

monitor

Serving the Midway, Como, and North End Communities of St. Paul



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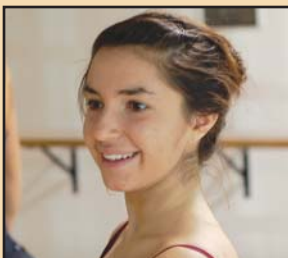
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Hamline Midway Library: Will a community icon be closed?

By JAN WILLMS

The Hamline Midway Branch Library, built in 1929, is more than just a collection of books. It's also a collection of memories.

"The first place a child gets to walk to in the neighborhood is the library," said Triesta Brown, a longtime Hamline-Midway resident and member of the advocacy committee of the Friends of the Library.

Brown reflected on her own memories of Hamline Midway Library recently as she contemplated news that the Library may face closure within the next couple of years.

Brown has been a witness to the many times over the years Hamline Midway Library has been faced with closure, and her neighbor Annette Sorensen, 84, has been a patron of the branch since its beginning.

Sorensen remembers going to the storefront library on Snelling when she was very little, and she was about 6 when the library had a grand opening at its current location at 1558 West Minnehaha.

The Hamline Midway Branch has been a part of the fabric of people's lives over generations. Brown recalled that her son, Pippin, now 22, was around 5 when the library was once being considered for closure. He told his mom he wanted to write a letter about how important it was to keep the doors open.

"He wasn't old enough to write the letter, but he dictated it," she said. "And he read it at a meeting about the library. Jim Scheibel was the mayor, and when it was decided the library would remain open he commented that Pippin Brown would not have to worry."

Although Pippin just completed his basic training at Fort Knox, Brown said he still keeps the library in mind, and in a recent conversation with her expressed his hopes that the Hamline Midway Branch would continue to operate.

In the wake of the current budget crisis, however, library officials are predicting that Hamline Library's days may be numbered.

"Hamline Library has been the one that has been slated for closure or reduction every budget year," said Melanie Huggins, director of Saint Paul Public Libraries. "It has been put forth as the branch that could save some



Hamline Midway Library supporter Triesta Brown, in the garden she and Annette Sorensen tend in front of the Hamline Midway Library. (Photo by Terry Faust)

money if it were closed. It was first cited for closure in 1967, but that never transpired. Another year that it came the closest to

shutting its doors was 1981," Huggins said.

Huggins said she has again had to address the possibility of

the branch closing in a recent conversation with Council Member Jay Benav.

"I told him that if we don't fix the problem with the libraries so that we are not stretched so thin, we are going to have to close a library within the next three to five years," Huggins said.

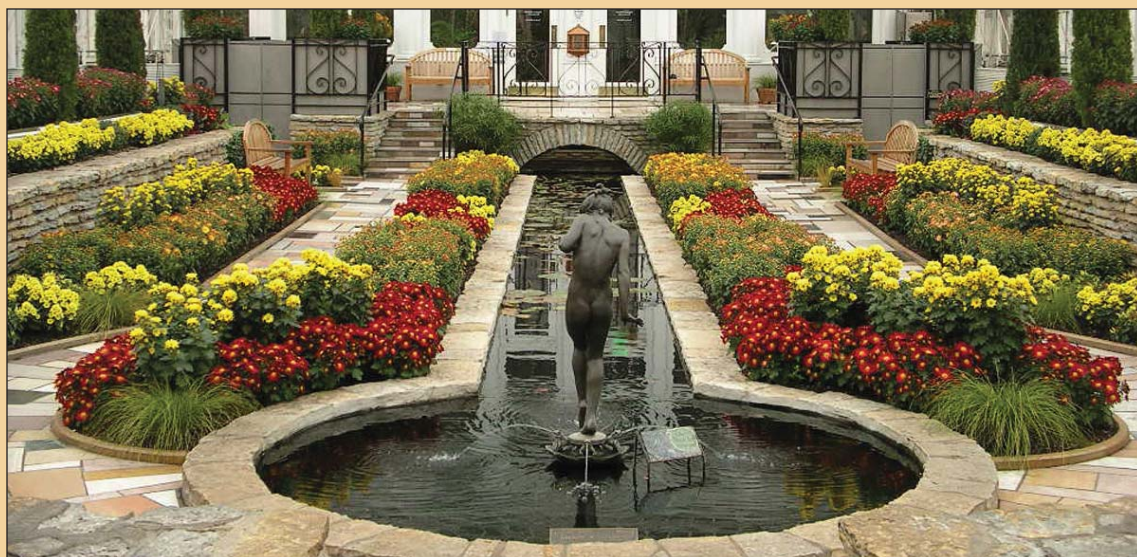
Although hours were scheduled to be cut for 2008, Benav has convinced Mayor Chris Coleman to restore the Hamline Library hours for the next year. He also cited his concern about the proposed closing of Hamline while the city plans new library developments citywide, and he was able to include an additional amendment of \$50,000 in CIB funding for the preservation of the Hamline Library.

Huggins said that the Hamline branch is usually on the table for closure because of multiple factors. It is close to the bottom in terms of usage, based on people walking through the doors and how many items are checked out. Another factor is its proximity to other library facilities, such as Rondo and Merriam Park.

"No library director I have ever met wants to see a library close," said Huggins. She said, however, that when Hamline was targeted for closure in 1981, St. Paul had one fewer branches. Facilities were open 100 fewer total hours per week.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Autumn's splendor comes to life at the Conservatory



As the season begins to change from summer to fall outdoors, so does the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Sunken Garden. The Fall Flower Show runs through November 25. The second edition runs November 3 through November 25 and features an additional 500 plants in harvest yellow, maroon and orange tones, ideal for a Thanksgiving retreat. To complement the golden array, Chilly Chili pepper, ornamental grasses and Swiss chard will be highlighted.

monitor

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St. Paul, MN 55104
651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Denis Woulfe

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe
Dennis Stern (651-452-5324)

Photographer:

Terry Faust

Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Eric Nathanson, Deborah Brotz,
Jane McClure, Tom Conlon,
Jan Willms, Sherri Moore,
Deb Robinson, Sean Bailey,
The Cheap skate, The Food Snob,
and The Bachelor



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Monitor in a Minute

Neighborhoods show windstorm scars

For years to come, area neighborhoods will show the scars of severe windstorms that hit in August and September. City crews have put in countless hours of cleanup but have needed some outside help. The St. Paul City Council gave unanimous approval October 3 to additional grant funding for cleanup from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR funds are from the state's Shoreland Habitat Grant program and will be used to restore shoreline damaged August 11 in the first major storm.

The increase brings the total budget for shoreline restoration to almost \$30,000. Como Park and its surrounding neighborhoods were hit very hard by the August storm and another storm in September. Areas of the park lost many trees and parts of the shoreline sustained considerable damage.

The Minnesota State Fair grounds and buildings also took a hit from the August storm, which hit just days before the fair was to open. The August storm also hit a number of area homes hard, with some homes and garages damaged extensively.

It took crews several weeks to get trees cleaned up and limbs hauled from neighborhood curbs and from the park.

Ayd Mill Road debate returns

The Ayd Mill Road debate rolled back to the St. Paul City Council October 24, with the council deciding to reopen final environmental studies of the project. That will allow for studies of rebuilding the street as a two-lane parkway. Ward

Four Council Member Jay Benav is asking that no additional funds or work be done on Ayd Mill Road until a final environmental impact statement (EIS) is completed. This pending EIS would reflect a 2000 City Council decision that the street be rebuilt as a two-lane parkway. That option called for a direct connection at Interstate 35E and an indirect connection with Interstate 94 at the north end.

