrial and commercial uses, as well as past uses of its site. The Advance Shoring property is near a large junkyard that neighborhood residents have pushed for years to get rid of. Soils in the area contain lead, petroleum contaminants and elevated levels of methane. Port and Advance Shoring representatives debate how dangerous the pollution levels are; the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has stated that the pollution creates no immediate health risk.

The pollution cleanup costs are also being debated. The Port Authority figures indicate that the pollution costs are estimated at \$4.8 million, which is more than the property is valued. Ramsey County records place the property's 2008 taxable market value at \$2.5 million. The condemnation action hinges on the pollution issue, recent court cases, as well as actions by the Minnesota Legislature, have made it much more difficult to condemn land for redevelopment.

How successful the negotiations are may hinge on which relocation sites Advance Shoring is offered. Company officials have indicated they would like to stay in St. Paul.

Meanwhile, debate over the Arlington-Jackson plan itself continues. The plan was developed by the District 6 (North End-South Como) Planning Council years ago to redevelop blighted and un-

derused land in the area between Arlington, Interstate 35E, Maryland and Jackson. Four light industrial firms came to the area to fill the first phase of the business park.

What has changed since the original Arlington-Jackson plan was developed is the proposal to develop land south of Maryland as a park and nature preserve. That site has been the focus of planning and fund-raising by District 6 and a number of neighborhood residents. But the residents were frustrated recently to learn that Arlington-Jackson plan amendments they had worked on with city staff, that would tie the business park to the nature preserve area, had never been completed by city planning staff. Now the focus for the Tri-Area Block Club and District 6 are trying to determine what happened to the plan amendments, which would have to go through the Planning Commission and City Council for review and approval.



The St. Paul City Council decided November 26 to postpone action on a St. Paul Port Authority request to condemn the longtime area business's property.

Hot metal

Continued from page 8

how it was affecting his life. He had to move away from the car club, perhaps losing friends but growing into the person he knows he can become.

He admits he used his protagonist to editorialize a little.

"It was like a newspaper editor who publishes a letter that he can't write, but it gets the point across," Garafola said.

He may write a next book about the shoe business, or may be another coming of age story. "Maybe a kid out of college, mak-

ing loans for a predatory loan company. But then some kind of conscience kicks in."

He said in writing "Hot Metal Boys," he wanted to write the kind of book he would read.

He also hopes somebody like Buck will read the book, although realistically he expects readers are more likely to be individuals interested in the labor movement. He is not sure if the narrative about the car club is sufficient for car aficionados to be interested, but he purposely put some shock value into the first chapter, in hopes that those into "guy things" would keep reading.

And he said he very much en-


joyed doing the book.

"I liked going out, talking to strikers," Garafola said. "It was good old-fashioned shoe leather journalism. I was not on the phone; I was talking to them where they were."

He admitted there were certain risks in telling this kind of story.

"It's not in the interests of the powers that be," he said.

The book, published by Cold Piece Books, is available at Arise, Common Good Books, Magers and Quinn, May Day Books, Micawber's and Mystery Cat Books. It can also be purchased through www.hotmetalboys.com.



The Midway Como Monitor is typically published the second Thursday-Friday of each month. If you're not receiving a timely delivery call 651-645-7045



