



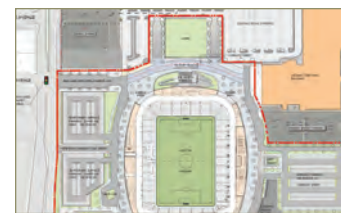
George Latimer makes Midway his new home

PAGE 9



Conflicted feelings about loss of Hamline Ave. parking

PAGE 10



How superblock will look under latest site plan

PAGE 11

Midway Como

Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

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A Line marks step forward in bus service

Ride for free during opening weekend; special events planned on Sat., June 11

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

On June 11, locals will have a new transportation option.

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) A Line will begin operating locally from Rosedale Mall, down the busy Snelling Ave. commercial corridor to Highland Village and over to 46th St. Station in Minneapolis.

The A Line will offer a new kind of bus service that will cut the journey from 46th St. station to Rosedale Mall from 48 minutes to 35 minutes.

The line officially opens at 10am.

Bus service on the A Line and Route 84 will be free June 11 to 13.

Midway resident Jessica Treat of Transit for Livable Communities is looking forward to the start of the A Line. "It's a significant change and the first in the region," pointed out Treat.

Como resident João Medeiros said, "I am excited that the BRT will provide an efficient connection from my side of the neighborhood to the Green Line, which should provide easy tran-



The 40-foot Gillig model buses look significantly different than regular-route buses. Passengers will be able to get on and off faster, thanks to low-floor buses and raised curbs at stations, plus wider bus doors and boarding from the front and back. (Photos submitted)

sit access from the neighborhood to both downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul."

Medeiros is looking forward to seeing whether the BRT helps alleviate some of the congestion at State Fair time. "As an all-season user of the Como and Snel-

ling bus stop, I am also excited that the stations are going to have radiant heating in the winter, like light rail stations," he added.

Opening day events

Events planned from 10am to

2pm on June 11 include:

- Snelling and University: Official ribbon cutting ceremony begins at 9:30am with the ribbon cutting at 9:50. There will be live music and food trucks. Community groups and businesses will have tables set up.

- HarMar Mall: The first bus will bring the mayor of Roseville to HarMar at about 10:10am, where there will be a short ceremony and music by the Roseville City Band and other groups.

- Highland Park: The event will take place at Hillcrest Park, located at Ford Pkwy. and Kenneth, an A Line stop. Community groups, local businesses, and the park board are coming together to host an event celebrating the launch of the A Line route. There will be a climbing wall and children's craft activity.

- 46th Street Station: A Line bus on display and Metro Transit personnel available to answer questions.



Cross between bus and train

Bus Rapid Transit makes riding a bus a bit more like riding a light rail train.

Customers will pay their fares at ticket vending machines before boarding the bus.

By extending the curbs at stations, buses can merge more easily into traffic after serving a station. The buses won't pull over to board passengers, but will instead remain in the right driving lane. Each A Line station is comprised of a northbound and southbound platform. All station platforms will have a customer waiting shelter with interior light

Continued on page 8

The Emily Program 'gave me my life back' says local woman

Program set apart by staff who have been there too, and are working to increase care standards for eating disorders

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

One in five women struggles with an eating disorder.

St. Anthony resident Billie Gray is one of them.

At 39, her best friend asked her to be an attendant at her wedding, and Gray spent more time worrying about how she was going to look in a sleeveless dress than she did being happy for her friend.

"Luckily I had enough awareness to recognize that as distorted thinking," stated Gray.

She walked herself down to her "friendly neighborhood eating center," The Emily Program, and asked for help.

She got it.

"It gave me my life back," said Gray.

For Gray, having an eating disorder meant that she kept a part of herself set aside to manage that disorder.

She knows she could have been diagnosed with binge eating disorder when she was 24, but she kept her habits hidden from others for years.

"Eating disorders come in a



The adult treatment site at 2265 Como is one of several in the neighborhood. A center for youth is located across the street. The Emily Program offers outpatient, intensive day/partial programs with lodging available, and 24/7 residential care at ten sites across Minnesota as well as sites in Washington, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The administrative offices, including the Foundation, are based in St. Paul's Bandana Square. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

lot of different manifestations," Gray observed.

She wasn't the type of binge eater who drove to three different drive-thrus and ordered a meal at

each to devour in one sitting. No, hers was harder to see because it didn't manifest according to the stereotype. Her eating disorder involved grazing from the time



The Emily Program Foundation Executive Director Billie Gray and The Emily Program Chief Strategy Officer Dr. Jillian Lampert stand in the kitchen at the 2265 Como Building, a place where cooking classes and meals are held. Treatment at The Emily Program involves a lot of different food experiences, pointed out Lampert. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

she got home from work to the time she climbed into bed. Every night she ate to the point where she felt full and then kept going until she felt physically ill.

"It was like I had two stomachs," Gray explained. "One was so full. One couldn't stop

Continued on page 6

Vote on Galtier Elementary closure set to happen June 21

By JANE MCCLURE

Galtier Elementary families, faculty, staff and supporters will know June 21 if their school will close at the end of the 2016-2017 year. After packing a May 31 special School Board meeting to plead for more time, they now must wait and see what happens. Many predict a close vote and hope it comes down on their side.

After months of speculation, Superintendent Valeria Silva announced last month that Galtier would close. She said that while Galtier is a good school, it just doesn't have enough students to be viable.

Parents, who worked hard to attract more students in the face of a district program that allows neighborhood children to be bused to St. Anthony Park, said they need more time and more district assistance to help Galtier succeed. But they were frustrated by what they see as a dismissive and uncaring attitude by the school administra-

tion and some board members. Some said the school district lacks leadership and courage, and that it isn't interested in helping students of color succeed in a neighborhood school.

Some went so far as to accuse the district of setting Galtier up for failure. Galtier had a major renovation just a few years ago. But it has also had program changes and a near-constant principal turnover. The school had 310 students in grades K-5 in 2012, its last year as a science magnet school.

Others were also unhappy on May 31 with a long district staff presentation that didn't allow some families time to stay and testify.

School Board Member John Brodrick wants the district to give Galtier more time. "If we truly believe in the Strong Schools, Strong Communities (program), then we have to help a school like Galtier," he said.

District officials want to combine Galtier with Hamline Elementary, which will have space in its building after the Jie Ming Mandarin Chinese School moves out. Some Galtier parents noted that because Hamline Elementary is also under-enrolled, they and their children could face another school move in just a few years.

Galtier's enrollment is 158 pupils, and 13.67 staff and faculty. That drops to 144 pupils this fall. Eighty-eight percent of the students are at the poverty level. Parents said the uncertainty about the school, coupled with the lack of support from the district, hasn't helped enrollment.

Some were frustrated with a joint outreach effort with Hamline Elementary, which fell apart earlier this year. "We never signed on to close

Galtier," said parent Clayton Howatt.

Galtier's budget is \$1.259 million. Keeping the school open could take an additional \$300,000 to add recruiting staff, eliminating grade level classroom splits and technology staff. Closing the school could take steps including a transition time and what school district describe as a "healing" program.

Many parents said healing wouldn't be needed as they'd simply pull their children out of St. Paul Public Schools if Galtier closes. A survey of Galtier families indicated that more than 40 percent would leave the school district if the school is closed.

"My son loves Galtier and has thrived at Galtier," said parent James Luken-Hills. He said closing the school would cause

his family to lose faith in the district.

Another neighbor resident noted Hamline Midway has only three elementary schools "And now you're taking one of those choices away."

Teachers and parents said Galtier needs more time and more attention paid to its open studio style of learning. "I hope to God we can work this out," said parent Darren Hayes. His family moved to Hamline Midway for the chance to have Galtier as their neighborhood school.

Parent Mara Martinson said Galtier families raised money for recruitment, instead of getting viable district resources. She said that money could have been used for field trips and other items for their children. "We sacrificed out of our own pockets," she said.

Monitor

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Plans to redevelop a former can factory into an artist-designed mini golf course, brewery and other creatively oriented businesses are moving on to the St. Paul City Council. Can Can Wonderland's developers request for a commercial development district at 755 N. Prior Ave. won a St. Paul Planning Commission recommendation of approval in May.

A commercial development district is a designation used to allow for an on-sale liquor license or licenses in an area. St. Paul has long used the district designation to set up potential entertainment areas, and in some cases, to grant an on-sale liquor license above the current city ward caps. One failed entertainment district that got a commercial development district designation years ago was centered on the old Amtrak Station on Transfer Rd.

Recent ordinance changes in St. Paul make it easier for restaurants to get on-sale liquor licenses above and beyond the longstanding caps. But if an on-sale liquor license only is sought for a business or businesses in an area, the district designation is still needed if there are no licenses available in the ward.

The former can factory has been vacant since 2008. Can Can Wonderland is the first arts organization in Minnesota to become a public benefits corporation, re-purposing 20,000 sq ft of the 450,000 sq ft of building space for the artist-designed mini-golf course and a Coney Island-style boardwalk

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Can Can Wonderland golf project drives forward

of original coin-operated attractions, live performances, and food and drink. A public benefits corporation is a specific type of corporation that allows for public benefit to be a charter purpose in addition to the traditional corporate goal of maximizing profit for shareholders.

Additional space in the old factory complex is earmarked for Black Stack Brewing, which will open a tap room there.

After the City Council approves the designation, Can Can Wonderland can then seek a liquor license, as can other building occupants.

Midway Stadium site changes

Work continues to transform the former Midway Stadium site at 1771 Energy Park Dr. Footings went in this spring to start building a multi-tenant office park. RJ Ryan Construction is doing the work as the general contractor. Plans call for the building to be finished this fall. The total project cost is about \$20 million, with costs covered by several sources.

Midway Stadium was replaced last year by CHS Field in downtown St. Paul. United Properties, which is based in

Bloomington, is working with the St. Paul Port Authority on the project. The old stadium site is almost 13 acres.

The stadium itself was demolished last year, and the site had to undergo remediation before construction could begin. The site was a longtime dump for the Minnesota State Fair and part of the remediation involved removing manure.

The building already has technology firm Tierney Brothers lined up as a tenant. Other tenants are being sought.

St. Paul passes 300,000 population mark

For the first time since the 1970s St. Paul has passed the 300,000 population mark, according to the Metropolitan Council. It is part of a pattern of growth seen throughout the seven-county metropolitan area, with some growth along the Green Line light rail.

"The region's steady growth reflects our diversified, competitive economy, and low unemployment," said Council Chair Adam Duininck. "It's great to see this growth shared across all corners of our region."

"But growth also challenges us to be smart about investing in key areas that promote prosperity, create choices, and reduce disparities," said Duininck. Among factors shaping the growth are transit and transit-friendly development.

"This is an incredible

milestone for St. Paul," said Mayor Chris Coleman. "It affirms the work we've done to build vibrancy and attract families and businesses to our city—and it underscores that our focus on equity as we continue to grow is critically important for all who choose to call St. Paul home. Our city will be at its strongest when everyone is strong within our community."