Benav is also asking that the Ayd Mill Road Task Force, which hasn't met for more than seven years, be reconvened to revise the final EIS.

During his term as mayor, Randy Kelly rejected the City Council recommendation and had the EIS finished to support the reconstruction of Ayd Mill Road as a four-lane roadway. His administration connected Ayd Mill Road at its south end and set up directional signage at the north end to help motorists connect with I-94.

Kelly also had Ayd Mill Road resurfaced and some of its connections with city streets rebuilt. That move was applauded by those who wanted the road opened as a free-way connection, but bitterly opposed by those who wanted the road downgraded to a parkway or replaced with a linear park. The connection has also wreaked havoc in the Snelling-Selby area, with higher levels of traffic on Selby between Snelling and the north end of Ayd Mill Road.

Benav said the directive mirrors Mayor Chris Coleman's contention that it is necessary to open and revise the final EIS before the two-lane option is built.

Ironically, Benav was one of two council votes against the two-lane option in 2000. He supported a linear park. "But this (Two-lane option) is what a majority of the council wanted," he said. "This moves that forward."

NIIP benefits from Council funds

An area project will benefit from

Neighborhood Investment Initiative Program (NIIP) funds from the St. Paul City Council. The council unanimously adopted the funding recommendations October 10.

NIIP dollars come from the Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) funds. The half-cent sales tax paid on most purchases in St. Paul supports city-administered neighborhood and cultural development programs, as well as funding to pay for Xcel Energy Center. The City Council takes a portion of the Neighborhood STAR dollars each year to pay for ward-specific capital improvement projects.

All NIIP projects are reviewed by the Neighborhood STAR Board, a citizens' advisory committee. The City Council has the final say on projects and can waive the Neighborhood STAR requirement that projects be matched one-to-one with funding, materials or labor. Both area projects do have a match.

Council members Jay Benav allocated \$5,000 toward the cost of a new mural on the wall of a commercial building near the northwest corner of University and Fairview avenues. The mural is on the building shared by two businesses, Major Tire and Buckaroo Coffee convention. The mural, which was completed this fall, depicts a historic scene with old vehicles and yellow trolleys and a new light rail train.

The City Council also approved NIIP allocations for Payne Avenue improvements and for a new playground at Groveland Park Elementary School.

Council members Jay Benav allocated \$5,000 toward the cost of a new mural on the wall of a commercial building near the northwest corner of University and Fairview avenues. The mural is on the building shared by two businesses, Major Tire and Buckaroo Coffee convention.

Security cameras on University Avenue move ahead

The long-awaited effort to put security cameras along University Avenue is moving ahead, as the St. Paul City Council approved installation plans October 17. The \$1.5 million plan draws on a \$1.2 million grant and a \$300,000 donation from Target Corporation. It will cover the costs for 25 cameras from the city limits to Robert Street. The cameras will be installed on street light poles and will stream live video into police headquarters, and the new West District building near completion on Hamline Avenue and to laptops in police squad cars. Police will be able to see crimes in progress and intervene quickly.

Installation of the system will start soon. Police hope to have private security firms work with the camera system, as a number of businesses along University work with private security groups. Metro Transit is also involved in the camera program.

The cameras and the funding have been on the drawing boards for the past few years. Police hope to have them in place, along with other cameras downtown, before the 2008 Republican National Convention.

The cameras on University are seen as a boon to businesses and residents in the University Avenue. Police will work with businesses and residents near where the cameras will be installed to address any concerns about privacy issues.

Some concerns have been raised about privacy issues but no individuals or groups have attended city meetings to discuss the issues. In earlier discussions of the camera system the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union has indicated that because the cameras are in a public area the privacy claims are more difficult to defend.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

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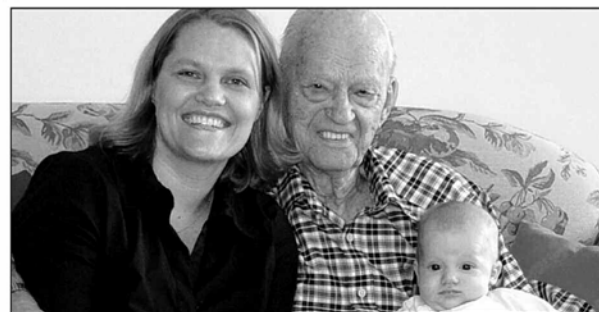
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Timberwolves partner with neighbors to bring improvements to Hamline Park

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Hamline Midway resident Charity McCoy always loved to drive to the hoop at Hamline Park even when the basketball court was in poor condition. Realizing the park needed a little TLC, she formed a group of neighbors and youth to work on improving the park. She also brought the park's needs to the attention of St. Paul Parks and Recreation. Through an impressive partnership with St. Paul Parks and Recreation, the Minnesota Timberwolves have donated \$10,000 to renovate the park's basketball court.

A big basketball fan, McCoy was thrilled St. Paul Parks and Recreation chose to renovate the basketball court at Hamline Park, at Thomas and Snelling avenues.

"Being a player myself, I'm so tickled," she said.

On Oct. 25, the Minnesota Timberwolves dedicated and officially opened the newly renovated basketball court at Hamline Park with a dedication event indoors at the Hancock Rec Center. St. Paul Ward 4 Councilmember Jay Benanav hosted the dedication ceremony.

Players also put on a clinic, run by Timberwolves player Mark Madsen. Upon completion of the clinic, the Minnesota Timberwolves distributed tickets to Hancock Elementary School for future Wolves games.

When the opportunity arose, Madsen jumped at the chance to run the clinic.

"I love the game of basketball," he said. "I wanted to share something about the game of basketball with the kids over there."

Madsen taught the children a lot of things about basketball.

"We taught them about balance, ball handling, and keeping their head up so they can see what's going on, on the court. We talked about mistakes, too. It's important to learn from mistakes both on the basketball court and in life."

Working with the children at the clinic was enjoyable for Madsen.

"It was one of the most fun things I've done in a long time," he said. "The kids were so enthusiastic about the game and shooting contests. I fed off their energy and enthusiasm"

Supporting the community makes sense to Madsen.

"It's important for people to get out in the community and try and give back in whatever they do," he said. "I'm a basketball player. That's what I do. I'm obligated to share some of the great memories I've had in basketball. It's something I enjoy doing."

McCoy was very impressed with Madsen at the clinic.

"He was a gentle giant, so helpful and so friendly," she said. "The Timberwolves gave out T-shirts and NBA schedules, and took pictures. We will always remember them and support them because they support us."

As a Leadership in Support of Neighborhood (LISN) Pro-



On Oct. 25, the Minnesota Timberwolves dedicated and officially opened the newly renovated basketball court at Hamline Park with a dedication event indoors at the Hancock Recreation Center. St. Paul Ward 4 Councilmember Jay Benanav hosted the dedication ceremony. Players put on a clinic, run by Timberwolves player Mark Madsen, pictured above. (Photo by Terry Faust)

gram fellow alum and State of Minnesota Council on Black Minnesotans board member, McCoy started an "improvement

Movement" within her community centered around Hamline Park. She chose the park because of its racial and generational ten-

sion as well as the public park's very visible rough appearance and excessive usage in its urban community.

"The improvement movement came from my participation in the LISN Program (Leadership In Search of Neighborhood Program)," she said.