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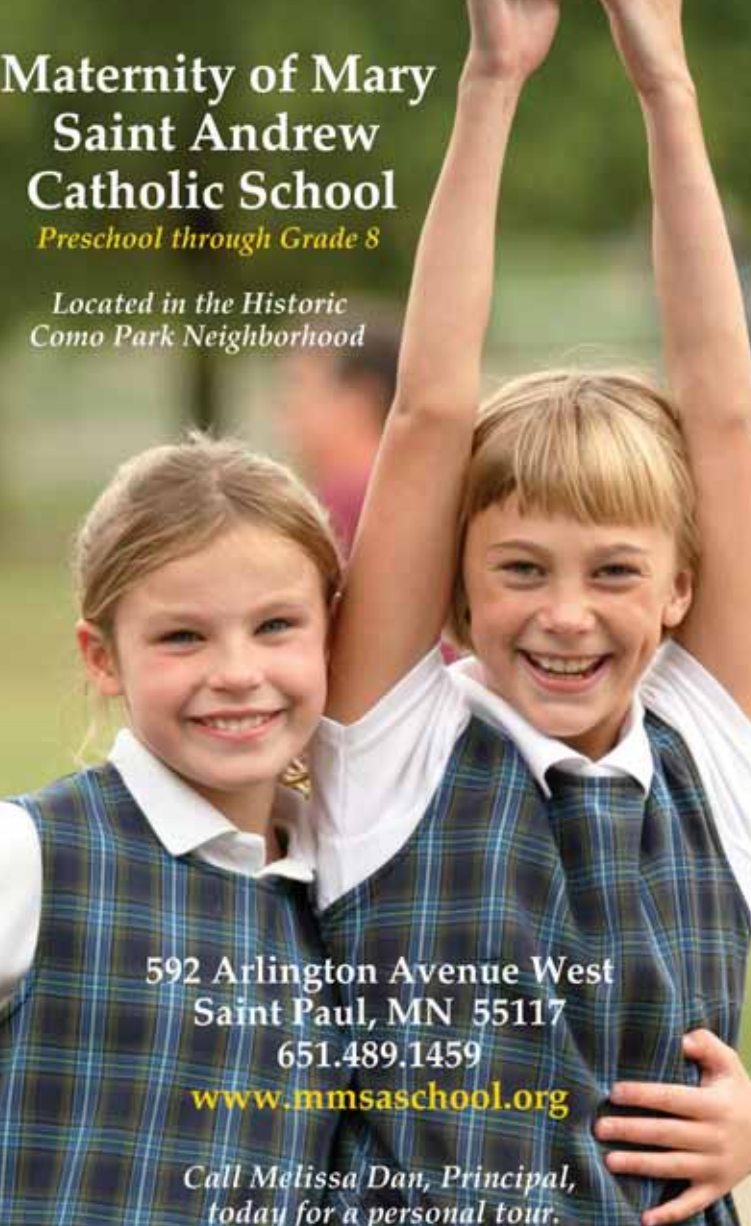


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In Our Community

Saturday Club at Hamline Midway Library

The new Saturday Club at Hamline Midway Library will begin in January 2009! The Saturday Club is a place for kids to meet friends and participate in fun activities around different themes each month. Upcoming dates are:

January 10, 1-3 p.m.: games for grades k-5; January 24, 1-3 p.m.: game day for grades 5-8; February 14, 1-3 p.m.: creative activities for grades k-5; February 28, 1-3 p.m.: creative activities for grades 5-8.

Stop by the library for more details or to suggest an activity!

Other events and activities at the Hamline Midway Library include:

Celebrate Edgar Allen Poe's 200th birthday at the Hamline Midway Library on Wednesday, January 7, 2009, at 7 p.m. Professional character actor Jake Esau portrays scenes from Poe's life and selections from his works. Bring the family.

Join us by the fireside for another Fireside Reading Series five Thursdays in January and February. Author Julie Kramer kicks off the series on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 7 p.m. She will read from her impressive debut thriller, *Stalking Susan*.

Regular storytimes are offered every week. Toddler and preschool storytimes are Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Bedtime storytimes are Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Share age appropriate books and toys with your child from birth to 5 years at Play & Learn Storytimes on Saturday, January 10th and February 14th, 2009 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. No registration required. Provided by Resources for Child Caring.

Community Foundation gives gifts, recognition

The North End Community Foundation of Saint Paul gave their annual Gifts & Recognition at the Dec. 3rd NEBA noon meeting and holiday luncheon at the Klub Haus. The cash awards totaled \$5,000. President Tom Fashingbauer and board members announced the following 10 non-profits as giving outstanding service to the North End community this year:

North End Elementary; Open Cities North End Health Center; North End-South Como Block Nurse Program; St. Bernard's High School; SPARC; Washington Middle School; Naval Junior ROTC at Arlington High School; Keystone Community Service—Food Shelf; Arlington High School, and District 6 Planning Council.