Part of St. Paul's growth is in neighborhoods along the Green Line, where several new housing developments have opened their doors. That includes neighborhoods along University Ave. and in downtown St. Paul.

Letters to the Editor

Reader urges 'raise smoking age to 21'

To the Editor,

I recently heard about an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that supports raising the age to purchase tobacco to 21. This is an idea that merits discussion here in Minnesota. We should be exploring all ways to help prevent our young people from starting to use tobacco. Tobacco-free youth means fewer members of the next generation of Minnesotans will die premature deaths tied to tobacco. Also, I'm sure most Minnesotans would agree that the best way to reduce the harm of tobacco is to prevent kids from starting.

Tobacco companies are preying on our kids and spending millions of dollars each

year to stay trendy and relevant in youth culture. Teenagers are highly susceptible to marketing, and tobacco companies exploit this. If the age to purchase tobacco is raised to 21, that sets up an important barrier for those attracted by tobacco industry marketing.

No one wants to see our youth at the mercy of tobacco addiction. Hawaii recently raised the age to purchase to 21, and other states are close behind. I look forward to learning more about what raising the age to 21 could mean for keeping our youth from starting to use tobacco and I urge your readers to do the same.

Kizzy Downie



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The Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., will be overflowing with great activities for all ages this June and July, with a special emphasis on activities for kids now that school is out.

On Fridays from 10:30-11am, the Library hosts Preschool Storytimes in English, with upcoming storytimes on June 10, 17, 24 and July 1, 8, and 15. The storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more for young children and their caregivers and are a way to teach social skills, listening comprehension, letter and number recognition, all while building a foundation for a lifetime of loving books. Children of all activity levels are

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

Library focuses on kids now that they are out of school

welcome.

The library also offers Evening/Pajama Storytimes in English on Tuesdays in June, 6:30-7pm. Pajamas, blankets, and stuffed animals are all welcome at these family events. Upcoming storytimes are on June 14, 21, and 28.

The Hamline Midway Elders sponsors Chair Yoga at the library on selected Thursdays in June from 10:30-11:30am. The

class is taught by Nancy Giguere, and all movement is done while seated or standing using a chair for balance. Upcoming dates are June 9 and June 16.

On Sat., June 11, 2:30-4pm, the library hosts meditator, and educator Jim Rose for Optimal Well-Being. Rose will teach a simple meditation technique that calms body, mind, and spirit.

On Wed., June 22, 1:30-2:30pm, the library will also

feature Peaceful Explorations, a meditation program for families with children ages preschool through second grade. The program will explore living peacefully in our world through music, movement, and storytelling.

The Teens Reading Bravely group also meets Sat., June 11, 3-4pm. The group reads and discusses books that would fall under the "Read Brave" genre and is recommended for grades



There is no place like the library when the kids get out of school. (File photo)

9 and up.

Summer teen events con-

Continued on page 5

Pollination is about transferring pollen to produce food and seeds. Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce: our bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, ants, beetles, and more.

As these pollinators feed on nectar and pollen, they become dusted with pollen which is then transferred from flower to flower, creating the nuts, fruits and vegetables we love. They even pollinate alfalfa and clover in fields, essential to the dairy and beef food products we enjoy.

But we are losing our pollinators. And food that isn't adequately pollinated is smaller, less flavorful, with fewer vitamins and minerals. If humans need to take on the task of hand-pollinating our food crops, the labor cost has been estimated at \$90 billion a year. What would that do to your grocery bill? To agriculture and food options as we know them?

The threats to our pollinators are numerous, including pesticides, parasites, habitat loss, and climate change.

We don't know how to counter all the threats. But we do know that honey beekeepers lost about 44% of their colonies in 2015. Migratory pollinators and insects maturing from larva are finding themselves out of synch with the emergence and blooming of needed plant food sources. Loss of habitat means wild pollinator communities aren't able to find the continuous food sources necessary for survival.

Bees are a major pollinator of our food crops. There are more than 20,000 bee species in the world.

Many wild bees are tiny, don't sting, and live to pollinate. But, bees can't adjust to the rapid pace of climate change. The North American rusty-patched bumblebee is already nearly extinct (we are lucky to still find it in Como Park). Temperature is a major factor. Migration isn't a good option. With relatively fat bodies and tiny wings, bees are built to fly only a few hundred feet. The cycle of heavy rains and frequent droughts means floods wipe out ground-nesting bees and droughts result in starvation. Because bees breathe through their exoskeleton, they are endangered

Ready and Resilient Hamline Midway

By TRUDY DUNHAM

Save the pollinators for our food security



Cavity nesting bees prefer wood and woody stems. See "Provide nesting sites..." below (Photo by Heather Holms)

by particulates and wildfire smoke in the atmosphere.

There are some steps we can take to create healthy environments for pollinators in our yards and neighborhood:

—**Provide nesting sites for a diversity of pollinators:** consider keeping some wild space in your yard where pollinators can nest undisturbed—a bat house for bats, shrubs for hummingbirds (with mosses and lichens to build nests), and milkweed for Monarchs. Elaine Evans of the University of Minnesota's Bee Lab has suggestions for native bee habitat: sunny, well-

drained undisturbed ground with little or no vegetation or mulch for ground nesters, and dry plant stems (prune raspberries, roses, coneflower and other plants with hollow or soft stems 10-12" off the ground) and wood (dead tree limbs, or drill holes in blocks of preservative-free wood) for the cavity nesters.

—**Plant a pollinator garden:** plant more flowers and crops to provide a diversity of nectar and pollen sources. If this doesn't fit your landscape design, consider your alley! The best pollinator gardens are:

- **Continuous:** extend nectar and pollen availability from early spring to late fall and include plants with overlapping blooming seasons to ensure a continuous food source.
- **Diverse:** include a variety of plant types, colors and shapes to attract different pollinators (see http://www.pollinator.org/Resources/Pollinator_Syndromes.pdf for information)
- **Go native:** native pollinators prefer native plants, and old-fashioned plant varieties over the newer hybrids and cultivars.
- **Groups:** plant flowers to bloom in large clumps or swaths to better attract pollinators.
- **No neonicotinoids:** Avoid seeds and plants treated with neonicotinoids, thought to poison bees and other pollinators.
- **Make "pollinator roads":** a pollinator friendly yard can be a small island in the great urban sea. Encourage all your neighbors

to plant pollinator gardens, creating pollinator "roads" and a pollinator-friendly community.

—**Plant people food:** To better understand the role of pollination for food security, consider including people food when you plant food for pollinators. "Our urban neighborhoods are becoming a haven for pollinators," says Lindsay Rebhan of Ecological Design. "We can transform them into a safe edible landscape for people as well." A few herbs and some leafy greens won't take much space in your yard, but add a tomato or cucumber plant and some raspberries to enjoy the fruits of your pollinators. And check out our community gardens and farmers' markets.

—**Provide water:** add a shaded bird bath or shallow water dish to your yard. Keep it relatively clean, but tap water that has been sitting for a day or two (to allow the chlorine to dissipate) is better than 'fresh.' Agitate the water every day or two (stir with a stick) to prevent it from becoming a mosquito breeding ground. Provide

a 'landing place' (rock, floating cork) for insects.

—**Avoid or limit pesticide use:** A safe pollinator environment means pesticide-free. If you must use a pesticide, use it sparingly (same for fungicides and herbicides), and choose one that does not persist on vegetation, avoid applying when flowers are in bloom, and apply it in the late afternoon or evening when most pollinators are not as active.

—**Participate:** there are many local opportunities to learn and support pollinators this summer:

- **Celebrate National Pollinator Week, June 20-26,** <https://www.fws.gov/pollinators>.
- **Bumble bee survey:** Volunteer to survey the endangered Rusty-patched Bumble Bee and other wild bees in Como Park on Aug. 13 and 21: <http://facebook.com/minnesotabumblebeesurvey>.

More than ever before, what you do on your property can make a big difference. Plant flowers. Grow a little food. Make a buffer zone for pollinators and migrating birds to mitigate the effects of climate change. Be part of a pollinator-friendly road. The pollinators will repay you with healthy food and beautiful flowers!

The Ready & Resilient Hamline Midway project is an initiative of the Hamline Midway Environmental Group (HMEG) to build climate change resiliency in our community.

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<p style="margin: 0;">June 15 - Crankshaft & The Gear Grinders Blues, Country, Swing, & Rock 'n Roll</p> <p style="margin: 0;">June 22 - Innocent Reggae Band Minneapolis's #1 Roots Rock Reggae Band</p> <p style="margin: 0;">June 29 - The Bad Companions Rockabilly, Swingin' Blues, & Surf</p> <p style="margin: 0;">July 6 - Katy Vernon Band Pop Folk</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">July 13 - The Morning Kings Funk, Rock, Reggae, & Blues</p> <p style="margin: 0;">July 20 - Jaedyn James & The Hunger 10 Piece Funk, Soul, & Rock 'n Roll</p> <p style="margin: 0;">July 27 - The Auctioneers "Celtabily", Country, & Roots Rock</p> <p style="margin: 0;">August 3 - Lunch Duchess Grunge Pop</p>
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*In case of rain, the concerts will be moved inside the Visitor Center.

The program was funded in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Office of Minnesota on "Restoring & Enhancing State's Endangered Species." Minnesota's first and largest water conservation program.

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Hamline Midway Library news

Continued from page 4

tinue with a nostalgic movie night for teens on Wed., June 15, 5:30-8pm. By popular demand of teen library patrons, the library will screen Space Jam, directed by Joe Pytko in the downstairs library auditorium.

The Hamline Midway Library also participates in Summer Spark (formerly known as the Summer Reading Program), a summer-long program that encourages kids ages 0-18 to have fun, stay active, and keep learning all summer. Kids and their caregivers can attend free programs at the library and earn prizes by completing reading and activity challenges between June 1 and Sept. 2.

As part of this summer-long program, the library will host Activity Wednesdays on Wednesday evenings in June and July. On Wed., June 8, 5:30-6:30pm, kids, teens, and families can design with duct tape. On Wed., June 15, 5:30-6:30pm, kids, teens, and

families are invited to build with Legos. On Wed., June 22, 5:30-6:30pm, the featured activity is decorating a backpack, with supplies provided. On Wed., June 29, 5:30-6:30pm, participants, can make pop-up cards. July 6, the Activity Wednesday craft will feature origami, and on July 13, the activity will be artistic collage. All these activities can count toward kids completing their Summer Spark activity log and getting one step closer to earning a free book from the library. Visit the library for more information and Summer Spark tracking sheets.

Storyteller Paulino Brener is the first performer in the library's Summer Spark programming, kicking off the series on Thur., June 16, 6:30-7:30pm. Brener will share multilingual, multicultural stories and lead participants in making paper boats. This program is good for all ages, but best suited to children 4 and up with their families.

Longtime Summer Reading Program/Summer Spark performer Brodini performs his family-friendly comedy and magic show on Thur., June 23, 10-11am.