"We had to choose an area of interest to improve within the community. I chose Hamline Park because of the problems going on loitering, littering, crime, and negligence of the park."

Steering a group of neighbors and youth called Pals of Hamline Park, McCoy is trying to improve the community in unity by people working alongside each other in cleaning and making the public playspace better. Pals of Hamline Park include residents Deb Ahlquist, Stephen Wensman, Peter Solheid, Becky Landon, Diane Dodge, Cheryl Gfrerer, and Vita Taormina-Ortega.

The group of neighbors realized some of the park's issues were coming from issues in the neighborhood, which could best be taken care of by neighbors.

"We could have gone to Parks and Recreation and say fix it, but it's us who have had a hand in it," said McCoy. "It's up to us to fix it."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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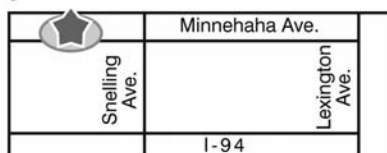
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Cares and Cures

By JANE KILIAN, M.D.

The flu ... shot or not?

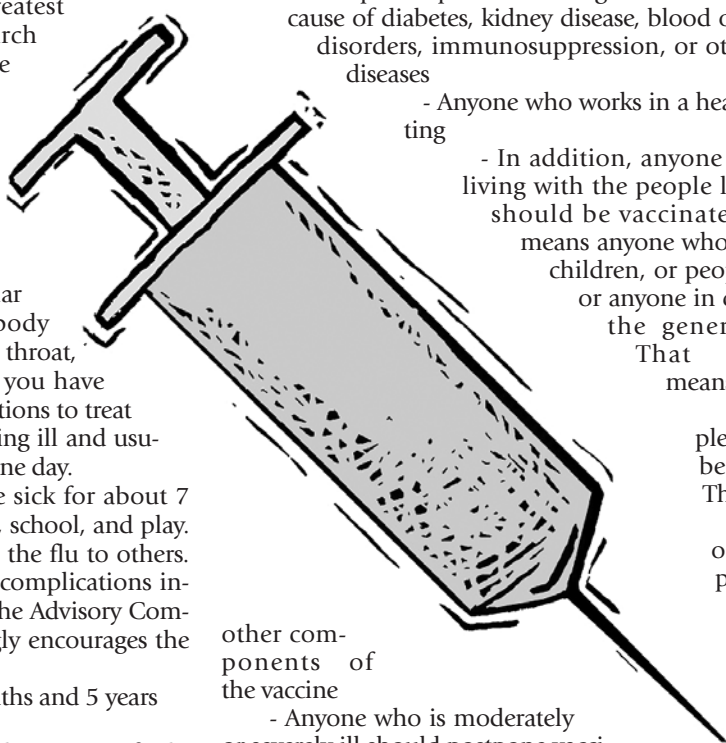
I think this has been a wonderful autumn. Fall is always my favorite season, but this year I was beginning to think that we might not see much leaf color. However, the rains seem to have brought new life to the trees. My commute to work is through Como Park and it has been delighting me with surprise color bursts for the last three weeks.

Fall is also flu shot time. Immunization during these months allows you to have the greatest immunity from December through March (prime flu months). Some years, because of shortages of influenza vaccine, we have tried to limit who gets flu shots. This year is different. There is no shortage of vaccine so we are hoping that almost everyone be vaccinated.

Influenza (or the flu) is a viral respiratory illness that causes symptoms similar to a really bad cold: sudden onset of body aches, fever and chills, severe cough, sore throat, fatigue. Usually by the time you realize you have the flu, it is too late for treatment. Medications to treat must be given within 48 hours of becoming ill and usually only shorten the course of illness by one day.

Most people who get the flu will be sick for about 7 days...which means time away from work, school, and play. It also means infected people can spread the flu to others. Some folks are susceptible to serious flu complications including hospitalization and even death. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices strongly encourages the following people be vaccinated:

- Children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years
- People over the age of 50
- People living in nursing homes or chronic care facilities
- Pregnant women, or women who will be pregnant or who will be breast feeding during influenza season
- Children ages 6 months - 18 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- People of any age with asthma, heart disease, or lung disease
- Anyone who is immunosuppressed by medications or



HIV infection

- People hospitalized during the last 12 months because of diabetes, kidney disease, blood or metabolic disorders, immunosuppression, or other chronic diseases

- Anyone who works in a health care setting

- In addition, anyone working or living with the people listed above should be vaccinated. So that means anyone who works with children, or people over 50, or anyone in contact with the general public.

That probably means you!

Some people should not be vaccinated.

This includes:
- Anyone with hypersensitivity to eggs or

other components of the vaccine

- Anyone who is moderately or severely ill should postpone vaccination until they are feeling better. Minor illness, without fever, should not prevent vaccination.

- Anyone who has had Guillain Barre Syndrome

I hear lots of myths about flu vaccines. Most commonly, people insist they became really sick after their vaccination, and therefore they won't be vaccinated again. While flu vaccinations are not without possible side effects, you cannot get the flu from the vaccination. You could coinci-

dentally catch a cold right after you get the shot, which might make you think the shot made you sick. But because it is not made from live flu virus, the flu shot cannot give you the flu. You might get the flu even if you receive a vaccine, because it is not protective against all strains. Hopefully, however, you will develop a milder case.

Side effects of a flu shot can include a sore arm or allergic reaction at the site of injection, fever and/or fatigue. These symptoms usually last less than 48 hours. It is rare, but possible, to have an immediate allergic reaction to the vaccine. For that reason people allergic to eggs should not be vaccinated. (The vaccine is grown in chicken eggs.)

Pregnant and breast feeding women can and should be vaccinated. Some physicians wait until women are in the 2nd trimester of pregnancy to vaccinate, but many will give the vaccine at any time. There is no research that demonstrates any risk to the fetus if a vaccination is given in the first trimester.

When children are vaccinated for the first time, they require two shots given 4 weeks apart.

Protective measures to help avoid the flu, and other winter illnesses include a generally healthy lifestyle. Eat a balanced diet which includes a variety of foods, exercise, allow yourself enough sleep, and wash your hands often. Remember to plan time for fun amidst all your daily responsibilities. And if you do get sick, rest and pamper yourself. Don't go to work when you are sick because you will expose others to your illness and it will take longer for you to recuperate.

I hope you enjoy the fall. I encourage you to walk around Como Lake, enjoy the colorful leaves, eat some tasty apples, and get a flu shot. This year, there is no reason not to protect yourself and others ... let us give you a shot in the arm.

Have fun. Stay happy and healthy.

(Dr. Kilian is a family practice physician who lives and works in the Midway, Como and North End communities. She believes that good medicine means caring for people as well as curing diseases. We want to address your health concerns so please let us know what topics you would like to see in future columns. If you have suggestions or questions, write to the Monitor c/o 1885 University Avenue West, #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Or e-mail denisw@aplacetoremember.com.)

LETTERS

Irritated by plans for Rock-Tenn incinerator

When I first heard about the plan to build an incinerator that would burn garbage to supply the fuel needs of Rock-Tenn recycling at Cretin and I94, I was concerned about emissions, but also about saving 500 good jobs in St. Paul. It seems I have been the victim of a "Bait and Switch" scheme. Having received \$4.5 million dollars from the Legislature to study the issue the Port Authority and District Energy now map out the hidden agenda. In their publication of last week The Energy Independent they brazenly state that what they really have in mind is a huge incinerator that will supply not only Rock-Tenn but all of University Ave. It's a no-brainer to see that the larger the plant the more foul air we will be breathing. District Energy and their for-profit arm, Market Energy, will build an empire and make millions at the taxpayers expense. Take RDF (garbage) off the table as a possible fuel source and we can start talking about healthy solutions to meet everyone's needs.

