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Midway  
Como  
North End

# Monitor



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## Hamline-Midway residents rally to support neighbor with house torched by fire

By JAN WILLMS

The past 12 months have been difficult ones for Dawn Cockrell. Last May, her husband died suddenly from a heart attack. Three months later, a favorite dog passed on. And a few weeks ago, the home she has lived in for the past 15 years on the 1400 block of Van Buren Street was devastated by a fire.

But through it all, she has been able to rely on the strong support from the neighborhood she lives in.

"The fire was last Friday, right around dinner time," related Mary Hendrickson, who lives right next door to Cockrell. "One of the tenants living upstairs noted it and contacted Dawn. She called it in to the fire department."

Cockrell lives in a duplex and rents out the upstairs to some college students. The fire reportedly started from a cigarette butt in a garbage can on the upper back porch.

"The Fire Department said some of the materials used for insulation really caught on fire and kept smoldering," Hendrickson said. She opened her home to Cockrell and the upstairs tenants.

"Dawn stayed here overnight," she said, "and the tenants stayed until about 10:30 p.m. Then they stayed over with friends." The firefighters let them back in to pick up guitars and laptops and any other valuables.

"We heard others again around 1:30 a.m. Saturday," Hendrickson said. "The fire had started up again." The Fire Department came once more, around 5:40 a.m. Sunday morning, after the fire had ignited for a third time.

"Each time it started again, there was more damage," Hendrickson said. "There's nothing salvageable in the whole upper unit, and there has been a lot of water and smoke damage on the main floor. But the insurance adjuster said the house definitely can be rebuilt."

She said all the neighbors were gathered outside Cockrell's home, wondering what they

could do. An email chain was started, with people gathering any items that might be needed.

Hendrickson said that she has a daughter in a wheelchair and a partially disabled son, and

and put some fluids in it."

Hendrickson said they tried to get Cockrell a cell phone also. "The neighbors have supported her beautifully," she said.

"I felt really bad for the inter-

"I'm hoping in the spring,  
as a neighborhood, we can clean up  
the yard and plant some grass."

- Hamline Midway neighbor Mary Hendrickson

her neighbors offered right away to take them for the night in case Hendrickson's house was at all affected by the fire.

"We went into Dawn's house late in the evening and got her clothes out and washed them," Hendrickson said. "My brother got her car out of a snow bank

national students living upstairs," Hendrickson added. "They lost everything, and they have no family here. But everything is okay."

She said Cockrell has been put up in a motel in Roseville by her insurance company, and will soon be moving to semi-perma-



The past 12 months have been difficult ones for Dawn Cockrell. Last May, her husband died suddenly from a heart attack. Three months later, a favorite dog passed on. And a few weeks ago, the home she has lived in for the past 15 years on the 1400 block of Van Buren Street was devastated by a fire. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

nent housing in Bandana Square. "I'm hoping in the spring, as a neighborhood, we can clean up

the yard and plant some grass," Hendrickson said.

Cockrell, reached at the motel where she is temporarily staying, said she has incredibly wonderful people in her life. "I also have health issues," she said, "and Mary has been there for me. She opened her arms to my tenants as well."

Cockrell was able to get her current dog, Rennie, out of the house and put up at the motel. "My brother also came down for support," she noted.

"Liberty Mutual has been such a wonderful insurance company for me," Cockrell said. "And I'm working with Restoration Construction. The house was engulfed in flames, and they have been cleaning everything."

Cockrell said she did note a lot of cute firemen came out to fight the fire. "You have to have a sense of humor when things like this happen," she added.

Hendrickson said that for now, the insurance company and restoration company are working closely with Cockrell, and what she needs most from her neighbors is just knowing she has their support. Hendrickson has no doubt that support will be there.

"We have a great neighborhood, and we all know each other and all help each other out," Hendrickson claimed.

## St. Paul Central Students to Go to Washington, D.C. for WorldQuest Competition in April

The Minnesota International Center (MIC) is sending a team from St. Paul Central High School, all expenses paid, to represent Minnesota at the National Academic WorldQuest Competition, sponsored by the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), in Washington, D.C. on April 27, 2013.

Central's team comprising Haroun Khalid, Elsa Mundt, Linnea Peterson and Bhavana Suvarna was the winner of the local Academic WorldQuest Competition, sponsored by MIC and held at the General Mills campus on Wednesday, February 6. 17 teams from metro area high schools competed to answer questions on U.S. Economic Competitiveness; U.S. Education: Competing Globally; U.S. Energy Policy; the Middle East; Afghanistan/Pakistan; China; U.N. Millennium Goals; Environmental Sustainability; Geography; Current Events and the Cuban Missile Crisis.



The Minnesota International Center (MIC) is sending a team from St. Paul Central High School, all expenses paid, to represent Minnesota at the National Academic WorldQuest Competition, sponsored by the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), in Washington, D.C. on April 27, 2013. From left to right in the photo are the Consul General of Canada for the upper Midwest Jamshed Merchant, Bhavana Suvarna, Linnea Peterson, Haroun Khalid, Elsa Mundt, Ethan Cherin (Central teacher and team coach), and Carol Ingebreton Byrne, president of the Minnesota International Center.



# Monitor

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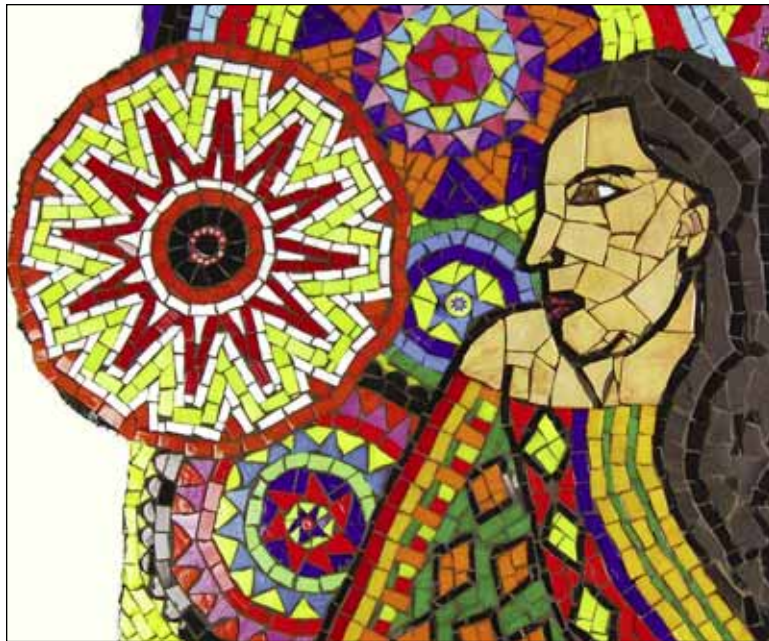
## Northwest Como schedules winter programming

Family Open Gym is every Sunday thru March 24th from 3-5 p.m. Men's Soccer is every Sunday from 5-6:30 p.m. for a weekly fee of \$5. Women's Basketball is every Sunday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for a weekly fee of \$4.