This program is great for all ages.

On Thur., June 30, 10-11am, Snapdragon Seeds Music performs fun, upbeat songs that all audiences will recognize in a program that's also great for all ages.

The Como Zoo Park and Conservatory will take participants on A Journey Through Africa on Thur., July 7, 6:30-7:30pm, helping children and their families go on an imaginary tour of the African desert, savanna, and tropical rainforest and meeting live plants and animals along the way. Participants will also learn to count in Swahili and explore an African folk tale.

The Bazillions perform on Thur., July 14, 10-11am. This family-friendly band is the creation of Twin Cities' parents/educators/singer-songwriters Adam and Kristin Marshall, who first started creating songs for and with their students at the Kenny School in Minneapolis. By popular demand of their students and their students' parents, the Marshalls recorded and released a CD entitled Rock 'n' Roll Recess with members of their indie-pop band The Humbugs, performing under the band name The Bazil-

lions. Come rock out at the library!

The library is rounding out its summer programming for young people by offering free Summer Clay Workshops with the Northern Clay Center on Tuesdays, July 5 and 26 and Aug. 9, 23, and 30, with all workshops from 3:30 to 5:30pm. The workshops are for ages 8 to 14, and in each workshop, participants will see a demonstration, then have time to make and decorate a project of their own. After each workshop, the projects will be taken back to Northern Clay Center for firing and will be ready for pick-up at the library about two weeks later. Come to one or more sessions! For planning purposes, preregistration is required, and space is limited to 20 participants per workshop. Registration for the July 5 workshop opens June 21, and registration for the July 26 workshop opens July 12; check the library website events calendar at www.sppl.org or call 651-642-0293 for subsequent registration dates.

Jody's POV Documentary Film Series, co-sponsored by the

Hamline Midway Elders, continues on Wed., June 29, 1-3pm, with "The Genius of Marian," directed by Banker White and Anna Fitch. In this POV documentary, a filmmaker documents his mother Pam's struggle to hang on to a sense of self in the early stages of Alzheimer's. The film also captures Pam's desire to preserve the legacy of her mother Marian, a celebrated artist. A discussion will follow the film, which is sure to be both touching and thought-provoking.

The Saints and Sinners Book Club meets on Sat., July 2, 1pm to 3pm to discuss good mysteries. Contact Geraldine Balter at gerribalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570 for information about the latest titles under discussion.

All St. Paul Libraries will be closed on Mon., July 4 for the Independence Day holiday.

The Kids' Book Clubs will continue to meet through the summer, with meetings on Sat., July 9 in two age groups: ages 8 to 11 from 1:30-2:15pm, and ages 11 to 14 from 2:30-3:15pm. New members are always welcome!

News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Improvements coming to May Park; open house June 24

Join the conversation about improvement to May Park. The City of St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation has secured funding to make needed improvements to May Park at the Northeast corner of Chelton Ave. and Clayland St. in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. Provide input and help re-imagine this neighborhood space at a community open house June 24, 4-6pm, at May Park, 816 Clayland St.

Parks and Rec is also looking for a few good community representatives to help guide the design process. If you're interest-

ed in helping determine the future of the park as a member of the community task force, contact Cheeneng Yang at cheeneng.yang@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-6414.

You can also provide input by filling out a quick survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/maypark. For regular project updates, visit www.stpaul.gov/maypark.

Friends of Hamline Park ready for summer fun

Mark your calendars for three fun events in Hamline Park

this summer! Following the spring cleanup day and hugely successful planting/gardening event, Hamline Park is looking better than ever and is ready for a summer full of fun and events. On May 21, 27 community members joined forces to plant tons of new greenery generously donated by the Friends School. Volunteers were treated to coffee and beverages from Ginkgo Coffee House, muffins and snacks from Groundswell Coffee, and the joy that comes from the community coming together to revitalize a valued public park.

Mark your calendars for these three free events coming up this summer in the park:

- June 29, 7pm—Puppet Show with Open Eye Figure Theater
- July 13, 5pm—Live Music
- Aug. 10, 6pm—Circus!

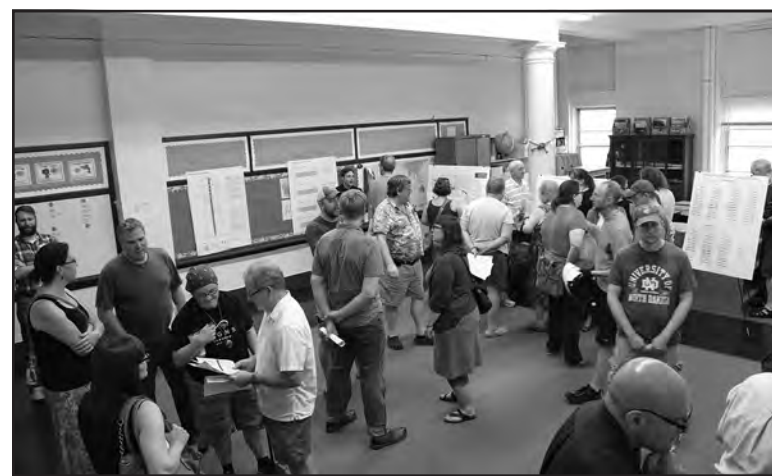
Visit the FOHP Facebook page to stay up to date on the all the latest happenings in the park. <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhamlinepark>.

Help lead the Hamline-Thomas Community Garden efforts

Now in its 10th year, the little and beloved Hamline-Thomas Community Garden at the northeast corner of Hamline and Thomas avenues continues to grow and flourish. Many

neighbors have contributed time and care, and organizers are looking for a few extra hands to help continue to cultivate community and beauty at this well-used corner of the neighborhood.

Volunteer responsibilities might include coordinating a planting date and mulching; making sure there is regular watering; help with maintenance and weeding every few weeks; end of year clean up; and informing neighbors of volunteer needs and opportunities. If you would like to help out, please contact Hannah Texler at ekvadnais@hotmail.com.



A group of residents and other interested parties attended the open house on May 26 to have the opportunity to help shape the future and safety of Hamline Ave. The City of St. Paul Department of Public Works held the public forum to discuss and explain proposed improvements to Hamline Ave. The work being proposed involves removing and replacing the top layer of pavement and updating all non-ADA compliant pedestrian ramps. This route is also identified in the Citywide Bike Plan, and the City is proposing to install on-street bicycle lanes, which would require removal of on-street parking from one side of the street. (Photos by Kyle Mianulli)

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ComoFest expands in 2016 to bring affordable fun to every part of the neighborhood every weekend in July. Here's a brief rundown of the schedule. You can find full details at www.comofest.com.

- **Fri., July 8:** North Dale Movie Night. A free outdoor showing of "Pan," at dusk on the baseball field at North Dale Rec Center.
- **Sat., July 9:** Como Fest Art Fair. Art and crafts for sale, plus live music, on the Promenade of the Como Lakeside Pavilion. 10am-2pm. Online registration for artists is now open.
- **Fri., July 15:** District 10 Ice Cream Social. Enjoy neighbors, ice cream, lawn games, and live music. Free, from 5-8pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station.
- **Sun., July 17:** ComoFest 5K Walk/Run for Everyone. Sponsored by the Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program. Starting 8:30am at the Lakeside Pavilion. Online registration is now open.
- **Fri., July 22:** Lyngblomsten's Mid-Summer Festival: A Celebration of Arts & Lifelong Learning. An art showcase, hands-on art activities, music, food, and games run from 2-6:30pm. That's followed by live music and a community dance under the big tent from



Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

ComoFest lines up fun every weekend in July

6:30-8pm. Admission is free.

- **Sat., July 23:** Community Appreciation Picnic. Topline Federal Credit Union presents a free community cook-out, with giveaways, open to all ages. From 11am-1pm in the credit union's parking lot at Lexington and Front.
- **Fri., July 29:** Northwest Como Campout. Festivities begin at 6pm with a jump castle, climbing tower, concessions and other family fun activities at Northwest Como Rec Center. A free outdoor showing of "Zootopia" begins about 8:45pm. The evening ends with the annual family outdoor overnight campout. To reserve your camping spot, call 651-298-5813 or register online.
- **Sat., July 30 and Sun., July 31:** ComoFest Music Festival. The Underground Music Café transforms its parking lot and indoor stage for live music, presentations, a local talent show, beer, crafts, and more. Food, coffee, and drinks will be on sale throughout the festival. Hours: Sat., 11am-11pm; Sun., 11m-2pm.

New board members

Community members elected two new members to the District 10 Board on May 17. Residents elected Tim Post to fill the board's vacant Secretary position and elected Mike Ireland to fill a vacant seat representing Sub-District 3. Congratulations to both Tim and Mike, who fill terms that expire in April 2017.

D10 Board appoints representatives

The District 10 Board has ap-



Motorists stop for pedestrians crossing Lexington Parkway north of the Pavilion. (Photo submitted)

pointed three community members to represent the neighborhood on two committees dealing with Como Park issues.

- Maggie Zimmerman was appointed to the Como Dockside Community Input Committee. This group is evaluating Como Dockside's performance as part of the restaurant's contract with the city. Committee members will develop surveys and other ways of assessing quality, customer service, community access, and other measurements.
- Richard Herriges and Jenny Larson were appointed as District 10's representatives on the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee. This committee keeps track of what's going on with traffic, parking, and other projects in the park, and makes recommendations to the city's Parks Commission. District 10's representatives will be the point people who 1) keep the neighborhood informed on park plans; 2) explain how those plans could impact those of us who live here, and; 3) convey our advice to Parks leadership.

Neighborhood cleanup events start in June

St. Paul has scheduled four community cleanup days where residents can dispose of the stuff they can't put in the trash. This includes appliances, furniture, tires, demolition materials, and more.



District 10's event will be Oct. 8 at the Fairgrounds. But St. Paul residents can go to any of the drop-off events, including the first two this month:

- June 11: Washington Technology Magnet High School, 1495 Rice St.
- June 25: Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St.

These events run from 8am-1pm, and accept only cash or checks. You can find fees, and other details in the brochure city residents received in the mail in May. Or go online at <http://bit.ly/1POPyVA>.

- What wasn't in the brochure: The neighborhood cleanup

events also will accept household quantities of confidential paper for shredding. The paper you want shredded must be in a box, paper bag, or plastic bag.

- There also will be a drop-off event only for electronics items on Sat., June 18 at Dunning Field, from 9am-noon. That means TVs, VCRs, DVD players, stereos, computer equipment, cell phones, cords, and similar accessories. You can enter from Concordia Ave. east of Hamline Ave.

Keeping pedestrians in mind

A dozen District 10 residents, plus a few dogs, put their best foot forward in the neighborhood's first "Stop for Me" pedestrian safety on May 19. Police ticketed 15 drivers who did not yield to pedestrians crossing the intersection at Lexington Pkwy. and E. Como Lake Dr., where park paths cross north of the Pavilion.