Beverly Ferguson
Merriam Park

Response to rebranded garbage burning

The Saint Paul Port Authority has been inserting propaganda called 'The Energy Independent' in neighborhood



The St. Paul Port Authority sought legislative assistance to help keep Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling facility operating.

newspapers that are distributed downwind from the Rock-Tenn plant.

Read between the lines: Once upon a time it was called 'rubbish.' Then it was called 'trash.' Then it was called 'garbage.' Recently, it was called 'refused-derived fuel.' Until citizens figured out what that meant. Now, after a bit of rebranding it is known as 'renewable fuel' and 'biomass.' The incineration industry even went so far as to change the definition by law.

In 2005 legislative session 'garbage' got defined, legally, as "renewable energy" and biomass burn plants are now legally allowed to burn up to 30% garbage.

Biomass and garbage burning are dirtier than coal when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions and fine particulate emissions. Let's save those jobs at Rock Tenn with truly clean energy and not rebranded garbage burning.

John Schatz
Desnoyer Park

Opposition to incineration spreads to other locations

Neighbors Against the Burner oppose the proliferation of incineration. We started our effort by opposing the building of a garbage (RDF) incinerator at I94 and Cretin Vandalia at the Rock Tenn Paper Recycling facility.

Since then, we have become aware of plans for an incinerator at Hiawatha and Lake, and others in Morris and Kandyohi County. A garbage burner just got a permit to double in size in Rochester. There are 4 other garbage burners in Minnesota currently; 2 in Red Wing, one in Elk River and one in Mankato. Don't forget the one in downtown Minneapolis.. So what are our public officials thinking to even consider enormous public funds to support incineration.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Crowds drawn to discuss station area planning for LRT

By JANE MCCLURE

Want to draw a crowd along University Avenue? Start talking about the proposed Central Corridor station areas and how those neighborhoods should change. More than 200 people attended station area planning meetings October 23-25, to discuss plans for future land uses around stations at Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice.

City Planner Donna Drummond said city staff was pleased with the turnout and strong interest in land use planning around the future light rail stations. Two to three different station areas were discussed each night, with the groups breaking into roundtables to draw on maps, move miniature buildings on models and share ideas.

Residents of surrounding neighborhoods, business and property owners, and staff from district councils turned out for the meetings. Getting a diversity of viewpoints in the planning process is important, said Melanie Hare of Toronto-based Urban Strategies. That planning firm worked with city staff and two community task forces to draft the Central Corridor Development Strategy, which was adopted by the St. Paul City Council October 24. (See related story.)

Although every station area has different suggestions in the Central Corridor Development Strategy, one concern heard in every group is to address the potential impact of commuters who park and ride in the neighbor-

hoods. Planners said the intent is for riders to use transit to link to Central Corridor. One of the few locations suggested for a park and ride facility is northwest of Highway 280 and University.

Not surprisingly, all of the groups talked about the need for more green space in station areas and along the transit corridor. Another issue raised in every group is there is a need not only for good bicycle connections to light rail, there is also a need for east-west routes through the area. University won't be able to accommodate bike lanes, so other options need to be sought.

Another component of station area planning is economics. The consulting firm of Colliers has done extensive marketing studies of the Central Corridor, breaking the rail route into five sub-districts. All of the sub-markets are quite distinct, said Jeff Patterson of Colliers. Of the areas, the west end stations and Snelling-Lexington have the strongest potentials for retail and office redevelopment.

Here is an overview of some of the ideas out of each roundtable:

Rice Street: The roundtable

liked the precedent the League of Minnesota Cities building sets for the corner, although that has to be balanced with the need to reserve views of the State Capitol. Group members suggested a number of areas around the intersection for long-range

number of changes, ranging from extending improvements up Rice Street, was seen as important.

Dale Street: Roundtable participants discussed the redevelopment potential and challenges of the Uni-Dale Mall site, and the pending redevelopment at the West District Police building. That building will be vacated soon and will make way for a new housing-retail development. Concerns were raised that development not exceed four stories in height.

Many ideas for this area centered on preservation of small businesses and existing housing and avoiding the displacement caused by gentrification. Emphasis on diverse cultures was a repeated idea, ranging from the idea of promoting a proposed World Cultural Heritage District to putting a multi-cultural museum at Uni-Dale.

Lexington Parkway: This roundtable debated the ideas of protecting surrounding housing stock versus encouraging redevelopment and finding locations for higher-density housing. One issue raised here is that any new buildings north of University be no more than two or three stories tall.

Preserving existing historic buildings along University,

building on area history in design of buildings and streetscape improvements were also suggested.

The need to better connect pedestrians to this stations was discussed, as it was for other station areas, but several people said more needs to be done to get pedestrians safely across Interstate 94 to light rail.

Snelling: Because a station location hasn't been set, the group was polled. Eighteen preferred the station right at Snelling, with only a few wanting the station at either Pascal or between Asbury and Simpson. Pros and cons of each station were outlined.

This group debated which historic buildings should be kept or razed for redevelopment, and whether or not the area should have a park and ride lot. Introducing a smaller street grid south of University was also debated.

Fairview: Roundtable participants like the Episcopal Homes campus and existing older commercial buildings, but don't believe new buildings should be higher than those structures. Taller new buildings should be placed at corners, with a variety of heights and setbacks.

Opportunities and challenges for redevelopment in the commercial-industrial area to the northwest was discussed, and whether the area could eventually be redevelopment for light, environmentally friendly industry.

Raymond/St. Anthony Park: This group debated includ-

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changes, including the Bethesda complex.

There was interest in extending the idea of improvements up Rice Street, developing more of a Como/Rice "gateway" area and improving bicycle and pedestrian connections to surrounding neighborhoods. Suggesting a

Letters

Continued from page 4

Incineration causes greenhouse gases and particulates (soot) no matter how "state of the art" the burners are. Burning garbage adds to the mix over 200 toxic chemicals all known to cause cancer, heart disease, asthma and many other related health problems. Please write your public officials and tell them to keep Minnesota Clean and stop this madness before we all end up having to wear gas-masks.

Come hear more about the dangers of incineration November 14 7 p.m. at Macalester College at a free public meeting. For more information and a free lawn sign to help this effort, visit our website neighborsagainsttheburner.org.

Nancy Hone
Merriam Park

Citizen input is essential for Rock-Tenn

The Minnesota State Legislature has wisely mandated that the citizen's voice be heard when government entities are making important decisions regarding our

health and safety. The proposed building of a garbage incinerator at the Rock-Tenn plant in St. Paul is a perfect case-in-point. Citizens are discovering that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency can only be as strong as the law allows; that for-profit Market St. Energy and Rock-Tenn view their bottom-line as paramount.

The Rock-Tenn Citizens Advisory Panel (RCAP) as been formed to advise St. Paul & Ramsey County about the merits of proposed solutions to Rock-Tenn's energy needs. Mounting evidence has been presented about the known health hazards of any type of incineration—especially using garbage (politely referred to as RDF/Refuse-Derived-Fuel). Genuinely renewable alternatives, such as conservation, geo-thermal, solar and wind energy, are being explored. Consult the RCAP website, www.rtadvisory.org, for upcoming meetings.