Register Now For: Spring Sport Registration from Feb 4-18 for Indoor Soccer ages 3-14, Volleyball ages 9-18 and Floor Hockey ages 7-10. Baseball Clinic: March 8th, ages 7-12 from 1-4 p.m., fee \$20. Engineering Crazy Wheels & Gears: March 13, grades K-4 from 3:15-6:15 p.m., fee \$35. Multi-Sport Gym Games: March 25-28, ages 7-12 from 1-4 p.m., fee \$69. Ballet/Creative Movement: April 1, ages 3-5 from 3-3:45 p.m., fee \$25.

**Next Deadline:**  
**April 1**

# Monitor In A Minute



*Mosaic on a Stick's plans to move into the Hamline Park Playground building is falling into place. The St. Paul City Council tentatively approved a rezoning request February 20 for the project, following a public hearing.*

## Approval for Mosaic move

Mosaic on a Stick's plans to move into the Hamline Park Playground building is falling into place. The St. Paul City Council tentatively approved a rezoning request February 20 for the project, following a public hearing. It will go through another series of readings before it wins final adoption this spring.

The building is at 1564 Lafond Av. it will continue to be owned by the St. Paul Department of Parks and recreation, but will be rezoned from residential to traditional neighborhoods use to allow the mosaic business to relocate there. St. Paul has no single dedicated type of zoning for parks. Parks throughout the city have or have had a mix of zoning, ranging from residential to even industrial. The traditional neighborhoods zoning will allow a wider range of uses for the park building.

The building has not been used as a city recreation center

since the 1980s. Most recently it has housed the Hamline Midway Coalition and other community groups. The district council moved to the Hamline Midway Branch Library several months ago.

The building is one of several in St. Paul designed by Clarence "Cap" Wigington, the nation's first African-American municipal architect.

Mosaic on a Stick offers classes and retail sales. No date for the move has been announced.

## Auto body zoning changes

Auto body shops in mixed-use neighborhoods may have an easier time keeping their doors open, if proposed zoning code changes are adopted. The St. Paul Planning Commission holds a hearing on proposed code changes at 8 a.m. Friday, May 3.

The zoning code would be amended to better accommodate auto body shops that operate

successfully in mixed use neighborhoods, without problems or causing a nuisance.

Although some neighborhoods have battled auto body shops for noise, site conditions and excessive numbers of cars parked on or near a site, other auto body shops have operated quietly and been good neighbors.

The change is sought in part due to the situation of ABRA Auto Body and Glass, 1190 University Av. The business originally opened as an accessory use to Midway Chevrolet/Hyundai/Suzuki. Since that business closed, ABRA has operated under an interim use permit that the City Council approved in 2007. The permit expired in December 2012.

In December 2012 the City Council modified the permit so that the interim use can continue until the property is redeveloped for a new use, or property ownership is transferred, or the zoning code is amended to make an auto body shop a conditional use.

ABRA also is in the situation of having its zoning changed in 2011, as part of a broader zoning study along the Central Corridor light rail line. The zoning was general business use; it is now zoned for traditional neighborhoods mixed use.

## Schedule change for City Council meetings

Planning to celebrate Independence Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas with the St. Paul City Council in the future may be out of luck. The council approved an ordinance amendment February 27 that changes its meeting schedule.

Since 1993 when the council went to part-time status, it has been required to meet weekly. The change allows the council to skip meetings the week of July 4th, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The change was sought be-

cause of scheduling issues. It is sometimes difficult to schedule city business, especially public hearings, during those weeks. Public hearings are held twice a month, usually on the first and third Wednesday. That may have to change in July and November.

The change was recommended for approval last year by the city's Charter Commission. No one attended a February 29 public hearing to speak against the proposal. The change will take effect in time for the holidays in 2013.

## Craft brewery changes sought

Craft brewers might find it easier to sell their wares at their breweries, if proposed zoning changes are adopted by the St. Paul planning Commission and City Council. Council members Russ Stark and Amy Brendmoen requested the study in February in response to requests from small brewers.

The St. Paul Planning Commission's Neighborhoods and Current Planning committee has reviewed the request and proposing striking zoning code language that prohibits the sale of malt liquor where it is manufactured.

The amendment would allow malt liquor producers to operate a restaurant or bar on their production sites.

Restaurants can currently operate brew pubs as an accessory use. But this change would recognize the trend toward small, local beer brewers. Stark has heard from people in Ward Four who would like to have such taprooms but cannot do so under their current zoning.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the changes in the future. No date has been set.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

# MONITOR

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# Postman set to retire, plans marathon walk for charity

By JAN WILLMS

When he retires on March 30 after 31 years as a letter carrier, Gary Fitch, 61, is not going to sit back, put his legs up, and watch television. He is not going to go fishing. He is not going to pack up and travel with his wife in an RV.

Instead, he is going to keep on walking. In April 2014, Fitch is planning a walk from International Falls to St. Paul to raise funds to end hunger in Minnesota. His 12-mile route around Como Lake with the Arlington Branch Post Office has given him lots of practice.

But he hopes to have others join him in this trek. Fellow union members, athletes, politicians, celebrities and everyone who has a job and can take a day off are invited to walk for part of the journey.

Fitch is not a novice when it comes to promoting a cause, although in the past he has mainly biked across country.

"Forty years ago I was in the Marine Corps, and I should have died," the gravelly-voiced, slender postman recalled in a recent interview. He was serving in Memphis, TN, when a drunk driver ran him off the road.

"I had 169 stitches in my face," he said. "And they weren't sure if my right leg would ever function. I was in a coma for a week. My family came down, and I didn't even recognize them."

"But being a Marine, I got myself back in shape," Fitch said. "I needed to give thanks to somebody. So I hooked up with Danny Thomas and the St. Jude Foundation." He set up a bike ride from St. Paul to Memphis in 1974 with St. Jude, and he also was honoring a young cousin



When he retires on March 30 after 31 years as a letter carrier, Gary Fitch, 61, is not going to sit back, put his legs up, and watch television. Instead, he is going to keep on walking. In April 2014, Fitch is planning a walk from International Falls to St. Paul to raise funds to end hunger in Minnesota. (Photo by Jan Willms)

who died from leukemia.

Fitch later received a call from the Ronald McDonald House, where a little boy wanted him to deliver a letter to the president. "It took me two years," Fitch explained, "and he died six months before I got on the road. But I delivered his letter and 4,000 others from children who were ill to President George H.W. Bush in 1989."

After the tsunami in 2004 that swept so many people to their deaths, Fitch again felt he needed to do something. He talked with officials at NASA and Sue Anderson, from NASA's education department. He gathered letters with hopes and dreams, mostly from children, but also from adults, on a bike trip from

Seattle to Washington, DC, in 2007.

"I talked to elementary kids in the Twin Cities and got 1700 letters from here," he noted. By the time he finished his bike trip, he ended up with 23,651 letters describing people's wishes. It took seven months to get the letters on a flash drive, and that flash drive went up on the Atlantis in 2009.

NASA sent him pictures, and explained that the letters would circle the globe 92 times. "I told the kids they put a circle of hope around earth 92 times. What next?" Fitch said.