This foundation, founded in 2000, has a mission of "contributing to a progressive and

meaningful future through service to our children, families and communities." Contributions are welcome. Their address is 197 W. Geranium Ave., St. Paul, MN 55117.

Speech Craft Course by Viking Toastmasters

The course is presented by Vikings Toastmasters. This course will help you develop communication skills used in everyday life: work, social, and community activities.

The course is registered with Community Education, Class #5693 EA. The class meets at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, at the Arlington High School, 1495 Rice Street, Room 1710, starting January 28, 2009 for eight weeks. The cost is \$48, including all materials.

For more information call Nancy or Les at 651-735-3953, or Dan at 651-483-5190.

District 6 hosts Open House December 13

District 6 Planning Council is hosting an Open House on Saturday December 13th from 1 to 3 p.m. Find out ways you can become involved in your community, get information on Crime Prevention, Community Building and Block Clubs. Find out exactly what a District Council does.

District 6 and District 10 are hosting a Senior Resource Fair. Please join us on December 15, 2008 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Arbor Point.

Don't forget the District 6 Planning Council meetings are back at 1021 Marion Street-Rice Street Recreation Center (middle doors) beginning January 2009! Hope to see you there. District 6 hopes you and yours have a safe and happy holiday season.

Living/Giving Study at Jehovah Church

Pastor Timothy Kinne, Executive Assistant to the president of the MN South District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), will wrap up the month-long "Consecrated Stewards - Giving Life to the Next Generation" study at Jehovah Lutheran Church with his message at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship on Dec 14. The study has focused on the "need of the giver to give," "enriching our Biblical awareness of stewardship," "cheerful living/giving," and awareness of "how God's grace abounds in our life." A Celebration Luncheon at noon follows the worship. Jehovah Lutheran church is at the corner of Snelling and Thomas.

North Korea hunger project

"Giving Hope and Healing to the Hungry of North Korea" is the theme of the current world Hunger project at Jehovah Lutheran Church. Specifically the congregation is gathering funds to replace plastic on greenhouses at Tuberculosis (TB) hospitals and rest homes served by Christian Friends of Korea (CFK) in North Korea. Sunday School children made banks for members to take home to gather funds especially on "Thankful Thursdays." Food grown in the greenhouses accounts for 60-70% of the diet of the TB patients and is essential to their healing. Replacing plastic on one greenhouse costs \$35. CFK works closely with North Korean officials and visits the north three to four times a year to monitor the delivery of goods and plan for future needs. For more information call Dawn at 651-644-1421.

Master Singers perform at St. Bernards Church

The Master Singers from Eau Claire, Wis., will perform a Festival of Lessons & Carols at The Church of St. Bernard, 187 Geranium Ave. W. on Saturday, Dec. 13th at 7 p.m. There is free admission, but there will be a free will offering for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This will be the third year for the popular group appearing at St. Bernard's, and everyone is welcome.

Toys For Tots at Dean's Tavern

Dean's Tavern at 1986 Rice St. will collect for Toys For Tots all day, Sat., Dec. 13. Raffles for prizes will be held all day also, and at 6 p.m. karaoke and a beer special will start. For further information, call 651-488-6868.

December activities at Rice St. Branch Library

The Rice Street Branch Library has many activities planned for December. Please stop in and join us!

The library will offer family story times on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30-11 a.m. Join Rice Street's storytelling experts for stories, finger plays, rhymes, and songs. All ages welcome.

A Bilingual Spanish-English story time will be offered on Friday, Dec. 19 from 10:30-11 a.m.

A Saturday Movie Matinee will be shown at 2 p.m. every Saturday in December. Please stop in or call the library at 651-558-2223 to learn which movie

will be shown each week.