I applaud State Representative Erin Murphy who came to an RCAP meeting and implored the Advisory Panel and Project Team for the Rock-Tenn decision to genuinely consider the public input offered and to make the right decision today so we don't have to undue a terrible mistake tomorrow.

Jan Greenfield
Highland Park

Come and hear the OTHER side of the story!

Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 pm

Health Hazards of Incineration

Paul Connett, PhD

Chemist, Toxicologist, and Waste Management Expert

Location: Macalester College

John B. Davis Lecture Hall, Campus Center Lower Level
1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul (SW corner of Snelling and Grand)



The other side of the story that your city officials have not told you is that building a garbage burner at Rock-Tenn is a bad idea with serious health consequences for all of us.

Neighbors Against the Burner - www.neighborsagainsttheburner.org - 651-647-9908

Next deadline: November 26

City Council adopts Central Corridor development strategy to guide usage

By JANE MCCLURE

After more than a year's work the St. Paul Central Corridor Development Strategy is official. The St. Paul City Council adopted the document October 24, following more than a year's review by two citizen task forces, numerous public meetings and hearings before the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council.

The strategy now can be used to guide land use changes all along the Central Corridor light rail route in St. Paul. Related station area planning began last month. (See related story.)

City Planner Donna Drummond said the construction of a light rail line provides St. Paul with the chance to bring forward ideas for how areas along the light rail line could be redeveloped to complement and take advantage of light rail. "This is not only an opportunity to improve transit, it is also an opportunity to improve the communities around the transit line," she said. Many of the ideas would be implemented over the next 20 to 30 years.

Two task forces, one for University Avenue and another for the area from Rice Street through downtown St. Paul, worked for a year on land use recommendations. Consultants from Toronto-based Urban Strategies and hundreds of community meeting and workshop participants shaped the plan.

The long-term impacts of light rail could be dramatic. The development strategy indicates that as many as 30,000 more people and 15,000 more housing units could be built along the corridor by 2030. During that same time the area could also have an additional one million square feet of retail space and an additional five million feet of office space developed.

Kristina Smitten and former Planning Commissioner Hamline-Midway resident Reggie Aligada and Merriam Park resident Kristina Smitten respectively co-chaired the downtown and University task forces. Smitten noted that in the downtown area, much of the development strategy focus is not on major redevelopment but on providing better connections to downtown streets

the concourse two blocks away, to connect with other future commuter rail, light rail, high-speed rail and bus rapid transit lines. Smitten said the task force recommendation reflects a desire to better serve the 4,000-plus residents of Lowertown neighborhood.

More opportunities for redevelopment are suggested along University, said Aligada. But that had to be done with community concerns about gentrification and minority business displacement in mind. Some recommendations in the development strategy focus on preserving neighborhoods.

The University Avenue corridor eyed for long-term redevelopment is irregularly shaped, Drummond said. "We didn't take a wide swath on both sides of the street and say, 'This is the corridor and this is up for grabs,'" she said. The corridor is narrow at its east end, to reflect the interest in preserving the residential communities north and south of University Avenue. It is wider in areas around the Midway shopping district blocks.

Although none of the 10 speakers at the hearing opposed the plan, a number of minor amendments were suggested. Some of the requests, such as adding more transit stations and continuing Route 16 University Avenue bus service at its current level, are transit operations issues that need to be forwarded to

Metropolitan Council. The regional government and its Metro Transit arm operates the bus system and will eventually operate the Central Corridor rail line.

Several speakers including representatives of the JUST Equity coalition and the Selby Area Community Development Corporation want the plan to increase its focus on ideas to strengthen and promote African-American and Pan-Asian history and current commercial and residential communities. One oft-repeated concern during the development strategy planning process is that the displacement of minority communities, as happened 50 years around when Interstate 94 construction destroyed much of the African-American Rondo neighborhood, not be repeated with light rail development. Gentrification is also a huge worry for many residents north and south of the rail line.

Aurora-St. Anthony resident Frances Goodlow told the City Council that any redevelopment must be done in a way that doesn't displace seniors and low-income home owners. "I want the city to help seniors, so that we are not taxed out of our homes," she said.

The city is incorporating the concerns into the development strategy and into follow-up actions with Metropolitan Council. One of the issues they will be following up on centers on historic downtown churches and Minnesota Public Radio.

The Church of St. Louis, King of France and Central Presbyterian Church. MPR and the churches are worried about vibrations from light rail trains and the impacts it will have on their buildings as well as radio station operations. Although that is a rail operations issue and not one of land use, Ward Two Council Member Dave Thune said the city should support the churches and MPR in asking that the vibrations issue be addressed. That could be brought forward in a separate resolution.

"The Central Corridor light rail line will run within 20 feet of our front door," said Jeff Nelson, MPR's director of public affairs. While the churches and MNPR support light rail, "significant" problems could be caused by vibrations from trains. The section of Cedar Street where light rail will run is built on top of 2 to 5 feet of sand, with bedrock below. The foundations of all three buildings are on the bedrock, which means vibrations and airborne sound will affect the buildings.

Structural and sound issues are the primary concerns. The churches, which date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, don't have acoustical insulation. Although MPR has state-of-the-art facilities, Nelson said there are fears that noise, vibrations and electromagnetic interference could interfere with MPR's ability to record and broadcast in downtown St. Paul.

"This is not only an opportunity to improve transit, it is also an opportunity to improve the communities around the transit line."

- City Planner Donna Drummond

Drummond said the future land use planning would be more oriented toward transit. "It's so out of balance on University Avenue," Drummond said. "It's so oriented toward the car." Part of the development strategy focuses on improving pedestrian and bicycle connections to light rail, as well as north-south bus connections.

Planning Commissioner

and skyways. The two most dramatic recommendations are to redevelop the Rice Street Sears area as a mixed-use urban village and to run the rail line diagonally through a redeveloped Cedar and Fifth Street area.

In the downtown recommendations, the task force proposed that the light rail line end in front of Union Depot. Ramsey County wants the line to end at

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Mama's Pizza parlor grapples to reopen business following water damage back in February

By JANE MCCLURE

The long-awaited reopening of a Rice Street landmark should occur this month. Mama's Pizza, 961 Rice St., has been undergoing extensive renovations since a water pipe break in February 2007. Co-owners Tony Mudzinski, Regina Hammes and Gerri Mudzinski are the second generation of their family to operate the longtime Rice Street business, which opened its doors in 1964.

The business got a much-needed boost from the St. Paul City Council. Acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, the council unanimously approved a \$150,000 amortized loan to the business October 24. The loan will be used to purchase needed equipment.

The costs to gut and renovate the building eventually came in at \$600,000. The restaurant's insurance company has offered to settle the claim for about \$300,000, with the city loan and owners' equity making up the balance.

Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen, who sponsored the loan request, said it's important to get the restaurant open as soon as possible.

Mama's current owners could not be reached for comment. Mama's has maintained its longtime phone number and used its voice mail to provide updates for customers, but the voice mail is usually full. Earlier this year the family posted a web site, mamaspizzaparlor.com, to provide updates on building renovations and the new opening date.

On the most recent voice mail, Tony Mudzinski said, "We're working very hard to get the restaurant open again."

The water main break devastated the restaurant, which is at the corner of Rice and Front. Not long before the water pipe break, the building's exterior had been redone. The business had shared space for many years with Schwanke Studios, a longtime Rice Street photographer that occupied the upper floor.