What has come next has been his concern for the children in the Twin Cities who go to bed hungry every night. And because he does

what he does, Fitch has decided to do something about it.

He has sat down with a number of people and talked about his goal, raising enough money to buy 10 million pounds of food. The interest from the funds raised will keep the state hunger-free forever, according to Fitch.

He has given himself a year to prepare for this. "If I weren't planning this walk, I would never have retired," Fitch noted. But he hopes to spend the next year meeting and talking with people.

"It's a grass roots labor movement," he explained. He hopes to represent 385,000 union members. He belongs to Branch 28 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. He has spoken with the AFL-CIO, and hopes to talk to St. Paul and Minneapolis unions in the coming months.

"I'm getting really good at this," Fitch said with a smile. "For some reason, I feel the people around me when I am talking. And I want to ask everybody who knows anybody to put me

in touch with them."

Fitch said he lives paycheck to paycheck like everyone else. But his pension will cover his house payments. He is going to need help with gas expenses.

He is printing out 50,000 pledge forms.

"If people understand the principle behind this, everyone will come on board," Fitch stated. "It's just a matter of reaching as many people as I can over the next year."

He said everything else he has done has been on a moral level. "My heart is in this, also," Fitch affirmed, "but we have a monetary goal with this one. And it will be so little out of anyone's pockets."

He reflected that life has been good to him. "I have a roof over my head and a full belly," he said. "But I should have died back in 1971, and I refuse to take anything for granted. I want to help everyone in Minnesota perform this miracle." For further information about the walk to end hunger, go to [www.minnesotamiracle.com](http://www.minnesotamiracle.com)

## New name for Central Child Care

Central Child Care, a ministry of Central Baptist Church, has changed its name to Central Baptist Child Development Center.

Baptist reflects our heritage and indicates our close association with the church. Child Development Center reflects the changes in our curriculum and training in the past 10 years. Over the last 3 years, the preschool teachers and director have been trained as part of Project Early Kindergarten, to use the

Early Childhood Workshop framework with the Doors Curriculum and Every Day Math. This is the same framework and curriculum used in the St. Paul Public Schools Pre-Kindergarten Programs. Currently, the Child Development Center serves 36 families with an enrollment of 53. Openings are available to children and families. For more information call 651-646-2846 or visit our website [www.centralbaptistchurch.com/childcare](http://www.centralbaptistchurch.com/childcare)

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District 10 is continuing to gather information that will shape our community's Land Use Plan. Over the last several months, we have sought community input through an online survey, interviews and community meetings. This process has allowed citizens to discuss their vision and set priorities for the future of our neighborhoods. At the December Community Council Meeting, District 10 intern, Theo Woehrl, shared a community assessment report based on the input we have compiled thus far.

The findings of this assessment show that the majority of identified issues within the Como community fit into one of three main themes:

1. The district has changing transportation needs and an increased demand for more options.

2. Como Regional Park is seen as an asset to the community, but attractions, events and development on the Como Park campus do have a disruptive im-



## Como Community Council Corner

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

### Information shapes Land Use Plan

pact on the surrounding community.

3. Local business development is desired, but the preservation of District 10's residential identity is seen as a priority.

The task of the ad hoc District 10 Plan Committee now is twofold. We need to delve more deeply into these identified themes and we must reach a broader cross-section of stakeholders in our district. For example, over the course of the last year we know we have heard from many homeowners and several businesses.

However, as of 2010 over 36 percent of our community's housing units are occupied by renters.

In order to adequately address the district's changing transportation needs, we want to hear from neighbors who are renting their homes as well as those who own. Do renters have different transportation and parking needs than homeowners? If so, we need to know what these needs are so we can address them in the plan.

Considering the ages of our residents, District 10's largest population group is 25-34 years old, but the district also has a larger percentage of people over the age of 75 than the City of Saint Paul does as a whole. Are we meeting the needs of our seniors in terms of access to transportation and resources? What priorities can we

put into the plan that will encourage younger residents to stay and raise their families in our community? And what types of businesses can best serve all of District 10 residents without encroaching on established residential neighborhoods? Obtaining the answers to these and other related questions will become the committee's focus in the coming months.

The ad hoc committee also has a strong desire to work with Como Regional Park entities and residents living near the park to find a balanced approach to addressing the ongoing issues related to attendance and development in this popular attraction. Como Regional Park with its pub-

lic and private attractions impacts the neighborhoods around it in both positive and negative ways. It will be important to include in our Land Use Plan practical solutions to the quality of life challenges residents face as a result of living in close proximity to the park.

District 10's updated district plan will assist in the decision-making process surrounding long-term development and land use issues in our community. The District Plan Ad Hoc Committee encourages you to visit <http://www.district10comopark.org/district-plan.html> to access the District 10 Community Assessment and other committee information. We hope District 10 homeowners, renters and businesses will watch for upcoming opportunities to participate in the plan process. Subscribe to the District 10 newsletter at [http://www.district10comopark.org/E-mail\\_Newsletter.html](http://www.district10comopark.org/E-mail_Newsletter.html) to stay up to date on this and all other Como Community Council news.

## Planning Commission OKs Meridian for operating residential facility

By JANE MCCLURE

Meridian Behavioral Health will be allowed to operate a residential facility for up to 20 people, as a result of St. Paul Planning Commission approval of a conditional use permit March 8. The facility is at 1609 Jackson St.

Commission approval is final unless there is an appeal to the St. Paul City Council within 10 days. But with no visible neighborhood opposition and support from the District 6 Land Use Task Force, approval is likely

to stand.

A few neighbors did attend the February Land Use Task Force meeting to hear the presentation and get their questions answered. No one from the community attended the Feb. 28 Planning Commission Zoning Committee public hearing on the request.

The facility is for people who are going through chemical dependency treatment and also need mental health services. Meridian provides both residential and out-patient services, and

has provided behavioral health care in Minnesota since 1989.

The cinder block structure eyed as a residential facility in the North End was built in 1960. It has been used as a residential facility since at least 1972 and has housed different programs. Although questions and concerns were raised about past facility operators, there have been few questions from community members over the past two decades.

The conditional use permit

approved March 8 marks a return to the neighborhood for Meridian, as the service provider used the building between 1994 and 2008 for its Tapestry supervised living program. Meridian received a conditional use permit from the city in 1994 and in 2008, got city approval to provide transitional housing there as well.

Most recently the building has been used by Transitions Homes, which is moving to the Iris Park neighborhood. Transi-

tions Homes has also provides supportive services and housing for adults with chemical dependency and mental health issues.

The Jackson Street building will be used to house up to 20 residents at a time, as it has in the past. The new conditional use permit allows chemical dependency and mental health treatment services to be provided there. That is similar to the services provided on-site between 1994 and 2008.

Meridian representatives said the program will be very structured, with close supervision of residents. The space is needed because Meridian's five other residential facilities are full, and there is a waiting list of 47 clients.

Meridian plans to make numerous improvements to the property's interior and exterior, including landscaping, a new fence, new paint and lighting, representatives told the District 6 Land Use Task Force Feb. 26.

"We'll be investing about \$250,000 to bring the property up to a higher standard," said Meridian attorney Peter Beck.