Teens in Action will meet on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Get involved, get connected! Campfire Teens In Action hosts activities that help you make your community better. Ages 12 & up.

Teen Time will be offered Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m. Join us for a rotating roster of activities each Wednesday! Book clubs, board games, video games, & crafts are just a few of the activities teens can do.

The Runescape Club will meet on Thursdays from 3:30-5 p.m. Each week it's nothin' but Runescape. Bring your friends!

The library will offer a Senior Social Time on Thursdays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Join friends, neighbors or other older adults for a rotating variety of diversions, including wii, bingo, card games, and other activities.

Free Foreclosure Counseling will be offered by the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development on Wednesdays from 12:30-6:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Free Job Search Assistance will be offered by a consultant from Goodwill-Easter Seals on Friday Dec 12 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

The STARS Homework Help Center is a quiet place for students of all ages to work on schoolwork. If you need help with homework or would like to be a Homework Helper, please visit STARS Monday through Thursday from 3-7 p.m.

The Read with Me literacy program is still accepting applications! If you know of a child in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade who needs

help with reading or writing, or if you would like to tutor a child in the Read with Me program, please visit any branch of the Saint Paul Public Library to complete an application or call 651-266-7437 for more information.

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between Lawson and Hatch. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12:30-9 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The library will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Dec 24 & 25 and Thursday, Jan 1 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The library will be open 12:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday Dec. 31.

For more information about these events, contact the Rice Street Branch Library at 651-558-2223.

'Good Habits' on Elders program

On January 13 at 11:30 a.m., "Exercise Some Good Habits" will be the topic presented by Debbie Hanka, a physical therapist and Health and Wellness Coordinator at Wilder Community Services for the Elderly, at a luncheon for HM seniors at 1514 Englewood Ave. A free will donation is asked for the meal. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations and request free transportation. If you are a senior, caregiver or neighbor and would like information about our services, visit

HM Elders has a variety of volunteer opportunities available including daytime driving and snow shoveling.

2008 budget

Continued from page 2

Council President Kathy Lantry said she is pleased that the 2008 budget shortfalls appear to be coming in lower than anticipated. "It's not as bad as we thought it was going to be," she said.

Office of Financial Services (OFS) Director Margaret Kelly told council members that the administration and city departments are carefully tracking spending. That has helped reduce anticipated gaps. The administration is approving expenditures of more than \$5,000 and is reviewing every city vacancy before replacements are hired.

Financial Services staff is also carefully following revenue sources. One issue that is being tracked closely is sales tax revenue, from the city's half-cent sales tax. Even though the 2008 budget was planned with an anticipated bump for the Republican National Convention, that didn't happen, said Todd Hurley of OFS. "We did not foresee the dramatic decline in retail sales in St. Paul." He said the

revenues will be about \$800,000 below projections.

One big impact on the 2008 budget is fringe benefits, which are over budget in seven departments. This is attributed in part to not having employee benefit settlements reflected in the 2008 budget, as well as police and other staff overtime related to the Republican National Convention. The largest fringe benefit increase that has to be covered is for the Police Department, at \$612,721, with Fire Department fringes needing an additional \$426,195. Still, the police budget hole is smaller than the \$1.6 million initially projected for that department alone.

Some special fund changes also are tied to the RNC, as the city anticipates receiving federal funds to cover expenses incurred before and during the convention.

Of city departments, the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) has the largest budget hole, of about \$1.7 million. Much of that can be addressed by a com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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Biogas could keep Rock Tenn in business for many years to come

By JANE MCCLURE

Anaerobic digestion and the production of biogas could keep Rock-Tenn recycling paper for years to come, if a recommendation approved November 29 by the St. Paul City Council becomes reality. The council unanimously capped for than a year's debate by endorsing a proposal brought forward by the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) and a St. Paul Port Authority-led consulting team.

The council vote, following public testimony in support of the proposal, drew applause from the more than 40 people on hand for a public hearing and vote. The next step in the process is for the Port Authority to seek a federal loan guarantee to move the project forward.