"Stop for Me" is a citywide educational and enforcement campaign highlighting the state law that requires drivers to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk—marked or unmarked—every corner, every turn, every time.

Pick up a recycling bin The Como Park Streetcar Station is open from noon-4pm every Sunday between now and the end of September. We'll have a District 10 board member on hand to distribute recycling bins, organics composting bags, or just take your comments and suggestions. The Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Get D10 news every week

To keep up to date on what's going on down the block, across the street, and around the corner, sign up for District 10's free weekly e-newsletter. We send it to your inbox every Friday. Go to www.district10comopark.org, then click the sign-up icon in the right column.

Emily Program

Continued from page 1

eating."

For some, grazing is fine, but Gray's habits were normal behavior taken to extremes, as all eating disorders are. Hers was a problem in part because of the time she spent obsessing about food and the internalized shame that surrounded eating, Gray pointed out.

Every day she woke up and told herself today would be different. Every day it was the same.

Gray isn't alone. Middle-aged women are among the fastest growing segment of the population diagnosed with eating disorders.

Relaxing and welcoming atmosphere

Gray is grateful for the help she received at The Emily Program, which is primarily staffed by 520 people who have had eating disorders themselves.

"I love the atmosphere here," Gray stated. "It's very relaxing. Everyone was kind and willing to meet me where I was. If I had had one negative experience, I would have left."

Once she was being treated at The Emily Program, she felt like she got steadily better as she put time into it, but change didn't happen all at once.

She attended individual therapy, met with dietitians to learn about nutrition, and focused on the behavioral piece, as well.

Treatment at The Emily Program involves a lot of different food experiences, pointed out Dr. Jillian Lampert, The Emily Program Chief Strategy Officer. Residents and therapists engage in intimate meals together in the

dining rooms at the facility, cook meals together, and go out to eat together.

Other components are art therapy, body image support groups, and mindful, restorative yoga.

"Being disconnected from your body is a hallmark of an eating disorder," pointed out Lampert, "so getting back in touch with your body is a part of healing."

Gray's breakthrough came during a somatic experience group session, a type of therapy

she didn't think would be valuable for her at all. She considers herself to be analytical and logical and didn't want to focus on sensations.

When encouraged to stop and pay attention to the sensations in her body, Gray realized,

Continued on page 7

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Concert to benefit Keystone Food Shelf
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10:45 Adult Bible Study



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Emily Program

Continued from page 6

"I literally couldn't feel anything between my pelvis and my throat."

Lampert pointed out that another common part of an eating disorder is being unable to close one's eyes and count a pulse beat. Restorative yoga helps patients reconnect with their body's biorhythms.

"We are hoping to raise the bar for quality of care across all residential eating disorder programs."

—Dr. Jillian Lampert

The underlying issue creating Gray's eating disorder was control. "I wasn't ok with who I was," she observed.

Through art therapy, she learned how to express herself, a practice she found empowering and continues today.

There is a debate about whether one is ever really cured of an eating disorder. Gray finds it helpful to continue attending a support group



The Emily Program Foundation staff meet with a group of girls at Whittier International Elementary School in Minneapolis. They present at daycares, middle and high schools, universities, churches and other community groups to increase awareness and education of eating disorders. "The seeds get planted very young," observed Gray. "We're doing what we can to change the environment and minimize the number of seeds that get planted. They're currently partnering on a pilot program with the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ Preschool. (Photo submitted)

every two weeks.

After her three-year treatment, she realized she wanted to make a difference for other people struggling with eating disorders. She quit her successful corporate job and became the executive director of The Emily Program Foundation in June 2014.

The Emily Program Foundation presents at daycares, middle and high schools, universities, churches and other community groups to increase awareness and education of eating disorders. Bullying about body size and appearance is the most common form of bullying in schools.

An program set apart

In 1993, psychologist Dirk Miller, Ph.D., LP, opened The Emily Program, named after his sister, Emily, who recovered from an eating disorder.

Previously, Miller had started the first hospital-based eating disorders treatment program at South Bend General Hospital in Indiana. He had also worked with the University of Minnesota's intensive bulimia program and started an eating disorders group at The University of St. Thomas.

The 23-year-old organization has grown a lot since its start with one employee in a former St. Paul fire station.

Today, The Emily Program offers outpatient, intensive day/partial programs with lodging available, and 24/7 residential care at ten sites across Minnesota as well as sites in Washington, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The administrative offices, including the Foundation, are based at 1295 Bandana Boulevard W.

They also have an Outpatient Eating Disorder Treatment location for adolescents and adults at 2265 Como Ave. and at 2230 Como Ave.

The program is for people of all genders from age 8 to 78 who struggle with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating, compulsive overeating, obesity, and other specified feeding and eating disorders (OSFED).

The approach to treating eating disorders is based on the belief that individuals are unique and that they intuitively seek meaning, value, and creativity in life. Effective treatment requires awareness of the genetic, biological, psychological, social, and cultural impacts on each person.

Lampert noted, "It's the way we do things that sets us apart."

The Emily Program meets this high-intensity need for care through evidence-based practices, round-the-clock nursing, and specialized medical treatment. It is affiliated with the University of Minnesota, initiates studies, and lobbies at the federal level.

"We can help people make changes in their behavior, so they don't have to have an eating disorder," said Lampert.

Working to raise the standards of care

The Emily Program is leading the charge to improve the quality of residential eating disorder care through its leadership of the Residential Eating Disorder Consortium (REDC).

"Through REDC, we are hoping to raise the bar for quality of care across all residential eating disorder programs," stated Lampert, who serves as president of the REDC, an organization The Emily Program co-founded.

In the United States, 30 million Americans struggle with eating disorders. Only a fraction of them will need specialized 24/7 care for their mental illness, but few will find it as residential programs only have the capacity to treat less than 0.05 percent of those impacted each year.

Insurance doesn't always cover treatment costs, despite the Mental Health Parity Bill passed in 2008.

Every 62 minutes someone dies as a direct result of an eating disorder, according to the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy and Action. Eating disorders can be expensive to treat, but they are serious issues with the highest mortality rate of any other mental health illness.

"I love the atmosphere here. It's very relaxing. Everyone was kind and willing to meet me where I was. If I had had one negative experience, I would have left."

—Billie Gray

The Emily Program provides education and training opportunities for health professionals so that they may be better equipped to intervene early in the illness, optimizing patients' recovery.

When Lampert was struggling with an eating disorder 20 years ago, she bounced from substandard program to substandard program. While things have gotten better, she sees room for improvement. That's part of what has driven her efforts to push for quality treatment standards, which were adopted by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities in 2013 and by the Joint Commission recently.

Few health care providers receive adequate training in recognition and treatment of eating disorders, explained Lampert. "There's a huge disparity between the number of lives lost and medical training." The average doctor has received 24 minutes of training. The Emily Program feels so passionately about this that there is currently a bill in Congress, The Anna Westin Act, named in memory of a Minnesota woman who died at the age of 21 as a direct result of anorexia that sets aside existing funds for training. The Emily Program staff and volunteers, including Anna's mother Kitty, who serves on the Foundation Board, are working hard to ensure it becomes law.

For more, browse emilyprogram.com.

You Are Invited: Open House

Learn about new burial options at this historic cemetery:

- See newly developed ground burial sites for full body and cremation
- See a wide selection of niches now available in the new Columbarium



Where: Calvary Cemetery:
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When: Thurs. June 16, 1pm-4pm
Fri. June 17, 10am-2pm
Sat. June 18, 10am-2pm

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651-488-8866**



Calvary † Gethsemane † St. Mary's † Resurrection † St. Anthony's

A Line opening

Continued from page 1

and heater, as well as a pylon marker with a real-time NexTrip display.

Passengers will be able to get on and off faster, thanks to low-floor buses and raised curbs at stations, plus wider bus doors and boarding from the front and back. These 40-foot Gillig model buses will look significantly different than regular-route buses.

The A Line buses will stop at fewer red lights courtesy of transit signal priority, and stay better in sync with traffic flow.

While people typically think that traffic is the main reason for bus delays, a traffic analysis showed that delays actually occur from stopping every block, customers paying fares, and stopping at red lights.

BRT addresses these issues.

21 stations every one-half mile

The A Line will connect the Twin Cities' two metro light-rail lines with the busy Snelling Ave. commercial corridor and several popular destinations, including Hamline University, Macalester College, Midway, Highland Village, Minnehaha Park, Rosedale Center, and HarMar Mall.

The A Line will operate every 10 minutes along the 9.7-mile-long route during rush hours, midday, evenings, and weekends, with less frequent service in the early morning and late at night. The span of service is very similar to today's Route 84 schedule, with trips beginning at approximately 4am and continuing until approximately 1:30am.

Twenty-one stations are located roughly every half-mile.

The A Line will become the primary bus route serving Snelling Ave. and Ford Pkwy. with increased service in evenings and on weekends, substantially replacing much of Route 84.

Local Route 84 will operate every 30 minutes and make off-corridor branch connections to St. Paul Ave., West 7th St. and Davern St.

Transferring between the A Line and light rail is easy. No



The A Line will offer a new kind of bus service that will cut the journey from 46th Street Station to Rosedale Mall from 48 minutes to 35 minutes. "It's good for the community when we have more transit options," observed Ward 12 City Council Member Andrew Johnson. "It's going to be this great connector between the Blue Line and the Green Line." (Photo submitted)

matter where you purchase your ticket, it will be valid for 20 hours of unlimited rides. Additionally, A Line tickets are valid for regular-route buses; present your ticket to the driver but don't insert it into the fare box so that you can keep using it.

Are people riding for free?

Some residents are concerned that riders aren't paying for their light rail trips and won't pay for the A Line ride either.

For Hamline Midway resident Dave Olson, not paying for a ride is theft.

"I take the Green Line fairly often and while waiting for trains observe how many just walk past the payment machines and get on the train. Am I an idiot for not riding free also?" asked Olson.

The issues for Hamline Midway resident Tom Goldstein are the \$180 fine people are charged if caught riding without a ticket and the use of police officers rather than train monitors for the fare checks. "I wish that everyone were honest—or had

the means to pay for transit—but I'd rather see our focus be on keeping the trains safe for all riders than creating a system with out-of-whack penalties and out-of-whack priorities for how we do enforcement," remarked Goldstein.

"Some of us will perceive rampant fare-theft and some of us will observe near universal compliance in the same train ride. Thankfully the Met Council undertook a controlled study with sound statistical methods to determine an estimate of compliance," pointed out Hamline-Midway resident Bryan Kennedy.

According to the April 2015 report, the Blue Line fare evasion rate is between 2.6% and 3.6%, and the compliance rate is estimated to be between 80.8% and 84.8%. The Green Line fare evasion rate is between 4.6% and 9.0% and the compliance rate for is between 81.6% and 87.6%. The audit found that Go-To Card users were the largest group of people not to comply, perhaps because of a misunderstanding of how the card works. Data was collected in 2014.