Beck said Meridian is pleased to be back in the North End. He said the permit sought from the Planning Commission will allow most of the programs for residents to be offered at the facility.

The location is considered ideal for transitional housing because it is in a quiet residential neighborhood and has good access to transit. It is near McDonough Homes and a mix of single-family and multi-family residential buildings. Yet it is also within walking distance of commercial areas and industrial areas.



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April 1

Next Issue:

April 11



# Business owners give positive marks to marketing campaign for the Central Corridor

By JANE MCCLURE

Business owners along the Central Corridor or Green Line light rail line have been seeing themselves and their establishments on billboards, on the side of buses and in special promotional materials. As the light rail project enters the final year of construction, the marketing and efforts to bring customers back will continue.

The big marketing push, from St. Paul firm MOD & Co. advertising agency began last summer. The firm was contracted to market the corridor by the City of St. Paul, in cooperation with Metropolitan Council. The contract was for \$1.2 million, with most of that going to the marketing campaign and a share going to the city for administration.

Marketing got a later start than many businesses would have liked. Metropolitan Council initially began seeking advertising agencies to lead the project but discovered that it lacked legal authority to do the program on its own. So the City of St. Paul stepped in through its Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).

The campaign divided the 11-mile light rail corridor into eight distinctive neighborhood business districts, each with a name and logo. While that sparked a few complaints about which neighborhood identities were chosen, business owner-operators in each area were featured in advertising, be it in marketing guides, signs, broadcast and social media. The campaign has spotlighted businesses all along the line, from Cupcake in Prospect Park to Black Dog Coffeehouse in Lowertown. Businesses have been encouraged to have a presence on Facebook or on the Internet. Restaurants, coffee houses, retail businesses and even auto repair shops have found themselves in the spotlight.

And when it's all said and done Rainbow Research of Minneapolis will do an evaluation of the marketing. That should give an indication of whether or not the effort has worked.

"We've had a very favorable response from the business community," said MOD & Co. spokesperson Sean McDonnell. "Businesses have been absolutely delighted. We've promoted businesses in a lot of ways and people believe it has had a benefit."

McDonnell said that business owners have reported that the marketing campaign has brought in more customers, through the various forms of media and through special events such as a post-Thanksgiving corridor-wide open house and the directories. One Lowertown gallery had more business in one day than it had in its previous Christmas season.

The MOD & Co. group has taken pictures at almost 100 businesses. Businesses can use the pictures in their own website and marketing efforts. Businesses have also gotten technical assistance with their own online marketing efforts.

City and Midway Chamber of Commerce officials said they have

heard a generally favorable response to the marketing campaign. Businesses have mixed reactions, ranging from some saying they have seen an uptick in sales to others taking an "it cannot hurt" attitude.

"My coffee house is on the side of a bus right now," said Julie Peck, owner of Lucy Coffee Café in the Griggs Midway Building. Several customers have come into her business and told her that they have seen the ad on Metro Transit buses.

Steve Bernick of Milburn Clothing said he, too, has heard from customers who have seen the billboards and bus signs for his longtime clothing store. "We've definitely had people see the marketing materials," he said. "While it's hard to monetize it, I think we're seeing some benefits from the exposure."

"I don't know if we have had new customers come in because of the (campaign) but I definitely think it is worthwhile," Peck said.

"The billboards and bus advertising are something the businesses never would have been able to do on their own," said Kari Canfield, President/Executive Director for Midway Chamber of Commerce.

Chocolat Celeste owner Mary Leonard believes the promotional campaign has been a key to her Transfer Road shop getting extra visibility and more customers. "I've definitely benefited from a great deal of exposure and I believe that MOD & Co. has done a fabulous job." She likes the billboards, bus signs and re-Tweets from her shop. But she notes more needs to be done to bring people into the area, especially in terms of directing people to quick access to parts of the business community.

Canfield said the marketing efforts and the business advisory group the Chamber works closely with have had a positive impact. People were especially happy with a dining guide. "We've seen a lot of strong interest in getting that distributed."

"Individual businesses have told us they really appreciate the effort," said Nancy Homans, senior policy director for St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman. "Business owners feel very affirmed and that they have been listened to." The city and the advertising agency have worked with the business advisory council and with individual businesses.

"Individual businesses have appreciated the help from MOD & Co., and have felt that the marketing professionals were very open to their ideas," Homans said. Businesses have also appreciated being able to use the artwork and photos developed in the marketing campaigns, and to get help with social media.

Marketing is just one of a number of assistance programs developed to assist businesses impacted by light rail construction. Businesses also were able to apply for forgivable loans to make up for lost revenues, make façade improvements and parking lot im-



Several customers have come into Lucy Coffee Café in the Griggs Midway Building and told owner Julie Peck that they have seen her featured on the ad on Metro Transit buses. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

provements, and seek help with construction signage to get customers to their doors.

Marketing before the current

ad campaign took a number of forms, including assistance with websites, a "buy local" coupon book, Midway Chamber's progres-

sive dinner spotlighting restaurants, business open houses, marketing directories and coupon books.

According to recent studies done as part of a supplemental environmental impact statement on Central Corridor, program participants generally gave the mitigation programs favorable ratings. The majority of respondents describing services as at least somewhat effective overall in mitigating the effects of construction. That's not to say there weren't problems. For example, in the Little Mekong area, some businesses had to make their own directional signs, at a cost of \$20 to \$300 per business.

Some businesses have asked if the programs can continue beyond 2014, when the rail line is up and running. By that time Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council will be promoting the rail line itself. Canfield and Homans said they have heard from businesses wanting the marketing to continue.

"I think that is something the city would like to see," said Homans, "but it will be a function of what kind of resources are available."

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# Groundswell celebrates expansion at Thomas and Hamline

By JAN WILLMS

For the past 10 years, there has been a coffee shop at the corner of Thomas and Hamline. But now, Groundswell Coffee is celebrating an expansion and will be offering food, selling arts and crafts and by April 12, hopes to have its beer and wine license in place.

To assist with funding the expansion, Hamline Midway neighbors Seth McCoy and Tim Gilbert, co-owners of Groundswell, are offering their customers an opportunity to invest in the shop and have a stake in its success.

They are forming a Founders Club Membership. For a \$1,000

donation, the donor receives a free cup of coffee or tea or a free glass of wine or beer for the rest of his or her life.

"We realized not everyone could afford that amount, so for \$500, you get the same for two years; for \$250, you get the same for one year," McCoy said. "If you calculate it out, you get your money's worth. We need the capital, and the donor gets the free beverages."

"We can go to the bank," McCoy continued. "In fact, we will have to go to the bank. But it is much better to have people from the neighborhood help us with this. We need the money for

our building, and we will provide a good return on the investment."

McCoy said the owners of the building at 1342 Thomas Ave. thought the space would work as a coffee shop, but they realized after a year they were not suited to that business.

"They sold it to Erika Hiller, who partnered with J&S Bean Factory. That's what it was when I moved here from Chicago," McCoy said. Hiller sold the business, and it tanked, according to McCoy.