The anaerobic digestion facility would be built in rural Minnesota and would use either agricultural wastes as fuel. Animal manure, sugar beets or stillage left from ethanol production are among the fuels that have been cited as possibilities. The rural facility would use anaerobic digestion to

generate biogas, which could then be processed and put into the natural gas pipeline system. While the biogas wouldn't be piped directly to Rock-Tenn, it would allow the Midway paper recycler to use energy credits to buy down the costs of natural gas it would use on-site.

Currently the plant is burning a mixture of fuel oil and natural gas, at a ratio of 75 percent to 25 percent. The production of biogas would allow that ratio to be reversed.

"There's still a lot that has to be done to make anaerobic digestion work," said Ward Four Council Russ Stark. But he is pleased that an option that has widespread community support emerged from the months of sometimes emotional debate over Rock-Tenn's need to preserve 475 jobs versus concerns about air pollution and health impacts of some possible fuels.

Stark noted that while there was "very little trust" in the RCAP study process initially, the result is one of the few cases where "the most environmentally friendly option also turns out to be the most

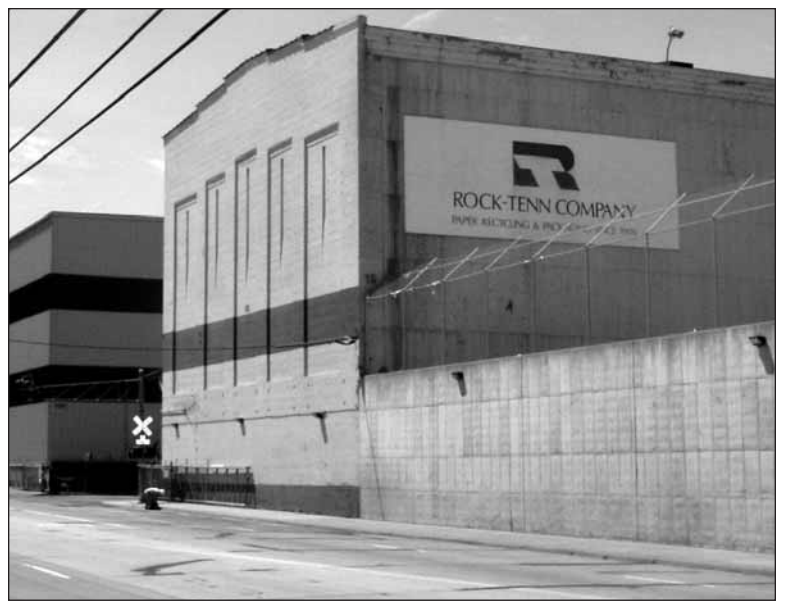
economic option."

One of the flashpoints during the months of debate over Rock-Tenn was whether refuse-derived fuel should be used at Rock-Tenn, as some early studies had suggested. Stark said he never wanted to see refuse-derived fuel considered. "I'm glad we didn't get to the point where we had to have that discussion," he said.

But with refuse-derived fuel off of the table in favor of biogas or other biomass options, the testimony November 19 was largely positive. "This has been a real team effort," said Port Authority Director of Development Lorrie Louder.

Rock-Tenn's energy situation was affected by the construction of the new Xcel Energy High Bridge plant. In summer 2007 Xcel's work to decommission the old plant meant that the steam line to Rock-Tenn was shut down. The new plant, which will operate on an intermittent basis, doesn't have the capability to generate and pipe out steam.

The 2007 Minnesota Legislature earmarked funds to set up the



Anaerobic digestion and the production of biogas could keep Rock-Tenn recycling paper for years to come, if a recommendation approved November 29 by the St. Paul City Council becomes reality.

RCAP process. The panel included representatives of labor, Midway businesses and four district councils: Union Park, Hamline-Midway, St. Anthony Park and Macalester-Groveland.

The group looked at a number of energy options, even visiting several sites, before supporting anaerobic digestion as the top choice. The choice was also endorsed by the four district councils.