Neighborhood resident and transportation researcher Guillermo Narvaez thinks that the BRT model seems well suited at this time for Snelling. However, he pointed out that "while it does increase the amount of passengers it can carry, it does not really inspire developers in the same way more permanent forms of transit does."

BRT is attractive because the overall project costs less, but it is less effective in moving people than a light rail or metro system, he noted. "The idea is one that the GOP will tolerate (versus light rail or streetcar) as it shares the same road infrastructure that cars and trucks use," Narvaez said.

A Line stations include:

- Rosedale Transit Center (connect to many bus routes)
- Snelling & County Road B2 (connect to Route 65)
- Snelling & Larpenteur (connect to Route 61)
- Snelling & Hoyt-Nebraska
- Snelling & Como (connect to Route 3)
- Snelling & Hewitt
- Snelling & Minnehaha (connect to Route 67)
- Snelling & University (connect to METRO Green Line, routes 16 & 21)
- Snelling & Dayton
- Snelling & Grand (connect to Route 63)
- Snelling & St. Clair (connect to Route 70)
- Snelling & Randolph (connect to Route 74)
- Snelling & Highland
- Ford & Fairview
- Ford & Kenneth (connect to many bus routes)
- Ford & Finn (connect to many bus routes)
- Ford & Woodlawn (connect to routes 23, 46 & 74)
- 46th St. & 46th Ave. (connect to Route 23)
- 46th St. & Minnehaha (connect to routes 7 & 9)
- 46th Street Station (connect to METRO Blue Line, many bus routes)

Why the Snelling Ave. route?

In 2011, Met Transit studied 12 high-ridership corridors and determined that BRT would perform well along the Snelling/Ford/46th route. As a bonus, it was shovel-ready.

The other routes included in the Arterial Transitway Corridors Study were: Lake St., American Blvd., Central Ave., Chicago Ave., E. 7th St, Hennepin Ave., Nicollet Ave., Robert St., Snelling Ave., West 7th St. and West Broadway Ave. The study later added Penn Ave. and Chicago-Fremont in North Minneapolis.

Construction on the line began in 2015 with road improvements, new shelters, and other amenities. The line was originally slated to open in 2015, but a lengthy review period set the project back.

The total cost of the A Line project is about \$27 million, with money coming from the federal government (\$7 million),

the state of Minnesota (\$16 million) and the Metropolitan Council (\$4 million). Of that, \$15 million was spent constructing stations and adding related technology and fare collection elements; \$7 million on new BRT vehicles for the service; \$1 million on transit signal priority; and \$4 million on design.

Plans call for 20 rapid transitways by the year 2040—16 to 17 of those would be BRT lines. This system will allow another 500,000 people to be a 30-minute commute from their workplace.

"I believe in transit and other forms of transportation that make cities more livable and attractive," said Narvaez. "Is the BRT a perfect solution? Hardly, but it has us talking and thinking about it instead of just driving through places that hopefully will become destinations in the near future."

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Former Mayor George Latimer makes Midway his new home

Story and photo
by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Seated in his apartment above the Green Line corridor, former mayor George Latimer has an ample view of the streetscape of St. Paul and the skyline of Minneapolis. Latimer served as St. Paul's mayor from 1976–1990, and now can look out over a city he and his staff helped to transform.

A resident of Episcopal Homes, 490 Lynnhurst Ave. E., since last year, Latimer joked about the ongoing rivalry between the Twin Cities. "Well, I sure do like to have fun with it," he said. "In the end, I see two cities that are part of a regional community. We flourish because of each other, but that said, we are still two very different cities. It goes deep into our history on both sides. I see St. Paul as operating in a way that's more collaborative, and Minneapolis in a way that's more confrontational."

He continued, "St. Paul has always been, and probably always will be, Minnesota's second city. We simply are more parochial in our thinking, which has both pluses and minuses. St. Paul residents care deeply about place, community, and connectedness. We are slower to change and slower to embrace change."

Latimer is a new-comer to a very changed stretch of University Ave. Beneath his sixth story windows, the Green Line speeds by. More than a few articles credit Latimer's administration with planting the seeds for light rail but he said, "We never came up with anything quite that great in our thinking about transportation. The idea of using transportation as a powerful tool for new development is brilliant. All of the



housing that's being provided for people, especially young people and people who might

not have a lot of money. I see the Green Line as the most transformational thing that's

happened to this old river city."

Latimer will be turning 81 this month. He said, "Of all the things I reflect on with fondness that came out of my tenure as mayor, the one I feel best about was bringing the Job Corps to St. Paul in 1981. It's still housed on Snelling Ave. across from the State Fairgrounds. Bethel College had the space originally, and when they moved to the suburbs, we had to find a new tenant. It was perfect for the Job Corps—a ready made campus just waiting for the students to move back in. Though the program is much smaller now, it's still running."

Job Corps is a residential educational and vocational training program for economically disadvantaged youth. "The last time I checked," he said, "they had graduated more than 10,000 students ages 16–21. They had a placement rate of 91% in successful employment. These are kids who, for one reason or another, didn't make it through school or into the workforce the first time."

Latimer continued, "If you live long enough you'll see a lot of dreams dashed, and maybe have a few dreams that should have been dashed. But Job Corps will always be a warm, abiding memory for me."

Latimer has retained his signature beard, openness and sense of humor. "We had a lot of successes," he said, "like cre-

ating the Family Housing Fund and District Energy, revitalizing Lower Town and building Energy Park. But, we also had some huge failures. Galtier Plaza was a bust financially, and Town Square was a terrible decision architecturally. I taught a seminar on learning from the failures of our administration at Macalester several years ago. The current mayor Chris Coleman, who's a good friend of mine, said, "I heard about that seminar Latimer is teaching, and I think it should be a year-long course."

After his last term as mayor, Latimer went on to become dean of Hamline Law School (1990–93), special assistant to the Office of Housing and Urban Development in Washington DC (1993–95) and a visiting professor in Geography and Urban Studies at Macalester since 1996. He continues to work part-time as a labor arbitrator.

Latimer, whose nearly 14 years in office mark the longest mayoral tenure in the history of the city, is quick to acknowledge that he didn't stand alone. "What occurs during any single political administration has a lot to do with what you inherit," Latimer said. "We were lucky because so much positive growth had taken place in St. Paul in the 1960's. I also had tremendous people around me: the civil servants that were already there when I was elected and the people I was able to appoint."

The former mayor also gives credit to the strong family that surrounds him. When asked how he chose Episcopal Homes after 40 years of living in Crocus Hill, he joked, "Truthfully, every major decision I've ever made has been influenced by one of the women in my life: my Lebanese mother, my wife, or one of my daughters. In this case, my daughters made me do it."

These days he seems happily ensconced in his new apartment—surrounded by photographs of his family and friends, political cartoons and a great many books. Latimer is a dedicated reader, a quality he claims to have inherited from his English father—a quiet man who was a great lover of books.

When asked about the renaming of the Central Library in his honor two years ago, the outspoken former mayor said, "I hadn't heard a word about it—until the day it happened. Mayor Chris Coleman came to our house carrying something in a plain, brown wrapper. It could have been a fish for all I knew. I opened the wrapper and inside was a plaque designating the downtown St. Paul library as the George Latimer Central Library. I was completely speechless. Coleman said, 'I never thought I could silence George Latimer,' but he was wrong."

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Some, including high rise residents, question parking loss on Hamline

Parking would be lost for a bike lane taking up 10 feet; proponents say north/south bike connection is needed

By JANE MCCLURE

Hamline Ave. could be restriped with bike lanes between University and Minnehaha avenues as soon as this fall. A future phase of the project could extend the lanes north to Pierce Butler Rte.

Many bicyclists welcome the idea of bike lanes, saying it will provide a needed north-south route through the area. Other project supporters contend it would make Hamline traffic slow down and promote pedestrian safety.

But some avid cyclists disagree, saying it wouldn't be safe. Business owners and residents, including many in the Hamline Hi-Rise, worry about the loss of on-street parking. They note that existing on-street parking bans in the surrounding area, coupled with spillover parking from schools and events, already create a parking crunch at certain times. But St. Paul Department of Public Works staff, using a recent study, counters that many of the parking spots are underutilized and that there would be enough parking remaining even with a bike lane.

Dozens of people filled a meeting room May 26 at Sejong Academy, 1330 Blair Ave., to discuss the project with city staff. Bike lanes and new pedestrian curb ramps would be installed as part of a mill and overlay project. It would also involve removing parking from one side of Hamline between University and Minnehaha.

Hamline Ave. has been eyed as a bike route before. Past efforts have been shelved due to opposition about parking loss and safety. It was identified in the citywide bicycle plan as a key bike route, which the City Council adopted in 2015.

Luke Hanson, Public Works project manager, said plans for Hamline between University and Minnehaha call for two five-foot bike lanes, an eight-foot parking lane on one side of the street, an 11-foot travel lane in each direction and parking bans at all four corners of Charles Ave.

Hanson noted that while Hamline north of Minnehaha isn't part of the 2016 project, it makes sense to discuss the project extending north. A northern connection would extend to a bike/pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks and additional routes. But because Hamline is narrower north of Minnehaha, it would mean banning parking on both sides of the street.

Public Works is hearing a mixed reaction to the project, Hanson said. "We want to hear from as many people as possible." While Public Works cannot address every concern raised, he said city staff will do what it can.

Many area residents support the proposal, saying a lot of parking along Hamline is infrequently used. They contend that bike lanes will not only help cyclists get to and through the area, but the lanes could also help slow motor vehicle traffic.

David Rudolph lives on Blair Ave. and is a year-round cyclist. "I ride in this area every day," he said, adding that rush hour periods can be busy and hazardous for bicyclists.

His children attend school near the north end of the route, and his daughter likes to bike to school. "It would be fantastic to have bike lanes for her," Rudolph said.

Other cyclists from around the city said they'd use Hamline more as a north-south route if it had lane markings. Brian Martinson, a Macalester-Groveland resident and cyclist, said he'd use bike lanes if they were on Hamline.

Martinson said the bike lanes would indicate that motorists need to share the road with bikes. "I ride where I have to ride," he said. While experienced cyclists like him ride in mixed traffic, lanes would be a benefit and an attraction for more riders to travel Hamline.

Others said they are worried about the loss of parking. Jim Lovold is president of the hi-rise residents' council. "Our concern is parking for our caregivers," he said. The 17-story building has

about 180 residents who are disabled or elderly. The parking lot has 55 spaces. Lovold and fellow council member Margaret Gilbert said caregivers already must park on-street and will have to walk longer distances.

"Some days the parking is very tight," Gilbert said.

Other Hamline Ave. residents

have little or no off-street parking, and in a few places, no alleys. Residents said they struggle to park near their homes and worry about having to carry groceries or other items long distances.