He and his neighbor, Tim, decided they could step in and try to resuscitate the shop, and they have been operating it the past three years with a lot of volunteer help.

But in September 2011 the ceiling collapsed. The doors were closed while the necessary repairs were made. The space was transformed and opened again after three months of work. This time a paid staff took over, and Groundswell partnered with Dogwood Coffee to train baristas. Both the owners worked other jobs but put in as much time as possible to continue to provide a gathering place for the Hamline Midway community.

In December 2012 the neighboring business, Borealis Yarns, closed its doors.

"When the yarn shop closed, we were sad to see it go," McCoy related. "We had a good collaboration with them. A lot of people would knit and drink coffee."

He said he and Gilbert were concerned about what type of business might take the yarn



Customers enjoy the added space during an open house at Groundswell Coffee, Thomas and Hamline, on March 2. Groundswell Coffee is celebrating an expansion and will be offering food, selling arts and crafts and by April 12, hopes to have its beer and wine license in place. (Photo by Jan Willms)



Groundswell staff gathered at a recent open house for the coffee shop. From left, Megan Gruelich, Jessie James and daughter Zola and Seth McCoy. (Photo by Jan Willms)

shop's place. "We were worried that a chain or a tobacco shop might come in," McCoy said. "So we got together with friends and talked about whether it was viable to expand."

He said the original coffee shop was not really equipped for food; it didn't have the space. In June, McCoy and Gilbert signed the lease for the former yarn shop space, and plans are in full swing to increase the scope of Groundswell Coffee.

Megan Gruelich will bake pastries for the shop. Johnny Becker serves as head chef and Jessie James will bring in arts and crafts from the neighborhood, allowing local artists to sell the pieces they make at home.

Gene Hartsock, owner of Hartland Shoe Repair, said he is glad the coffee shop is expanding. He moved his business to the St. Thomas and Hamline area in 1992. His building is about 60 years old and was formerly an alterations shop and then a coin dealer's shop.

He recalled a stamp collector was once in the area and for many years a baseball card shop.

The building next door to him was built in the 1800s, and for awhile served as apartments for clergy members of St. Columba.

"This has been a good corner," he noted, "four short blocks from University Avenue and right off Hamline."



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# Lyngblomsten wins 2013 award for workplace excellence

On Friday, February 8, Lyngblomsten received the 2013 Excellence in the Workplace Award from Aging Services of Minnesota. The Workplace Award honors an older adult services organization as an employer of choice for progressive practices that enhance employee satisfaction and retention, promoting careers in the field of senior services and investing in its employees. The Aging Services awards are among the highest honors for aging services organizations and professionals in Minnesota.

Paul Mikelson, President/CEO, accepted the award for Lyngblomsten in front of an audience of 1,500 aging services

professional colleagues who gathered in Minneapolis for the 2013 Aging Services Institute.

Lyngblomsten was founded by a group of Norwegian women who chose the name to honor their home country of Norway, where at the time the lyng was the national flower. Lyngblomsten has been home not only to the older adults who have lived here, but also a source of support and pride for families, employees, volunteers, congregations and neighbors who have helped build its legacy.

It's also being honored as one of the great places to work. The organization offers scholarship funds to promote careers in

older adult services and has formed partnerships with a number of outside organizations including local colleges, public schools, Easter Seals and the Jobs Corps. The scholarship program has assisted 29 employees who have been or are currently in LPN or RN programs.

Lyngblomsten has developed training for all staff in palliative, or comfort care. It was selected by The Struthers Parkinson's Center to be a designated site in the east metro, and the staff is undergoing 12 months of intensive training on Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders.



Paul Mikelson, Lyngblomsten President/CEO, accepted the "Excellence in the Workplace Award" from Aging Services of Minnesota at the 2013 Aging Services Institute, February 8. Pictured (L to R): Jon Riewer, Aging Services Board Chair; Paul Mikelson, Lyngblomsten President/CEO; Gayle Kvenvold, Aging Services of MN President & CEO; and Jodi Speicher, Awards & Recognition Committee Chair.

## District 6 holds public meeting on coming area projects

District 6 has decided to hold a public meeting on the projects currently slated that will impact the North End specifically 135E/Cayuga, Xcel Pipeline, Wheelock Bridge, Maryland Avenue Bridge and Trillium. Each project will likely impact the neighborhood as well as the commercial corridors and there needs to be thoughtful and comprehensive discussions surrounding the impact to traffic, noise, disruption, parking and livability for the

length of the projects.

District 6 hopes that the project managers will provide a comprehensive timeline for our community. There will be updates and information available as well as a question/answer session. District 6 is scheduling a community meeting for April 9, 2013, North Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch Avenue, 6:30 p.m. All are invited and please visit the District 6 website for links to the project, [www.district6stpaul.org](http://www.district6stpaul.org)

## Hamline Midway Library plans activities for March

Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., is planning a host of activities in March. For more information call 651-642-0293.

**Saturday Club:** Saturday March 9th - Activities will include arts, crafts and fun for all!! Everyone is welcome.

**Kids Book Club:** Saturday March 16th, 1:30-2:30 p.m. - Book lovers, unite!!! Come join us in discussing a Maud Hart Lovelace book. Our club will also vote for 2013 Maud Hart

Lovelace nominees. Let's meet and eat treats while we discuss books. For ages 8-12. New members always welcome.

**Paw Pals:** Saturday March 16th, 1:30-3:00 p.m. - School Age Children can choose a book of their selection to read with Toby, our Paw Pal. Each session is 15 minutes in length, please sign up at our service point in the library.

**Teen Book Club:** Saturday March 16th 2:30-3:30 p.m. - Join us in discussing Happen-

stance Found (Book 1 of the Books of UMBER) by, P.W. Catanese. The Library will provide treats and fun activities for attendees. Open ages 11-18.

**Charlie Chaplin Mini Film Fest:** Friday March 29th, 2:00 p.m.

Come enjoy some family-friendly fun with two short, silent Charlie Chaplin comedies, The Kid and Shoulder Arms. Popcorn, hot cider, and Charlie Chaplin trivia contest, all free!

## Hamline UMW needs crafters, vendors

Hamline Church United Methodist Women are seeking crafters and vendors for the spring craft fair on Saturday, May 4 at the church at 1514 Englewood Av. Hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Proceeds go to the women's community service and church projects. Vendors can choose from a wide range of table options. Electricity is available as is early set-up.

Anyone wanting a vendor form can call 651-646-3473 or email [McClure50449@aol.com](mailto:McClure50449@aol.com)

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# Gorilla Forest grand opening June 6

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory announces June 6, 2013 as the official opening for Gorilla Forest. This \$11 million exhibit redesign and overhaul will feature seven gorillas, six of whom are new to Como Zoo, and the largest all-mesh gorilla enclosure in North America.

The Gorilla Forest construction includes the addition of a major outdoor exhibit and significant improvements and expansions to the existing indoor facilities. All changes to the exhibit exceed the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements for holding, exhibiting and managing great apes. The 13,000 square foot outdoor space, almost three times larger than the previous space, was designed to give the gorillas ample room to play, climb, forage and display their extraordinary family and so-

cial dynamics to the public while minimizing stress on the gorillas and creating up close and personal views of the gorillas for visitors.