Louder said the notion of an off-site anaerobic digestion facility is very different from what was contemplated for Rock-Tenn at first. Many people assumed a new facility would have to be built at the plant or elsewhere in the West Midway industrial district. The

proposed anaerobic digestion facility would be built by private investors, with assistance from the Port Authority.

"Keep this plant open," said Bob Ryan, a 28-year Rock-Tenn employee. His family has worked at the plant for three generations. "Please support us on this issue."

Area residents who had fought the burning of garbage praised the process and the outcome. Several thanked Pete Klein, who led the Port Authority team. "We've kept in mind that this is about keeping a paper recycling facility with good jobs open," said Neighbors Against the Burner (NAB) co-founder Nancy Hone. But it is also about protecting public health. She said NAB members were pleased that their concerns were listened to during the RCAP study process.

Merriam Park resident Bev Ferguson said the Rock-Tenn studies are a good example of how people can work together on an issue. "My response at first was that we should burn garbage," Ferguson said. Then as she and others in NAB got more involved in the Rock-Tenn debate, "we learned just how complex the issues are."

Hone said that NAB intends to stay involved in the Rock-Tenn issues until the new plant is built. The group also wants to stay active in efforts toward zero waste disposal in St. Paul, encouraging more recycling and reuse of garbage. NAB is also likely to continue to monitor the fate of refuse-derived fuel produced at Newport from garbage collected in Ramsey and Washington counties. The counties' contract with Xcel Energy for that waste stream ends in 2012. NAB members believe there will be pressure to burn the fuel elsewhere.

The November 19 council vote means an end – at least for now – to the RCAP process. If anaerobic digestion and two other recommended options don't work out as a fuel source, it's possible that the panel could be reconvened to discuss other options. But most of those involved in the Rock-Tenn issue believe that anaerobic digestion will prove to be a feasible option.

The RCAP web site, www.rtdvisory.org, will remain online and be maintained by St. Anthony Park Community Council. But it will not be updated. No will the RCAP listserv, which hosted many lively debates over the past year, be updated. Additional inquiries on the project are to be directed to the St. Paul Port Authority.

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Debate over public art along Central Corridor continues

By JANE MCCLURE

The debate over public art at Central Corridor light rail stations continues, if October 22 votes are any indication. Not all council members like paying \$2.8 million for train station public art. Not do council members support letting area residents and business owners have a say in which artists design individual stations.

The council voted 9-6 to approve contracts with five artists to incorporate public art in 15 planned light rail stations. Although the public art cost is only a fraction of the projected \$914.8 million Central Corridor budget, the split vote reflects ongoing debate as to whether money should be spent on public art at all.

The light rail project plans approved by the council in February and September do include public art, said Jim Alexander of the Central Corridor Project Office. The Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) does recommend that art be part of transit projects and gives extra weight to projects incorporating public art.

"Are you aware of any light rail lines with no public art component?" said Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell.

Alexander said he has looked into that question. It's his understanding that most if not all of the current light rail projects do have a public art component. For the Hiawatha light rail line, public art costs made up about .5 percent of the \$713 million budget, totaling \$3.5 million.

For Central Corridor, there is a total of \$3.7 million budgeted for all public art for the project or .4 percent of the total project budget. Of that amount \$2.8 million is set aside for the stations.

For the station designs five artists were chosen. Each will design three of the 15 planned stations. This total doesn't include the infill stations at Hamline, Western and Victoria, which will be built later.

Each artist cannot exceed a total of \$560,000 for his or her work. The artists are to complete preliminary work by May 2009, and can spend no more than \$100,000 each or a total of \$500,000.

But some council members continue to be concerned about the cost of public art, especially its ongoing maintenance. The council's Transportation Committee also split, 5-3, on the artists' contracts when its members voted earlier in October.

Council Member Annette Meeks noted that some of the art installed at Hiawatha stations has been costly and difficult to maintain. "We have a very strong concern about maintenance," Alexander said.