Petitions against the project are at locations including Grand Paws at Hamline and Thomas and Fields of Hair at Minnehaha and

Thomas. Beth Jackson, who operates a home day care on Hamline, said it's troubling that no business owners were talked to about the proposal.

Hamline Midway Coalition has posted studies about the project and a survey. Go to www.hamlinemidway.org/hamlineave.



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In Our Community

Monitor

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for the next print edition of the Monitor. You can also go to our website, MonitorSaintPaul.com and enter your information in the online Event Calendar.

Author presentation slated for July 12

Como Park author and illustrator Dalyce Elliott Young will give a presentation on Tue., July 12, 11am at the Underground Music Cafe, 1579 Hamline Ave. N. Young will play her violin and bring her ragdoll presentation that accompanies her new book "Ellie & the Golden Cricket," published by Beaver's Pond Press. What's the secret to playing the violin beautifully? The golden cricket knows—but before Ellie can ask, the cricket escapes! With the help of a shy friend and her three spunky pups, Ellie encounters nature's colorful surprises as she searches for the easy solution to a squeaky violin.

Bethel plans annual rummage sale

Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy., will hold its annual rummage sale benefiting the Children's Christian Education Fund on June 16 (pre-sale 6-8pm; \$3 admission), June 17 (9am-6pm) and June 18 (9am-3pm).

They will offer a wide range of items including books, furniture, tools, houseware items, dishes, glassware, stemware, crystal, collectibles of all kinds, arts and crafts, jewelry, office supplies, working electronics, sporting goods, gently used toys and clothing for the whole family.

For more information about Bethel, its programs and ministries visit www.bethelstpaul.com or call 651-488-6681.

Friends' Usain Boat takes first place

Friends School of Minnesota entry "Usain Boat" received First Place in the Student Boat Category at the 24th Annual Minnesota Renewable Solar Energy Society Solar Boat Regatta. Friends School is located at 1365 Englewood Ave. The Regatta was held in May.

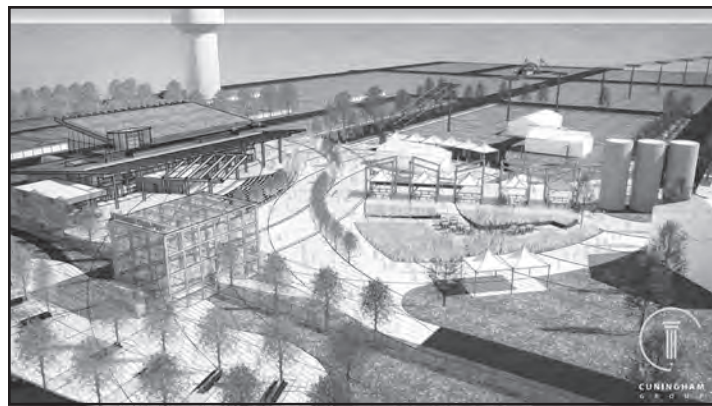
La Leche Group scheduled June 14

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., June 14. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information. The following meeting is July 12.

Co-ed Drum Circle planned June 24

The Women's Drum Center, 2242

New complex to be built at Fair



At a recent meeting of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society board, Cunningham Group previewed renderings and a model of the new complex to be constructed on the north end of the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in 2017 or 2018. The future of food and agriculture will be the overall theme of the area, along with space for traveling exhibits, an outdoor amphitheater for performing arts and a large plaza that will incorporate a variety of ag education and entertainment features. The new permanent complex will be located along the northern edge of the fairgrounds.

"The future of food and agriculture is quite literally the future of humanity," said Jerry Hammer, State Fair general manager. "Many factors are contributing to change on a global level, and it's our job to show where we're headed. Land use, natural resource availability, and population growth are creating massive challenges, but they're also driving innovative new ways of producing food, and we'll shine a light on all of it."

"The convergence of humanity and nature are the design motivation for the north end," said project designer Andrew Tisue. "Rooted between how people experience architecture and the agricultural process, this distinct neighborhood will be a canvas for immersing fair visitors in the stories of the future of agriculture and the arts."

University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., June 24, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm, and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door all experience levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

News from Hamline Midway Elders

The following events are planned by Hamline Midway Elders (HME) in the upcoming month.:

Ice Cream Social—All Hamline Midway residents are invited to this annual free event that on Thur., June 23, 6:30-8pm, on the lawn outside Hamline Church United Methodist (or inside the building

if bad weather) at 1514 Englewood Ave. There will be musical entertainment, children's activities, door prizes—and of course plenty of ice cream and toppings—including sugar-free options and an ice cream making demonstration and sampling featuring an old-fashioned cranking ice cream maker.

Monthly Luncheon—"Volunteering at Hamline Midway Elders"—On Tues., June 14, several current volunteers will share their experiences and HME Service Director Monica Gallagher, will describe current volunteer needs. The meal begins at 11:30am at Hamline Church United Methodist (1514 Englewood Ave.) followed by the presentation at 12:15. New attendees are always welcome at these second Tuesday monthly luncheons.

Book Giveaway—Our friends at Green Books will be hosting another book giveaway on Wed., June 15 at the Hamline Hi-Rise (777 Hamline Ave. N.), 2-4pm. Green Books will bring over 1,000 books (all types) to distribute to residents and other community members. HME also serves as a collection partner for Green Books, so please consider donating new and gently used books to this volunteer program.

Chair Yoga—This popular free class led by Nancy Giguere continues on Thursday mornings starting June 16 from 10:30-11:30am. The class will meet in the auditorium of the Hamline Midway Library (1558 W. Minnehaha Ave). Sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support, participants learn fundamentals of yoga postures, and breathing, practice techniques to release tension in mind and body, and begin building strength and flexibility. Join them for the series or drop in when you can. New participants are always welcome.

Jody's Documentary Series—The partnership with the Hamline Midway Library continues on Wed., June 29 at 1pm with the POV film "The Genius of Marian," about a 61-year-old woman with early onset Alzheimer's. She's filmed with love, dignity and shattering honesty by her eldest son. Jody Huber will introduce the film and lead a discussion after the showing. Snacks will be provided, and all are welcome to this monthly last Wednesday series.

Volunteers Wanted—HME operates with only two part-time staff. The majority of our services to neighborhood elders is provided by some wonderful volunteers, and we could use more. HME has a variety of volunteer needs ranging from driving folks to/from medical appointments, to spring raking, to friendly visiting, to helping out at program events. Please consider helping neighborhood elders.

For more information on any of the above items, please contact Tom Fitzpatrick at Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or tom@hmelders.org.

Vacation Bible School scheduled

Como Park Lutheran, 1376 Hoyt Ave. W., is putting on their annual Vacation Bible School for children who have completed preschool to 5th grade, July 25-29, 9am-12pm. The theme for this year is Deep Sea Discovery. Let your children join in for a week of fun, singing, laughing and making new friends. Children will participate in a community service project as well as learn about God through the mysteries of the sea. The fee is \$25/child before

July 1 and \$30/child after July 1 (\$75 max/family).

Join the walkers every week

The Como Health Club Walkers will sponsor group walks every week through Nov. 21 (excluding holidays) at two locations:

--Mondays at 7pm behind the Como Lake Pavilion (meet near the boat docks); and

--Saturdays at 9am at the lobby of HealthPartners' Como Clinic (2500 Como Ave.).

They will walk for 30+ minutes and everyone welcome. Walkers are grouped according to pace, so no one is left out.

Programs planned at Merriam Park Center

The Keystone Senior Center, located at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., offers a variety of programs for seniors in the community. Here are a few ongoing events along with others scheduled for the coming weeks. Join us! (Unless noted otherwise, these programs meet at the Merriam Park Community Center. Call 651-645-7424 for more information!)

Mexican Train Dominoes: Join other enthusiasts to play Mexican Train dominoes or come to learn the game. The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 1 to 2:30pm.

Fit and Fabulous: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 to 11:30am at the Merriam Park Community Center. An exercise class for everyone over age 50. Classes feature stretching and warm up; endurance work; cool down; guided relaxation, and fun. The cost is \$10 per month. If you're a Silver and Fit member, you can attend classes all year for \$25. Stop by and check it out, or call 651-645-7424 for details. (Participants who are registered with the program can attend classes at either the Merriam Park Community Center or the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St, St Paul. Classes at West 7th are scheduled on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9am.)

Meals on Wheels: Nutritious, fresh, hot, cold, or frozen meals delivered to your door. Available to anyone who needs nutritious food in their lives. Cost based on a sliding-fee scale. Call 651-645-7424 for more information.

Movies on Wednesdays: Movies every Wednesday afternoon at the Merriam Park Community Center at 12:15pm. Call for more information, 651-645-7424.

Continued on page 12

In Our Community

Continued from page 11

Outdoor classroom guidebook offered

Have you walked in the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom in Como Regional Park and wondered about those numbered posts? Or, were curious about the history of the area? The recently completed "Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Guidebook" can answer your questions.

The guidebook describes the Woodland's eight native plant communities and its historical features, including the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace, Joyce Kilmer Cascades, streetcar bridge, and propagation gardens. Information about these natural and historical features is connected to 27 numbered posts along the newly

paved and gravel trails.

Did you know that while American Indians certainly traveled through this area, the first "owner" (as indicated on a map) was Lewis W. Bryson? He bought the land in 1849 from John Lumley, a young soldier who received it in return for fighting in the U.S.-Mexican War.

Do you know what defines a "savanna" versus a "woodland" versus a "forest"? Among other things, it is the number of trees per acre. Learn lots more from the "Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Guidebook" at www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/natural-resources/environmental-education/como-woodland-outdoor.

Funding from the Minnesota Historical Society paid for the historical research, development of the interpretive post content, and publishing of the on-line guidebook.

Keystone is looking for volunteers!

Keystone Community Services is a nonprofit organization that provides social services in the community and in neighborhood gathering places to support and strengthen individuals, families and communities. They are a multi-service organization providing human services in the areas of youth, senior, and basic needs to over 25,000 people annually. The strength of their programming is in large part due to dedicated volunteers.

They are specifically seeking volunteers in their basic needs program:

- **Food Shelf Assistant:** Help fight hunger by stocking shelves and assisting clients as they shop at the food shelf. Generally, volunteers are needed who can commit to one 3.5 hour shift per week. Shifts are from

9am-12:30pm and 12:30- 4pm, Monday through Friday. Food shelves are at 3 locations in Ramsey County: St. Paul-Midway Area on University Ave.; North end on Rice St.; and in Roseville on Hamline Ave.

- **Foodmobile Assistant:** Keystone's Foodmobile has been on the road bringing emergency food shelf services to neighbors in need since the spring of 2015. The Foodmobile brings emergency food services to people who have trouble accessing one of our three food shelf locations. They are currently in need of volunteers to assist with stocking and organizing the Foodmobile as well as distributing groceries directly to community members at locations throughout Ramsey County. They are seeking individual vol-

unteers who can make an ongoing commitment to helping at least once per month for 3-4 hours.