As work progressed on the restaurant's interior, damage was found to be more serious than originally believed. The owners had hoped to reopen the business this summer but kept pushing back the date as work progressed. Now they may be able to reopen before Santa Claus makes his annual visit to the popular restaurant.

Mama's has always done a thriving carryout business, with a small seating area. It is one of a dwindling number of small, old-fashioned "red sauce" Italian neighborhood restaurants in St. Paul. It's not unusual to have several people waiting for space to open in the small dining area, which had a fireplace, cozy booths, checked tablecloths and a display of Gopher hockey memorabilia.

Pizza has always been the main menu item along with other Italian specialties including spaghetti and meatballs and moscaccioli. Diners were routinely offered plastic bibs, as well as small ice cream cones after every meal. A jar of suckers sat by the cash register. Passersby could watch Tony Mudzinski tossing pizza dough through the

front window.

The abrupt closing was a shock to North End residents. The restaurant is a longtime supporter of community activities, including area churches, schools, Rice Street Festival, North End Business Association, youth sports and the North End Holiday Party, a longtime tradition that ended several years ago.

The timing of the water pipe break meant no heart-shaped pizza last Valentine's Day, a longtime Rice Street tradition. It also has created a void in the dining options of neighborhood residents as well as state employees and a steady stream of politicians who enjoy Mama's. Former Attorney General Skip Humphrey was a frequent customer when he held state office. It's also a popular destination for legislators when the Minnesota House and Senate area in session.

The business is known by longtime residents as Peachie's Mama's Pizza. The longtime owner was the late Patricia "Peachie" Mudzinski, mother of the current owners. She was part of a longtime St. Paul restaurant family, the Manginis. They operated a popular Italian restaurant near Lake Phalen for many years.

Peachie Mudzinski died in April 1999 after a bout with liver cancer. Peachie was well-known for closely guarding her recipes, especially her red sauce recipe. But she was also well-known as a generous and kind-hearted woman who cared deeply about the North End and her many customers and friends.

District 6 still collecting clothing

District 6 is still collecting socks, mittens, hats and gloves for children through the end of November. Drop-off your donation to the office (hours vary), at 213 Front Avenue of Mike's Complete Auto Care at 1174 Rice Street from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

The Rice Street Arts Scoop was a huge success. Many people showed up at this event and the artists from Your Enchanted Florists did a phenomenal job! We would like to thank all those who participated as well as Sparc, Council Member Lee Helgen's office, the North End Business Association, Dars Double Scoop, Classic Pizza and Thomas Blanck for all of their hard work! Look for future arts events coming in 2008.

The District 6 Planning Council hosted the first Open House on Saturday October 27th. We enjoyed a modest success and will be hosting another Open House in 2008!

The Board of Director's and the Land Use Task Force will not be meeting in December, but will

be back in January. The Community Building meetings will be scheduled, they are held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the District 6 office, 213 Front Avenue.

The Neighborhood Gem project is winding down. Photographs of fences, retaining walls, alleys, curb appeal and yards have been collected and neighbors have had the opportunity to offer their opinion on what they felt was the best representative photograph. A brochure will be created and will be available at a later date.

The Neighborhood Safety Equipment project will be over December 1st. If you have not had the opportunity to receive lights, locks or house numbers, please call the office at 651-488-4485. District 6 has a new informational brochure at the office as well as more copies of the Neighborhood Nuisance Handbook from the City. Stop by and pick up the brochures! Please call the office at 651-488-4485 if you have questions or concerns.

Snelling Avenue businesses hold 'Stroll the Avenue' December 1

On Saturday, December 1, Snelling Avenue businesses and other Midway organizations invite everyone to stroll the avenue from 2-6 p.m., enjoying free children's activities, special discounts and open houses. Participating organizations and businesses will include GINKGO coffeehouse, Lloyd's Pharmacy, Hamline Hardware, Stormcloud Trading, Midway Animal Hospital, Greatfans and Blinds, the Midway YMCA, Hamline Midway Library and others. Participating locations will be marked with balloons. Scheduled

events and activities include: The GINKGO Holiday Art and Craft Fair (from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.), Stick Juggler Andy Edgar strolling the area from 2-6 p.m., YMCA Carnival and Fitness Fun from 2-6 p.m. at 735 N Snelling Ave., Face Painting and Tours at the Midway Animal Hospital, and Make a Simple Winter Decoration at the Library from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The avenue will become lit with thousands of white lights in the windows at 5 p.m. For more information, see the flyers posted on business doors. All activities are free.

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October's many days of cloudy wet weather (combined with the shorter days) made me as slow as a slug. However, after the sky finally cleared my energy rose as high as Como Lake's water level.

A strong west wind was whipping the last of the leaves off the backyard trees and blowing them straight into the mulch pile; I had put off raking and now my procrastination was being rewarded.

By late October, the arc of the sun at noon drops below 35 degrees; slanting light shines deep into the once hidden woods of the park. A muted tapestry of burgundy, ochre, and yellow leaf litter covers the forest floor. That familiar fall aroma fills the air as I kick up the decaying leaves. On this autumn day, the temperature was reach-



Nature in the City

By DEB ROBINSON

Como Park High School students have a field day

ing for the high 60s; mighty fine weather for earthworms, mushrooms, and students of nature.

The woods are usually rather quiet in the fall. However, along with the noisy bike path construction, buckthorn busts and an educational field day enlivened the typically somber woodlands.

Removing piles of invasive buckthorn shrubs from the woods is hard, but satisfying

work. On October 27, over 165 volunteers came to Como Park to do just that, and most of the volunteers were teenagers. Como Park High School students are turning out to be the real local heroes of Como Park's woodland restoration efforts, but they are putting in more than one day a year for the benefit of the park's woodlands. The students have embarked on a long-term ecological research project to measure changes in the Como Woodland during the restoration process.

On the morning of October 4, two classes of advanced placement juniors and seniors from Como Park High School came together with 20 adult volunteers to take part in the first Field Day for the Como Woodland Education project. The project will span many years, and future science students will build on the data and knowledge acquired by these kids.

"Every long journey starts with a single step" and that is what the October 4th Field Day was. The students had been practicing how to use the equipment (like global positioning system unites). And they had already done classroom studies on the basic science concepts such as biodiversity, ecological succession, and invasive species impacts. Nevertheless, such concepts are best understood when applied in the real world.

The 61 students were divided into small study groups and were given an adult mentor to help them with their field data collection. At the Como Wood-

land site, each group was assigned their study plot in the woodland. The student study groups will track changes at their woodland plots until next May. Each group was also asked to formulate a study question that their group would investigate in detail over the coming months.

The volunteer mentors generously shared their time and scientific expertise with the teenagers. These volunteers came from the University of Minnesota, Ramsey Conservation District, USDA Forestry Department, St. Paul Audubon Society, St. Paul City Environmental Services, and the Native Plant Society. And who knows - perhaps a few hours spent mentoring today might motivate a curious youngster to choose a career in the sciences tomorrow.

According to the Como Park High School students' science teacher, Josh Leonard, "It is rare today that a small group of students can get such direct instruction for any extended period of time . . . this is important for their social acculturation in addition to their scientific understanding." Spoken like a true scientist, but I'll translate: Kids pay closer attention and learn more when the mentor/student ratio

is 1 to 4. And the kids remember what they've learned because of the appropriate outdoor setting.

One of the study groups found several jelly fungi (common name: yellow brain jelly). Their mentor, Chase Davis, brought back the fungi for the rest of us to examine. Giant exploding puffballs, smelly stinkhorns, and slimy gilled mushrooms are not the most attractive things in the woods. But, this quivering blob of jelly was down right nasty. And we still had to do an earthworm count!