Central Corridor Project Director Mark Fuhrmann, who also led the Hiawatha Corridor project, said he isn't aware of how much it has cost to maintain the

Hiawatha public art. But he noted staff has spent a "significant" amount of time repairing and replacing interactive art, which has been repeatedly vandalized. No interactive art projects are planned along Central Corridor.

Some of the installations along Hiawatha have also been criticized by Metropolitan Council members because replacement pieces are expensive to fabricate. Persons with disabilities have complained that having every station be designed differently creates challenges for access. Alexander said the Central Corridor stations will all have a consistent design.

But that consistency drew fire earlier this year. Local elected officials on the central Corridor's Corridor Management Committee complained about what some saw as stark station designs and questioned how much art could be incorporated into each station. The stations are long and narrow. Most will be built in the middle of the street.

Spending money on art was one issue. How the artists are assigned and selected is another. On a voice vote October 22 the council rejected the idea of letting neighborhood groups along the 11-mile light rail line have a say as to which artists design which rail stations. Instead, the artists have been assigned by Central Corridor project staff. The selections were based on submissions during the competition for one of the five artists spots.

The District Councils Collaborative (DCC), a group of St. Paul district councils and Minneapolis neighborhood associations along the 11-mile light rail line, had pushed for neighborhood groups to have a say in which artists design which stations. DCC Chair Anne White said the artists chosen by Metropolitan Council could then meet with neighborhood groups before they are assigned to specific stations.

Metropolitan Council member Kirsten Sersland Beach represents several neighborhoods along Central Corridor and chairs the Central Corridor Citizens Advisory Committee. She asked that the artists' assignments be provisional, until there is time to do a community visioning process for each station. Sersland Beach said she has heard from the DCC and several community members wanting a choice of artists. The deadline for each station area art advisory committee was extended into mid-November, so that more applicants for each group could be found. The committees are to start their work this month.

But other Metropolitan Council members said that could be a lengthy process, which could set the light rail project back several months. They suggested instead that community groups

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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LRT art

Continued from page 13

work closely with the artists, who were assigned to specific stations by a selection committee. That's already spelled out in the artists' request for proposals and project contracts, which call for working with the community and hold at least three community meetings. Final designs are each station are due in May 2009.

"Artists are required to participate in a public involvement process," said Alexander. Each station will have a community task force with input on design. Bell said there will be community input and that he would ensure that the community's voice is heard when art is de-

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"Are you aware of any light rail lines with no public art component?"

— Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell

signed for each station. "This will not be a hollow or toothless exercise," he said.

Eighty-seven artists from around the world sought the Central Corridor contracts. That field was winnowed to 1-0 artists, with five chosen. The five are Seitu Jones, a Frogtown resident, will design the Rice, Dale and Lexington stations.

Minneapolis resident Janet Lofquist will design the 10th Street, Capitol East and 29th Street station in Minneapolis. Nancy Blum, who is from New

York, will design the Fairview, East Bank and West Bank stations. Mykelbust and Sears, artists based in Stockholm, Wisc., will design the Union Depot, Raymond and Westgate stations. Roberto Delgado, who is from Los Angeles, will design the Fourth and Cedar, Snelling and Stadium Village stations. All of the artists were chosen because of their past public art experience and ability to use durable materials. Almost all have designed transit station public art.

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Holiday memories

Continued from page 5

The St. Paul Daily News described the event as "the largest purely social event of its kind ever held in Minnesota." For the price of \$2 per couple, guests could tour the fine new retail store and attached warehouse. They enjoyed refreshments and danced to music, including the sounds of the ten-piece Katherine B. Hensler Ladies Band.

Montgomery Ward also made holiday decorations a tradition.

The store had large front windows for many years, which were always decorated. The roof was lit and sometimes used as a staging area for larger decorations. One of the longtime Midway Montgomery Ward tradition was to have a Santa Claus in the store tower, looking out over all of the boys and girls in the surrounding neighborhoods.