- **Produce Distribution Volunteer:** This summer and fall Keystone will host 16 community produce distributions. Volunteers will work with shoppers as they select their produce and help bring food out to shoppers' cars. Shifts are from 9am-12:00pm and 12-3pm on select dates from July through October. Volunteers can commit to one shift or multiple--this is a great volunteer opportunity for a team or group. Contact Keystone for the dates and locations.

For more information regarding these volunteer opportunities please contact Jamie at volunteer@keystoneservices.org or 651-797-7725.

Green Line spurs \$4.2 billion in development

The Metropolitan Council has tracked \$4.2 billion in development along the existing Green Line, a jump of \$1 billion since last fall.

"The continued development along the Green Line tells a story of how transit investment can transform communities while better connecting people to the entire region," said Met Council Chair Adam Duinick. "The Green Line success story illustrates exactly why transit is such a good investment for our communities. At a cost of \$957 million--half of that covered

by the federal government--the Green Line has provided a serious return on investment for Minnesotans."

Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman says he is pleasantly surprised by the pace of development.

"Though we always expected development to follow the LRT, this pace is ahead of expectations," said Mayor Coleman. "Original projections called for \$7 billion worth of development along the line over 30 years. After just five years (three years of construc-

tion and almost two years of operation), we are already halfway to our goal. And we are hearing from developers that the Green Line is driving their investments."

"Developments, both existing and underway, along Green Line, SWLRT, and the Blue Line Extension now total nearly \$5 billion," said Duinick. "It is critical that the state legislature provides the remaining local funding necessary for SWLRT, so we can not only leverage \$895 million in federal funds but continue to spur even more de-

velopment in the local communities along the line. We want these federal dollars to be invested in our Minnesota communities, not given away to Seattle or San Francisco, who are eager to move forward with transit projects in their regions."

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers says the construction of Green Line alone provided work for hundreds of its electricians and system technicians. But even more exciting is the prospect of continued employment in the construction of developments

along the line and the future LRT extensions.

"You're looking at a five- to seven-year bump after the project is completed. If you look down University Ave. and count the new buildings, it's not just the initial construction, but the construction of new homes and businesses afterward. It creates an ongoing jobs project," said Ray Zerán, political director for IBEW Local 292, which has nearly 5,000 members from Minneapolis to the South Dakota border.

Groovin' In The Garden concert series begins

The free concert series, "Groovin' In The Garden," returns to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory featuring some of the Twin Cities' finest musicians and activities for the whole family.

While the grownups get their groove on with some of the Twin Cities best bands, the kids will be entertained by a climbing wall, bouncy house, and lawn games. Pack the dancing shoes and spread out a blanket for these free outdoor concerts and activities on the Visitor Center lawn every Wednesday from June 15 through Aug. 3 from 6pm-8pm. Food, ice cream treats, beer, and wine will be available to purchase.

On June 15, Groovin' In The Garden presents Crankshaft & the Gear Grinders, and their sound heavily rooted in rock 'n' roll, blues, country, swing, and surf. Rock solid original lyrics,

a dedicated fan base, and his 21st-century twist on the American roots is pushing him to the top of the crowded Minneapolis music scene in a hurry.

On June 22, Innocent Reggae Band will take the stage. With a vocal delivery reminiscent of Bob Marley, Innocent's live performance is captivating. He engages the audience immediately and holds them rapt throughout the show. Innocent presents roots reggae on the highest level.

June 29, The Bad Companions will perform. The Bad Companions are a long-standing Minneapolis-based roots-rock quartet. They're two guitars, stand-up bass and drums, a strong original catalog and a set-list as long as your arm drawn from the swingin' heyday of American rock-a-billy, r & b, country, and blues. They've entertained folks everywhere

from your corner bar to county fairs, car shows and music festivals around the Midwest with a dynamic live show that's ear, dance and family friendly.

On July 6, get Groovin' In The Gardens with The Katy Vernon Band. London-born ukulele songstress Katy Vernon, plays with a full band, combining Americana twang with UK driven pop. Her newest CD 'Present' topped several critics lists for 2015.

On July 13, The Morning Kings will perform. The Morning Kings are known throughout the region for having a layered, energetic, full band sound with influences of funk, rock, and organized jam. TMK pushes the envelope to create and innovate music that can get a crowd moving while invoking a true connection to the music.

MAY PARK RENOVATION

May Park is a 0.81 acre park surrounded by residential homes in the Hamline-Midway Neighborhood.

The park currently has two large oak trees, a swing set, merry-go-round, and flexible open space.

Funding from the Capital Improvement Bonds (CIB) has been secured to remove existing play equipment and create a "playful" space within May Park.

We are kicking off the project on June 24, 2016 from 4-6 pm at May Park, 816 Clayland St. Come join us and share your ideas!

An online survey is also available for comments at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MayPark.

Worried about the cost of shots? The UUAV program can help! If you are an adult 19 years or older and don't have health insurance or your insurance doesn't cover certain vaccines, there are clinics in Minnesota where you can get free or low-cost shots.

For more information, visit: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/adultvax/index.html

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Major league soccer stadium closer to reality in the Midway

Legislature passes liquor license and property tax exemption; advisory committee wrapped up its report May 26

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a Major League Soccer stadium and Midway Center redevelopment continue to change as the St. Paul Planning Commission prepares to hear comments on the stadium site plan and master plan for the Midway Center superblock.

The plan goes to the Planning Commission at 8:30am, Fri., June 10 at City Hall. People can also comment online, at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/planning/snelling-midway-redevelopment-site>.

The plans will likely get voted on by the commission in July, with an Aug. 3 St. Paul City Council public hearing. Approval would allow stadium work and related infrastructure work to start in earnest. Shopping center redevelopment would take much longer.

The prospect of the superblock lingering continues to worry some community members and many members of the Snelling Midway Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The committee wrapped up its work May 26, sending a detailed report of issues to the Planning Commission. The detailed report was not so much a simple up and down vote for the plans as it was a summary of the committee's work and a series of recommendations and outline of issues needing further study. Those issues include parking, traffic, and environmental impacts. CAC members also said they're willing to meet again if need be.

Minnesota United FC owner Bill McGuire and Midway Center owner Rick Birdoff of RK Midway reviewed the latest plans May 26 with committee members. McGuire outlined what he called

the "near term possibilities" for the site when the stadium would open in 2018. Plans showed the stadium taking up a space that would extend into Midway Center, displacing the Rainbow grocery store, Pearle Vision, Home Choice, Midway Pro Bowl, Walgreens and some vacant mall space.

The rest of the center would remain in place. So too would McDonald's and Perkins restaurants. A green space anticipated to extend from the stadium to University would instead end south of the restaurants. But the building Big Top Liquors occupies would be gone. The former American Bank building would remain. What is described as temporary parking would be along Snelling, with a lot at Pascal St. and St. Anthony Ave. Much existing Midway Center parking would remain.

Birdoff said he cannot discuss lease details that affect when and where businesses move. Some businesses could opt to move to vacant spaces within the center. Others could leave. He dismissed the notion that shopping center space would remain empty, calling it "economic suicide" to reduce the center by 150,000 feet and not add new space.

Ambitious plans unveiled earlier this year called for mixed-use redevelopment, with high-rise office-retail buildings along Snelling Ave. housing at Snelling and Pascal St., and hotel space near Pascal and St. Anthony Ave. Much of the site would be mixed use, with parking ramps built inside the buildings.

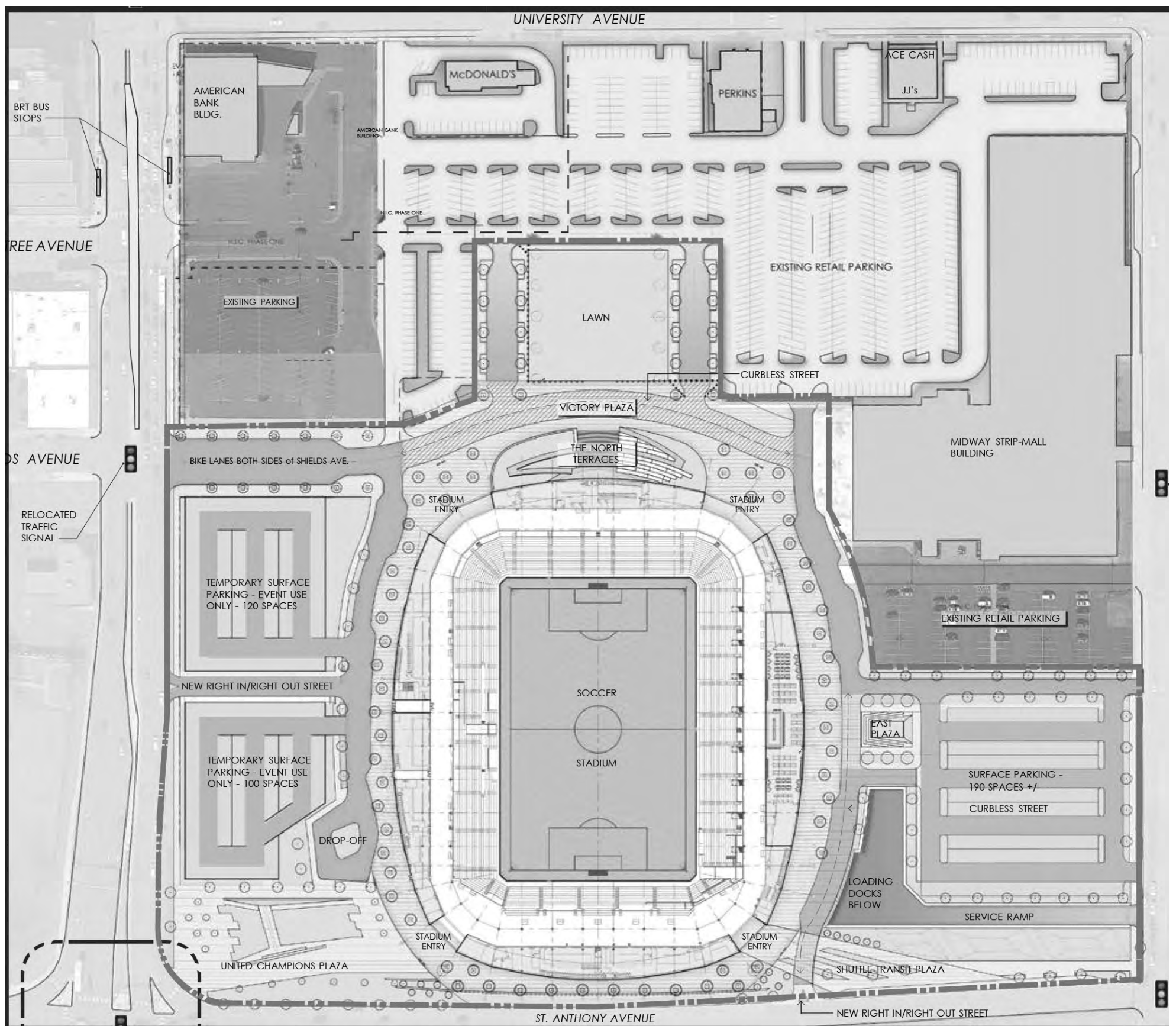
"What's the incentive or urgency to move forward after the stadium is built?" said Eric Molho, committee co-chairman.