The improvements to the indoor facilities, including the behind-the-scenes areas, were enlarged and could make mating these endangered species a possibility for Como. The new gorilla holding building provides plenty of natural light and two stories for the animals with view windows and perches so the gorillas can see out. Improvements to existing rockwork and trees will provide more horizontal space for gorillas and planned family groups. Better ventilation, lighting, drainage and a new rainforest mural on the day-room wall will create an improved environment for the animals and viewing experience for the public.

While designing Gorilla Forest, Como emphasized the necessity

of creating an enriching experience for guests as well as improving conditions for the animals. A recent study from the Institute for Learning Innovation found that children and adults who visit Como Zoo and similar facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums leave the zoo thinking differently about their role in environmental problems. Researchers noted that a zoo visit makes visitors feel they can make difference in solving environmental challenges, with significant increases in visitors who agree with the statements "There is a lot I can do to conserve" and "I am a part of the solution to nature's problems." Armed with this knowledge, Como designed this exhibit with the goal of informing and empowering the public, while maintaining a pleasing aesthetic experience.

The upcoming months at Co-



Como Park Zoo and Conservatory announces June 6, 2013 as the official opening for Gorilla Forest. This \$11 million exhibit redesign and overhaul will feature seven gorillas, six of whom are new to Como Zoo, and the largest all-mesh gorilla enclosure in North America.

mo are not just about gorillas, though. The Ordway Gardens, a new wing on the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory & funded entirely by Como Friends, will have a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting

Celebration on April 19th.

The public is invited to festive weekend activities for both Gorilla Forest and The Ordway Gardens June 6-9 and April 19-21 respectively.

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##### Striker / Keeper Camp - June 17-21

12:30-3:30 pm Cost \$150  
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#### 12-18 Year Olds

##### Competitive Player Camp - July 29-Aug 2

9:00 am - 12:00 noon Cost \$150  
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#### 9-14 Year Olds

##### Striker / Keeper Camp - June 17-21

9:00 am - 12:00 noon Cost \$150  
McMurray Field

#### Olympics Camp - June 24-28

9:00 am - 11:30 am Cost \$95  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm Cost \$175  
Orchard Field

#### Summer Skills Challenge - July 8-12

9:00 am - 11:30 am Cost \$95  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm Cost \$175  
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# In Our Community

## Monitor

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

### Latimer will keynote church 90th fete

Former St. Paul mayor George Latimer will be the keynote speaker at a celebration of the 90th anniversary of Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas, at the intersection with Snelling, on Palm Sunday, March 24.

All are invited — members, former members, people from the community and others. The dinner is free. Suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$30 for a family. Deadline for reservations is March 12. To reserve a place, please call the church office at 651-644-1421.

The dinner celebration will follow worship at 10:45 a.m., at which the Rev. Dean Nadasdy will preach. He is president of the Missouri Synod's Minnesota South District.

Partner congregations Mekane Yesus and Wherehouse (formerly The Alley) will participate as well.

### Co-ed Drum Circle March 22

Announcing a Co-ed Drum Circle on Friday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., St. Paul. \$10 at the door. Drums provided. Info and registration at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

### Nutrition and weaning discussed

Nutrition and Weaning is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, April 9. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

### Final Sunday Series event on gardening

Como Community Council's final Sunday Series event, "Creative Gardening for Urban Spaces," will take place on April 14, from 2-3:30 p.m., at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1465 Victoria St. N.

A panel of Como neighbors will share their creative ideas for our urban yards. From backyard orchards to native plants in the front yard to gardening in small spaces, learn what has worked, and what hasn't, from these experienced neighborhood gardeners.

Don't forget to attend "All About Old-time Trolleys" on March 24, from 2-3:30 p.m., at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Pkwy. N. Both events are free and open to the public.

### Registration open for the Hamline Midway Heartwood Festival

Are you an aspiring artist, enterprising local business owner, or community activist? Connect directly with your neighbors at the Hamline Midway Heartwood Festival on Saturday, June 1! The festival offers many ways to get the word out: register for a booth in the Art Fair or Resource Fair, donate to the silent auction, and more.

Early birds who register by Friday, April 5 receive a discount. Additional discounts are available for Hamline Midway-based artists and organizations. Learn more at [www.hamlinemidway.org/fest-registration](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/fest-registration) or contact Faith Krogstad at Hamline Midway Coalition at 651-494-7683 or [faith@hamline-midway.org](mailto:faith@hamline-midway.org).

The Hamline Midway Heartwood Festival is a celebration of community, sustainability, and art. Visit [www.hamline-midway.org/heartwood](http://www.hamline-midway.org/heartwood) to learn more.

Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC) — District Council 11 — is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to making the Hamline Midway neighborhood a better place to live, learn, work, and play.

### Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast at St. Mark's

Again this year the St. Paul Midway Lions will put on a Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast—this year on Mar. 24 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Marks Church, lower level, on Dayton and Prior Avenues. The all-you-care-to eat affair also includes sausage, coffee, milk and juice. Prices are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

### YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program

Midway YMCA, 1761 University Avenue, will be offering a Diabetes Prevention Program beginning March 19-June 3, 11a.m.-Noon. The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program helps those at high risk for type 2 diabetes adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles and reduce their risk. If you are overweight and at risk for type 2 diabetes, this might be the program for you. In a group setting, participants learn to change their lifestyle by learning about healthy eating, physical activity and other behavior changes over the course of 16 one-hour sessions. Topics covered include healthy eating, getting started with physical activity, overcoming stress, staying motivated, and more. After the initial 16 core sessions, participants can continue

to meet monthly for up to a year for added support to help them maintain their progress.

Qualifying Medicare beneficiaries may be able to participate in the Program at no cost. Cost for a full year access will be \$249 Y-member/\$320 non-member, financial assistance is available.

For more information contact: Sheryl Grover; Director of Chronic Disease Prevention, at [sherylgrover@ymcatwincities.org](mailto:sherylgrover@ymcatwincities.org) or 612-465-0489 or on the website at [www.ydpp.prg](http://www.ydpp.prg)

### Fostering a Healthy Mind/Body

"Fostering a Healthy Mind/Body Relationship," will be the topic at a luncheon for seniors on April 9 beginning 11:30 a.m. at 1514 Englewood Avenue. Trained yoga instructor and HM resident Nancy Giguere will address how yoga can help you become a calmer, more grounded person — without doing "pretzel poses" or standing on your head. A free will donation is requested for the meal. There is no charge for the presentation which begins at 12:15 p.m. Call Hamline Midway Elders, 651-209-6542 to make reservations and/or request free transportation.

### Free exercise class begins in April

Free Exercise Classes sponsored by HM Elders and held at 1514 Englewood Ave, St. Paul (Hamline Church, lower level). Joint Friendly Exercise is currently being held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and Gentle Yoga will begin April 16 and run through May 21 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Call HM Elders for more information: 651-209-6542. All classes are taught by trained instructors.