After lunch, the study groups and mentors went back to their plots to perform an earthworm analysis. The students poured mustard water over a one square-foot area within each of their plots, and a large variety of worms came slithering to the surface to escape the irritating fluid.

Josh Leonard later told me that the students claimed to be utterly disgusted by the earthworm analysis. Yet many of the research questions the kids chose to pursue over the next six months seemed to involve subjects with a high yuck factor, like earthworms and fungi . . . I wonder why? But that may be a research question for a future class of Como Park High School science students.

Endnotes: *A television program about the October 4th Field Day will air on NBC's Minnesota Bound sometime in spring - I'll post the date and time in a future column. *To contact this writer: dmrobinson@bitstream.net



Abell Gebreselassie, Sam Rasett, and Beniam Melekin were three of the 61 Como Park High School science students who took part in the Como Woodland Education project's first Field Day on October 4. (Photo by: Ann Heyer)

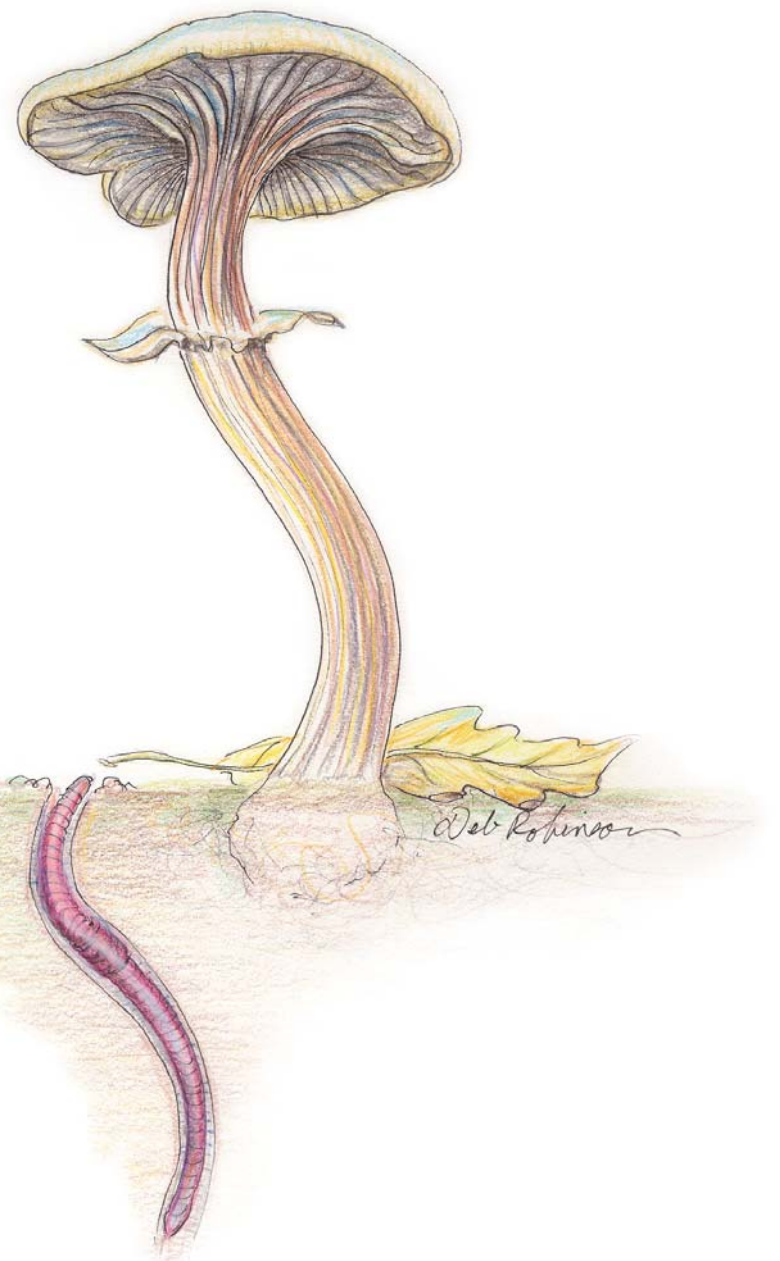


Illustration by Deb Robinson

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Without Reservations

Pizza at the Midway's 'Eden'

The Food Snob

Whenever one of my Without Reservations colleagues proposes reviewing a pizza parlor, I try to veto, delay, sabotage or otherwise prevent this from coming to fruition. Pizza is the most subjective of all everyday foods, and our always-contentious group tends to go ballistic debating the merits of pies. Thick vs. thin crust? Veggie vs. meat-laden? Traditional vs. fusion? Lots of cheese? What kind? On and on and on.

Like water torture, the Cheapskate chipped away at my defenses, so I swallowed a Valium and prepared for the battle royal. The décor was a pleasant surprise and the brother/sister duo on duty couldn't have been nicer. We squabbled over what to order, finally settling on an eclectic combination. We had a Thai pizza - half broccoli and half chicken; a sausage and mushroom, and an Eden pizza with white sauce and loads of onions and peppers. We rounded off our lunch with a platter of cheesy garlic bread and a dessert pizza loaded with cottage cheese and chunks of fruit.

Disclaimer: What follows is my opinion only and does not reflect the views of Without Reservations' writers, family members or friends; nor the Monitor or anyone else. Just me.

Eden's crust is good, thin and crispy. The red sauce is marred by too many dried herbs and cheese is ladled on too thick. The Italian sausage was delicious, but there wasn't enough of it. The Thai pizza was very saucy but quite tasty and carrots were a nice addition. The Eden Pizza is good if you don't mind blue cheese in your white sauce. The dessert pizza had a heaping helping of cottage cheese - too heaping for me. Finally, the garlic bread should be spread with real butter, not margarine.

With those remarks, I formally retreat, crouch down and wait for the artillery blast that is sure to follow.

The Bachelor

KABOOM!!! Yes, whenever anyone - the Food Snob in particular - speaks in disparaging terms about the greatest gift ever given to mankind - I'm talking about pizza of course - I feel the need ... an obligation really ... to open up with a volley of verbal Howitzer blasts.

But before I fire at will, I thought you should know that I've recently been thinking of opening a pancake shop in my kitchen. Really, it's the perfect plan. Each morning I'd stumble out of bed in my threadbare pajama pants and vintage Motley Crue T-shirt, wander over to my kitchen and start flippin' flapjacks for any confused neighbors or errant food reviewers who happen to wander through my kitchen door. Think about it. The commute would be about 8 feet. The overhead costs would



be limited to Aunt Jemima and Bisquick. And my neighbor's 13 cats could lick the dishes clean. Like I said, perfect!

The owners of Eden Pizza are the inspiration for my new-found dream. They own the building (a house really) and live upstairs from their shop. The eating area of Eden Pizza has about as many tables and square footage as my kitchen, so why shouldn't I follow their example?

Well, for starters they know how to cook (and apparently have some semblance of a work ethic). So that's where we differ. For example, they demonstrated some genuine culinary creativity with their Thai pizza. Although your precious Bachelor was too overwhelmed by the Thai sauce (whatever that is) to taste much else, I couldn't help but give them credit for their adventuresome spirit.