He said the shopping center has been its current condition "for a very, very long time." Birdoff responded by noting that some spaces have specifically been left vacant because redevelopment is coming.

Donna Drummond, planning director for the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED), said city officials view the shopping center plans as interim in nature. The site's traditional neighborhood zoning calls for denser, mixed-use development.

"Everyone understands that no one wants the center to stay this way," said CAC member Kirk Wythers. He asked if the city could limit how long spaces would be left vacant and used for parking, but timing is something the city doesn't regulate.

Continued on page 15



The current site plan shows how the new soccer stadium will incorporate itself into the superblock while the owner of the Midway Stadium property, RK Midway, considers its plans for redesign of its property. The plan shows the removal of what is now the Rainbow grocery store, Pearle Vision, Home Choice, Midway Pro Bowl, Walgreens and some vacant mall space. The building currently occupied by Big Top Liquor would also be torn down. There will be temporary parking of approximately 220 spaces to the west of the stadium divided by an in/out street. Outlot buildings will remain on University's south side, as will the rest of the current mall. Some parking spaces at the mall will be lost to a green space that goes partway toward University Ave. One of the concerns of the Snelling Midway Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was that there is no timeline for the future development of the balance of the superblock.

Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Trail along Pierce Butler gets council OK

A shared-use trail along Pierce Butler Rte. will be built, the St. Paul City Council decided May 18. The trail will extend from the southeast corner of the intersection of Pierce Butler Rte. and Dunlap St. to the shared-use trail along the west side of Lexington Ave.

No one testified against the trail, which has been on the drawing boards for several years. Hamline Midway residents Benita and Mike Warns of Midway Bicycle Supply and Mister Michael Recycles Bicycles testified in support.

Benita Warns reminded the City Council that the project had to go through the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) process twice, not because it failed to get funding the first time but because its allocation was shifted to other projects. "Hopefully, this time, it's going to happen," she said.

The \$160,000 earmarked will be used to pave what is now a heavily used dirt path with bituminous material, along the south side of Pierce

Butler Rte. The St. Paul Department of Public Works sees it as a needed connection between existing bicycle facilities and a link to destinations in the Midway and Como areas.

Construction would take place later this summer or fall.

Parking wins county nod

Evening on-street parking will return to parts of University Ave. in the months ahead. But on-street markings for bicycles to share the road aren't part of the plan the Ramsey County Board adopted 6-1 in early May. Adding parking back will narrow University and Washington avenues from four lanes to two during the evening and overnight hours.

Restoring parking lost due to Green Line light rail construction has been discussed for several years. Six years ago, business owners along the rail line were in an uproar when they learned that as much as 95 percent of on-street parking would be lost due to construction. Business groups and the cities and counties Departments of Public Works worked on parking studies, including a survey in 2014, to see where

parking could be restored. No time line for work has been set.

The proposal approved May 3 for St. Paul restores parking between Emerald St. and Hampden Ave., Syndicate and Grotto streets, and MacKubin and Rice streets. The St. Paul City Council dropped a recommendation to restore parking between Aldine St. and Prior Ave. as the Planning Commission recommended. That's because the stretch of University is eyed for shared bicycle use.

But Ramsey County rejected the city's request for bicycle facilities of some type on University, between Hampden and Aldine St. Installing share the road arrows (or sharrows) as City Council members had suggested would require a variance to county-state highway aid standards, which Ramsey County's engineer doesn't support.

Ramsey County Public Works Director Jim Tolaas said the traffic volume on that section of University is about 21,100 vehicles per day. That includes many commercial trucks. "Sharrows aren't something we'd implement with

that volume of traffic," he said. Tolaas said the traffic volumes on that part of University would be daunting for all but the most experienced bicyclists.

County officials are open to city officials about other ways to accommodate bicyclists in that area, where an east-west connection between routes is needed, Tolaas said.

Council President Russ Stark said that while he's glad on-street parking has been restored, "I am disappointed about the sharrows. That's an accommodation our Public Works engineers thought would be feasible."

Cleveland bike lane approved

Bicycle lanes can be striped and share the road arrows marked on Cleveland Ave. from Highland Pkwy. to St. Anthony Ave., the Ramsey County Board has decided. One key recommendation for the controversial project—that of reducing the posted speed from 30 to 25 miles per hour—was curbed at the request of the Ramsey County Department of Public Works.

Instead, commissioners are asking that the Ramsey County

League of Local Governments to have a broader discussion of speed limit issues.

The St. Paul City Council in March recommended county approval of the bicycle lane project, including parking bans and the speed limit reduction.

County Public Works Director Jim Tolaas said that the county engineer doesn't support the speed limit reduction. He said that changes to speed limits on county and state aid highways, such as Cleveland, have to be studied and reviewed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) before they are implemented.

Tolaas said the MnDOT review is consistent with past county practices. "Arterial roads serve a larger function than residential streets do," said Tolaas. One unintended outcome of a speed study is that of having a higher speed recommended by the state, not a lower one.

Another concern is that a lower Cleveland speed could divert traffic. "We could actually be shifting the safety issue to the local residential streets," said Tolaas.

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LANDSCAPING

• Como students from the Academy of Finance and soccer players from the boys' and girls' programs, spent the night of May 14 supporting the Minnesota United FC Loons at the National Sports Center in Blaine. 150 Como students had the experience of seeing a professional soccer match and touring the field after the team's 2-0 victory over Jacksonville.

Como Academy of Finance director Kris Somerville, along with soccer coaches Jonah Fields and Kyle Johnson are developing a partnership with the club. Before the game, Minnesota United's Chief Operating Officer visited the school to speak about the business side of the club. The presentation emphasized themes of work ethic and customer service, along with components of marketing and social media strategies. With the new stadium being built in the Midway, opportunities for internships, part-time work, and collaboration on

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Como students learn about the finances behind soccer



"Como Park High School Night" at the Minnesota United soccer match on May 14 was a celebration for Como Academy of Finance students and members of the Girls and Boys Soccer programs (see story). (Photo submitted)

neighborhood service are all exciting possibilities for the Como Park Academy of Finance and soccer programs.

• Como Park Concert Choir students traveled to New York City from May 25-May 30 and performed at Carnegie Hall on Sat., May 28. The choir students sang the music of Mark Hayes, directed by Mr. Hayes and the Rutter Gloria, conducted by Z. Randall Stroope with other singers from around the country accompanied by the New England Symphonic Ensemble. They were fortunate to participate in the world premiere



Como Choir students posed at the Statue of Liberty during their tour of New York City. They performed at Carnegie Hall on May 28 (see story). (Photo submitted)

of "The Field," by Hayes, in this performance.

Como Choir Director Carole Whitney, along with Como Assistant Principal and Como parent Patrick Coyne, led the students on a sightseeing tour that netted over 85,000 steps according to pedometers! The group stayed at a hotel in centrally located Times Square, took the subway and walked miles every day on visits to the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero 9-11 Memorial, the Empire State Building, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the American Museum of Natural History. The experience was exceptional and powerful for the talented participants.

• Como Park Robotics (aka BEASTbot Team 2855) had a strong debut performance in the State Robotics Tournament at Mariucci Arena on Sat., May 21. Against the 30 top teams in the state, Como placed 13th at the end of the competition. They participated in eight matches, with different combinations of alliances, which required all teams to do advance scouting and create strategies with their rotating playing partners. Teams earned points for both match results and their own individual robot's performance.

Coaches Mike Fischer and Donna Norberg were proud of their team's showing and were thankful for the community support that included a pep fest at school two days before the state competition. The team is already excited for next year and is poised to build a new robot for the yet to be revealed 2017 challenge. BEASTbot will graduate six seniors, but expect 18 returning members plus new freshmen, and other new inspired upperclassmen to be part of another formidable team.

• The Link Crew is a positive and welcoming force at Como Park High School and aims to connect freshmen to their new school. 90 current sophomores and juniors spent several hours training during the last week of May to become Link Crew Lead-

ers for the 2016-2017 school year. Link Crew will lead a freshmen orientation on Sept. 1 from 8am-noon to welcome new Como students and connect them with mentors before school begins next fall on Tues., Sept. 6.

• The Marine Corps JROTC conducted their annual awards ceremony on the school's back lawn on May 19. The ceremony recognized cadets who excelled in leadership, community service, academics and military virtue. Cadets received certificates and medals from national patriotic organizations such as the American Legion, Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and several others. Cadets Kaitlyn Thomas, Eddy Vue, and Allen Weyaus received \$1000 academic scholarships.

Following the awards ceremony, cadets marched in a change of command parade where leadership was transferred from Cadet Lt. Col. Kaitlyn Thomas (2016) to Cadet Major Eduardo Mendoza Balderas (2017). The event was attended by Colonel Paul Adams USMC Ret., SPPS leadership, and over 100 family members and community representatives. Per tradition, the celebration of a busy year culminated in a feast hosted by the cadets and former Como JROTC cadets.

• Academy of Finance students and the Como Park Student Council volunteered at Feed My Starving Children on May 17.

• Como Park Future Educators hosted "Positivity Week" from May 23-27 to put a spotlight on the importance of good mental health. The week was filled with affirmative messages on lockers, announcements, and posters, a guest speaker from the National Alliance of Mental Illness, a raffle with prizes and fundraising for a non-profit.

• The Como Junior-Senior Prom was held at the Science Museum in downtown St. Paul on May 21. The Science Museum served as a wonderful venue for the dance and the well-dressed Como crowd. A grand march was held at the school at 4pm. Photos and dinners out on the town were especially enjoyed in the beautiful, warm, sunny weather before the dance which commenced at 7pm.

Soccer stadium

Continued from page 13

The timing of Midway Center redevelopment is just one of a number of issues the CAC is raising in its report. The report outlines concerns ranging from the upcoming environmental impact studies to how the success of redevelopment can be measured. Committee members debated how specific the report should be, especially in the comments about affordable housing.

Property tax impacts that could be tied to redevelopment were another concern. Several committee members called the report "aspirational" and wanted to see measures in the report taken to ensure high-density, high-quality redevelopment. Others ques-

tioned how redevelopment could impact gentrification.

Some issues, such as a desire to see more minority-owned businesses as part of a redeveloped Midway Center, are beyond what a master plan can impact. One repeated comment May 26 is that there are issues that are beyond the control of a master plan, as the plans regulate land use and density.

As the *Monitor* went to press, Gov. Mark Dayton pocket vetoed a tax bill adopted May 22 by the Legislature because of, he said, an error in the bill. A property tax exemption for the stadium property was included in that bill, but the requested sales tax break on construction materials was not. A liquor license was approved under separate legislation and signed by the governor.

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