### Caregiver Support Group each second Thursday

Caregivers Support Group, each second Thursday from 6:30-8:00 p.m., 1514 Englewood Avenue, St Paul, MN. Sponsored by HM Elders. This group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons any age with special needs and will be facilitated by HME staff and trained volunteers. Free, refreshments provided. For more info or to RSVP: [monica@hmelders.org](mailto:monica@hmelders.org) or 651-209-6542.

### Como Men's Golf Club offers low membership

Membership in the Como Men's Golf Club in 2013 will remain at

\$75.00 for the season. This is one of the lowest membership fees in the entire metropolitan area.

Our fee is available to new members, as well as existing members. The board is committed to expanding its membership in 2013, with all the great values that have existed for years in one of the oldest clubs in Minnesota. Membership includes events or tournaments every weekend from mid April to October 15th. These events and tournaments are available to all members for small or no fees, including team and individual contests. Members may select which events to play in and also qualify for preferred tee-times. The \$75.00 fee includes handicaps through GH-IN (The Golf Handicap Information Network), as well as computer access in posting scores and retrieving handicap cards every two weeks. All handicaps are welcome.

Our season starts in mid April. For more information contact board member, Larry Jagoe at (651) 271-1131 or access our website at [www.mensclubcomo.org](http://www.mensclubcomo.org) for a listing of all events or even print out an application. You could be the next club champion.

### Toastmasters offers four week public speaking course

Viking Toastmasters is presenting an four week course on public speaking at Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice Street, 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday evenings starting April 3, 2013. You will use a manual covering organization, gestures, voice control, word usage and impromptu speaking. Each speech will be evaluated to let you know how you are doing. The course will be taught by experienced Toastmasters. The cost is \$25.00 (includes manual). For more information call Nancy at (651) 735-3953. To register Email: [speechcraft13@gmail.com](mailto:speechcraft13@gmail.com). You may pay at the first meeting.

### Hamline Midway Library plans events

Joint us at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W Minnehaha Ave., on Saturday, April, 13th 1:30-3 p.m. for Paw Pals. School age children can choose a book to read to Toby, our Paw Pal. Each session is 15 minutes in length, please sign up at the Library.

Also on Saturday, April, 13th 1-3:30 p.m. we will hold our Saturday Club. Activities will include arts, crafts and fun for all!!

Book lovers unite!! Join us for Kids Book Club Saturday, April 20th 1:30-2:30 PM, discussing any of Jeff Kinney's, Diary of a Wimpy Kid series titles. Let's meet and eat treats while we discuss books. For ages 8-12. New members always welcome!

Teen Book Club will also be held on Saturday, April, 20th from 2:30-3:30 p.m. We will discuss How to Save a Life by, Sarah Zarr. The Library will provide treats and fun activities for attendees. Open ages 12-18. For more information on these programs call 651-642-0293.

### St. Stephanus holds Spaghetti Dinner

The Men's Club of St. Stephanus will be having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, April 6, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Avenue. Adults: \$8.00; Children 5 to 12: \$4; and Family Household: \$20. Take out available. Craft and Bake Sale will be held during the Dinner. For tickets, call the church at 651-228-1486.

### Kids vote for books at Saint Paul Public Library

It's time to pick a winner! Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award voting will be held at Hamline Midway, Highland Park, and Central Libraries March 1-April 6.

The Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award is a children's choice book award. Its purpose is to encourage recreational reading among school age children.

Students in grades 3-5 who have read or listened to at least three titles from the Division I nominee list and students in grades 6-8 who have read or listened to at least three titles from the Division II nominee list are eligible to vote.

For more nominee lists and information on related events, visit <http://www.sppl.org/grade-school/reading/maud-hart-lovelace-book-award>.

### Hamline barn dance March 16

Anyone who likes to do-si-do and swing their partner is encouraged to attend the March 16 Hamline Barn Dance, 6-8 p.m. at the church at 1514 Englewood. Enter through the alley door. Dance the night away, meet new friends and have a great time. Lessons are offered. Wearing green is encouraged but not mandatory.

Live music, a talented caller and dance lessons make it fun for all. This is a great family activity. Cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Irish food is available for purchase.



# GINKGO coffeehouse celebrates 20 years!

When GINKGO coffeehouse opened its doors in the Hamline Midway neighborhood in February of 1993, there were very few such gathering places in the Twin Cities. Now, twenty years later, there are many more, but few this age, and none of those still owned and operated by the same person.

GINKGO coffeehouse began as a thought; a conversation. More than six months later, after exhaustive market research, and the first coffee drinks of her life, Kathy Sundberg built a business that has served as a community hub and music hot spot for more than two decades.

This former chemical engineer and international marketing manager decided it was time to own her own business, and this was the perfect fit. Living in the neighborhood for several years, she missed the gathering places and music venues of Boston, where she lived for a time after graduate school.

She looked forward to managing her own business, but also had goals for her business:

- Create a space where



When GINKGO coffeehouse opened its doors in the Hamline Midway neighborhood in February of 1993, there were very few such gathering places in the Twin Cities. GINKGO just celebrated its 20th anniversary last month.

everyone feels welcome

- Offer a music venue where people could see nationally touring musicians in an intimate setting, without the noise of a bar,

restaurant or coffeehouse (GINKGO offers shows in a listening room setting – no service while the musicians are playing a ticketed event)

- Design a space that enhances the neighborhood: a place to meet people without buying a meal; a place to bump into neighbors or friends.

- Offer a menu selection of fresh, high quality, simple food and beverages that people could afford (currently, a mug of locally roasted high quality coffee is only \$1.25).

- Build a business with longevity, not one to develop and sell.

Kathy still lives in the neighborhood with her family, and supports innumerable activities in the neighborhood and around the Twin Cities with donations and participation. She believes in the power of small businesses and community. She enjoys seeing people who first came in as babies, or the customers that have been witness to growth and change.

More a deli than a coffeehouse, GINKGO has expanded its offerings through the years. In the early stages, there were homemade soup and sandwiches to supplement the great coffee, espresso and tea drinks. Most of

these original items are still available, side-by-side with salads, homemade vegetarian lasagna, quiche, breakfast sandwiches, burritos, wraps, paninis, cookies (made from scratch of course), and a wide array or freshly baked goods. Food is simple, and made from scratch whenever possible.

Located at the intersection of Snelling and Minnehaha Avenues in St. Paul (721 N. Snelling Ave.), it is convenient for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and those using public transportation. It is a neighborhood place, but also attractive as a location midway between downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis.

The value of GINKGO coffeehouse has been recognized, with the invitation to create similar places in area hospitals. Currently, GINKGO coffeehouse has locations in four hospitals. People at these hospitals might find themselves with a homemade chocolate chip cookie, sandwich or great Café Mocha, from a deli that seems familiar...a piece of the neighborhood when they need it most.