When Montgomery Ward was joined by other businesses who put up decorations, and University Avenue itself was crossed with overheard garlands, bells and stars, University Avenue was a colorful holiday sight.

While Parranto Brothers may have had some of the largest decora-

tions, they weren't the only auto-related business decking their halls. They and others were part of what was known as St. Paul's Auto Row, the used and new motor vehicle dealers, filling stations, repair garages and other businesses that once dominated University Avenue.

Leonard Parranto, a St. Anthony Park resident who owned Parranto Brothers, had moved his business to 606 N. Hamline Av. about a decade after the picture was taken. The Shell station at University and Syndicate was owned by E. B. Rath. Not too many years later, an office building went up on the University Avenue site.

2008 budget

Continued from page 10

bination of reallocating the vacant building fees and using budget reserves. DSI Director Bob Kessler said the department will be shifting its focus and employee contingent next year to address more of the vacant building caseload.

One reason it's so critical to get a handle of the 2008 budget is to anticipate further turbulence in 2009. A state budget deficit could mean mid-year cuts in the city's Local Government Aid (LGA) allocation. When that happened in 2003 the city had to lay off employees

and cut a number of services.

The state budget deficit numbers will be revealed this week. The deficit could range from \$3 to \$6 million, said Jeff Van Wychen, a consultant for the city-county-school district Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee. The state is expected to take a number of measures to balance its own budget, including LGA cuts. Under some scenarios outlined the city could lose more than \$10 million in state aid.

Kelly told the City Council that they need to be prepared for the possibility of losing some of next year's LGA dollars. The city is slated to \$62.2 million in state aid next year.

CSI

Continued from page 3

"It was three weeks long, pretty much in keeping with an investigation of this sort," Hanson said.

Although all the clues pointed to math teacher Mary Bejblik as the perpetrator of the crime, science teacher Joe Osborn was finally arrested.

He said he was at the school the night before the victim was found. He heard a scream, and he saw Bejblik running away from the school. Osborn admitted confronting the victim and slashing him.

A two to three-day trial was held after the Thanksgiving holiday, with jurors given one day to deliberate.

It was determined the crime was committed in self-defense, and Osborn and Bejblik were eventually cited as heroes for their role in

trying to keep the school safe.

"Some of the classes are preparing a two-hour DVD as a commemorative souvenir," Hanson said. She said the school would like to send in documentation to YouTube and ireport.com on CNN.

"As far as I know, this total and complete collaboration involving the whole school is the first of its kind," Hanson noted. "It has never been done on this scale before."

She said that she hopes that this project will show students the wide number of careers they could have in forensic science.

"You don't have to look at icky things," she said. "There are so many different careers you can have. You can go, study, and be successful and productive in all areas."

Although a challenge, the project appears to have been rewarding for Hanson.

"It's the most exciting time I have had in my 11 years of teaching," she said.



Updates on the "CSI" case were announced each day at Arlington High School, and students could sign in and enter the crime scene to investigate. One class is looking for fibers, and taking photos, organizers explained. The project was designed so the whole school could experience the effort. (Photo by Denis Jeong Plaster)

Happy Holidays from

Hamline University

December concerts

Hamline University Women's Chorale and Winds Holiday Concert

The concert will take place on Saturday, December 6, at 1:30 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall. For more information, call 651-523-2459.

Hamline University Orchestra Holiday Concert

The Hamline Orchestra, conducted by Yali You, will present its winter concert in Sundin Music Hall on December 6 at 4 p.m. Guest pianist Cheng Chen, the winner of the Schubert Club 2008 competition, will also perform, as will the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers in traditional Slovakian costume. The event is free and open to the public.

A Cappella Choir Christmas Concert

Hamline University A Cappella Choir will perform festive traditional and modern settings of the Christmas season. The concert will be held in the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Avenue on Sunday, December 7, at 4 p.m. For information, call 651-523-2296.

Hamline University Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo Winter Concert

The Jazz concert will occur on Sunday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Simley Theatre. For more information, call 651-523-2459

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