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Sunday of the Passion: One service at 10:45 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday Noon & 6 p.m.  
Good Friday Noon & 7 p.m.  
Vigil of Easter 8:00 p.m.  
Easter Day 8:45 & 10:45 a.m.



come home this Easter

### Sunday Mornings

8:45 and 10:45 Worship  
9:30 Adult Bible Class • 9:45 Kid's Kingdom

Jehovah LUTHERAN at Thomas and Snelling

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651-646-7127 | [ComoEveningPrayer.org](http://ComoEveningPrayer.org)

## District 6 Planning Council's Annual Meeting April 1, 2013

The District Council's purpose is to give residents the opportunity to weigh in on issues that affect our community and the District Council offers a wide range of activities, events and ways to be involved; from Crime Prevention, Block Clubs, National Night Out, Community Engagement and Land Use to Neighborhood Clean-ups & Special Events. The Annual Meeting will be on Monday April 1, 2013 beginning at 6:30 PM at North Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch Avenue. SPPD Chief Tom Smith will be in attendance and District 6 has invited other Law Enforcement, City Departments and City and County Officials. An open discussion is planned on a variety of topics. There will be a light supper served beginning at 6:00 PM. For more information visit our website at [www.district6stpaul.org](http://www.district6stpaul.org), email [district6ed@dist6pc.org](mailto:district6ed@dist6pc.org) or call 651-488-4485

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## Save the date: Hamline Midway's Heartwood Festival 2013

Hamline Midway Coalition is proud to announce the date of the fourth annual Hamline Midway Heartwood Festival: Saturday, June 1, 2013!

The Hamline Midway Heartwood Festival is a celebration of community, sustainability, and art at Newell Park, 900 N. Fairview Ave. The festival kicks off with the participatory Bike Walk Parade from Hancock Rec Center to Newell Park, where guests will enjoy live entertainment, food, resource and art fairs, and activities from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NEW this year: Help restore the historic oak woodland at Newell Park by planting trees and removing invasive species through the reNewell project. Also, look for sporting events like a community kickball tournament.

In preparation for the Bike Walk Parade, the Canvas Teen Arts Center is opening up a mask-making workshop to all community members on Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. the entire month of May at Hancock Rec Center.

Register for a booth, donate to the silent auction, volunteer, and learn more about the festival at [www.hamlinemidway.org/heartwood](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/heartwood). The Hamline Midway Heartwood Festival is planned by the Community Building Committee of Hamline Midway Coalition in partnership with St. Paul Parks and Recreation. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. For more information, contact Faith at 651-494-7683 or [faith@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:faith@hamlinemidway.org).

Hamline Midway Coalition — District Council 11 — is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to making the Hamline Midway neighborhood a better place to live, learn, work, and play.



# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before April 1 for the April 11 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information.  
Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to [denisw@aplacetoremember.com](mailto:denisw@aplacetoremember.com). Want ads must be in the Monitor before April 1 for the April 11 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com) 9-12

### AIR CONDITIONERS

Recycling discarded air conditioners. Free pick-up. No charge! Roger 612-210-3529. 8-13

### ANTIQUES

For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. B-12

### ATTORNEY

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### FOR RENT

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### HOUSECLEANING

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### LAWN SERVICE

Lawn/Snow Service, spring and fall cleanups, gutter cleaning and repair. 651-699-2832. B-12

### PAINTING

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### PET SITTING

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### PIANO TUNING

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RAM Handyman Services - Good service, reasonable rates, no job too small. Contact Rich - 651-485-9680 or [rich@ramhandyman.com](mailto:rich@ramhandyman.com). 3-13

Kustom Remodeling - Roofing, siding, exterior/interior painting. Sheetrock, taping and texturing. Marty 612-724-8819. 2-14

### WANTED TO BUY

Paying the most for your furniture, dishes, glassware, knickknacks, costume jewelry, antiques, pictures, lamps, household items, etc., I make housecalls. Call Mary. 612-729-3110. 4-13

\*\*WANTED\*\* - Old Stereo Equipment, Hi-fis & Hams. Andy 651-329-0515. 2-14

### WINDOWS/SCREENS

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# Sholom Home site to be brought to life as a new senior housing facility

By DEBORAH BROTZ

The Sholom East site building will soon be brought back to life. Plans to renovate and establish a senior housing facility at the location will soon be under way.

When the Sholom Alliance sold The Sholom East site building to Traditions SP Land, LLC, on June 6, 2011, the purchaser announced renovation plans for a senior housing facility. But, in August 2012, due to a holdup in the financing for the renovation, the building was added to St. Paul's Vacant Building Program. Four months ago, a new ownership group was formed, which will be going ahead with renovation plans for a senior housing facility.

When the building was first sold, a senior housing facility was the best choice for the building.

"That has been the building's historic use," said Rhett McSweeney, principal developer for Senior Investors, LCC. "For the principals in the company, that was the intent from the start."

McSweeney projects there will be approximately 155 units of senior housing with a range of independent to assisted living. In addition to a memory unit, there will be a mix of one- and two-bedroom units. Renovations are needed in order to have senior housing at the location.

"The type of senior services that will be provided are a lot different than what was offered at



The Sholom East site building will soon be brought back to life. Plans to renovate and establish a senior housing facility at the location will soon be under way.

Sholom Home," said McSweeney. "They had near to 300 beds. We're going to have 155. Instead of nursing home rooms, we'll have some bedroom dementia units, some one- and two-bedroom units, some independent living units, and some assisted living units."

The building was added to St. Paul's Vacant Building Program due to time constraints in getting all the permits.

"All the permits haven't been pulled to do the conversion," said McSweeney. "It's a pretty wide open designation. Before we start construction, we have to have a global walk through with all the departments in the City. We do it all together."

A new ownership group was formed to develop the property.

"The existing ownership had decided they wanted to sell the project rather than develop it on their own," said McSweeney. "So, the new ownership group has an option on the property to be the end developer."

Ebenezer Homes was chosen by the new ownership group to run the facility.

"They were chosen because of their well-respected reputation in the Twin Cities," said McSweeney. "They are the premiere provider of senior housing with services. They're part of Fairview Health Services. They are the top provider in the state. We're very excited to have them come to Como Park."

The renovated building will have 40 memory-dementia units, 80 assisted living units, and 35 in-

dependent living units.

"Every part of the building will get touched," said McSweeney. "It will include all the mechanical and all the electrical and some renovations to the exterior. There will be all new flooring, ceiling tiles, and lighting. It will be like a brand-new building. It will be great for the neighborhood and the whole area."

We're excited."

Renovation is expected to begin sometime this summer, in June or July.

"There is a vital need in the community as it gets older to provide a place for seniors to get care," said McSweeney. "It's an opportunity to add a lot of value to the community and to build a strong business. If we can help people and find a way to make a living doing it, it's a wonderful combination."

At a January 2013 Community Council Meeting, McSweeney indicated that he would stay in touch with District 10 with updates on the project. He also said, "If I failed you as a neighbor in the past, I won't fail you again."

"I had some issues with the neighbors and transient people hanging out on the property, not getting rid of snow, and issues with the back lawn," he said. "If we haven't addressed it in the past, it won't be the case in the future. We're monitoring the property at a pretty high level right now."

McSweeney hopes the neighborhood will be pleased with the renovated building.

"We hope that we'll make the build out first class, get it filled up, and provide the best care in St. Paul for the next 30 years," he said.

## Tutoring makes a difference

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