The Eden Pizza was almost too pretty to eat. And for the Bachelor to say that about a pizza, you'd think this pie rivaled a Monet. The selection of purple onions and green apple chunks and other brilliantly colored peppers almost seemed to glow on top of the white cheese and sauce. Although I typically have an aversion to blue cheese (you know it tastes like vomit!), I snarfed down four or five slices with greedy abandon. My only issue was that those slices were a wee bit soggy and limped sadly in my hand when I tried to steer them into my mouth.

All in all, you can't beat Eden Pizza for a cozy, homey atmosphere. And if you see one of the owners dash upstairs for a quick nap, know that you are not alone as you seethe with envy.

The Chowhound

I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!®

Dang, it's only now that I come up with the perfect retort for the Food Snob when she began criticizing the garlic bread for using some fake butter spread. Seriously though, it tasted good to me, and I can't help but think that our snobby counterpart was being just that, snobby.

I also can't believe that up until this point no one has mentioned the delicious Rice Crispy treat that we shared before the garlic bread. It may not have been as gooey-good as the kind Mom made for my 14th birthday at the roller-skating rink, but it was pretty tasty. And while I prefer most of my treats to be sans-chocolate, the addition of M&Ms was a nice surprise.

Of the different Eden varieties, I was most impressed with the Thai pizza, which had a perfectly cooked crust and a nice slathering of tangy Thai sauce. I was delighted to find Snobby focusing on the sausage pizza and the Bachelor on the Eden pizza; this meant the Thai leftovers were all mine.

But before we were done, our dessert pizza came. This time I had a flashback to an even earlier childhood memory, the time Dad served canned peaches topped with loads of chunky cottage cheese. I nearly gagged on the first bite and after making a huge fuss I was told to eat it or go to bed hungry. Well, Eden's apple and cottage cheese pizza didn't evoke the gag reflex, but I'm still a bit scared of the fruit and cheese combo. So I took my "no-thank you" bite and instead of making a huge fuss I politely said I was full.

The next day at work I put my Thai leftovers to the true test: I popped it in the microwave for 45 seconds and ate it for lunch. It passed with flying colors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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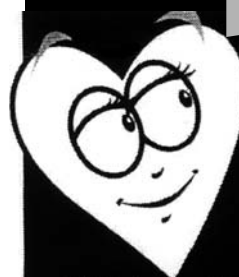
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Arlington High, Washington Middle School receive federal Bio-SMART grant

By JAN WILLMS

Preparing students for careers in health care and biotechnology has just been made easier with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education awarded to Arlington High School and Washington Technology Magnet Middle School.

The Bio-SMART grant provides \$2.19 million to the Saint Paul School District this year, and the funding over the next three years is expected to exceed \$5.9 million.

"The District Superintendent came to us last spring with an opportunity to submit the grant," said Patty Murphy, principal at Arlington. She said Washington

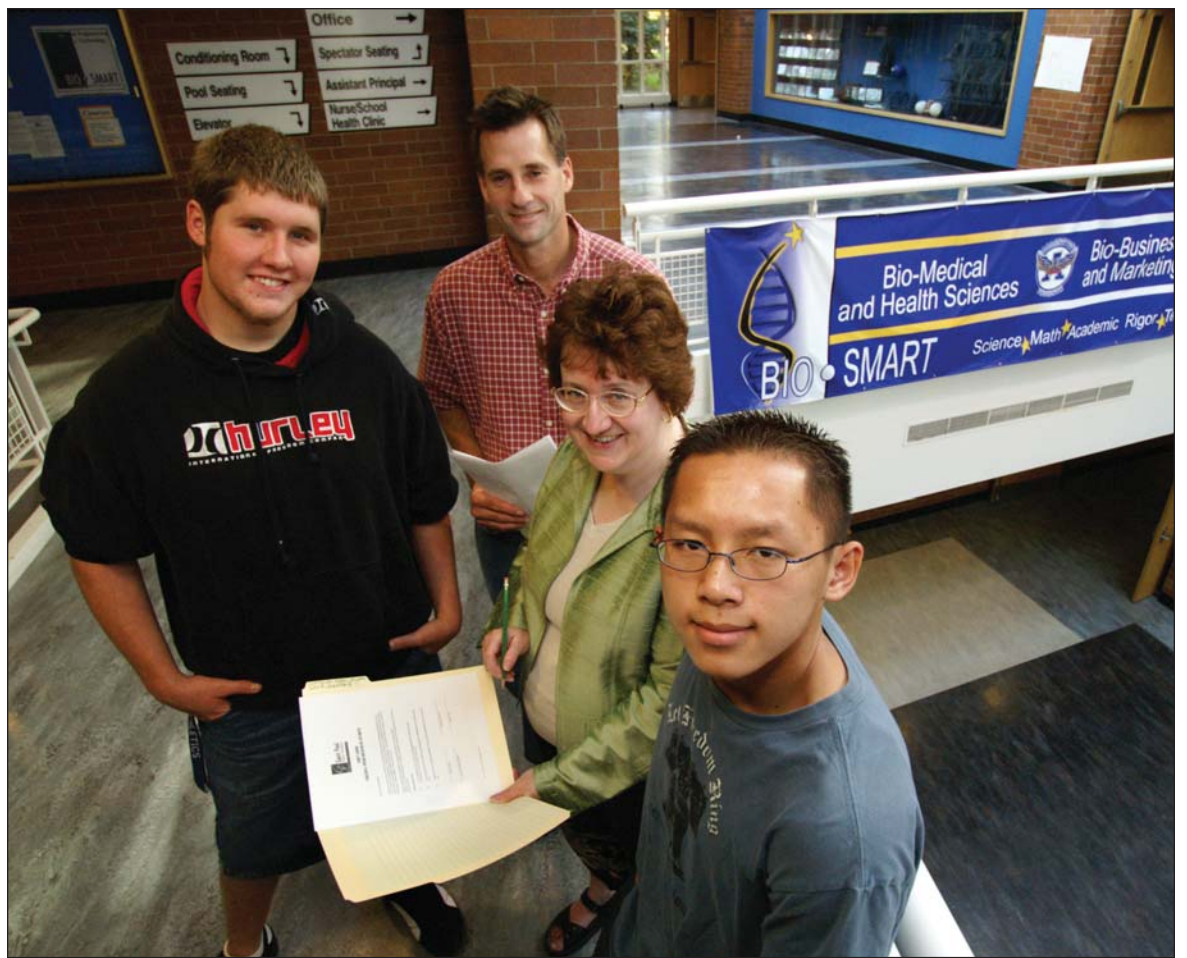
Middle School is Arlington's top feeder school, and geographically the two are close.

"We get most of our students from there," she said. The two schools are the only ones in the district receiving this grant.

Murphy said Arlington has a high concentration of poverty among its student body, and the students sometimes struggle academically. This grant will allow many of these students to be exposed to scientific fields they might not otherwise consider for careers.

Murphy said that nationally there is a concentration on health and technology education.

"We're trying to increase car-



John Witzmann (Bio-Engineer and Technology lead teacher), senior Tom Geisler, Mary Toner (Bio-Business and Marketing lead teacher), and senior Tong Vang discuss Bio-Smart in the library computer lab. (Photo by Terry Faust)

reer opportunities for high school students to consider fields from biochemistry to certified nursing assistants," Murphy said.

"Locally, people have said Minnesota is an industry leader in businesses related to the biotech areas, such as Boston Scientific, St. Jude's Medical and Medtronic," Murphy said.

She said Arlington has used a small learning communities model, with students grouping with other students and staff two years at a time. In tenth grade students would choose a focus area.

"We have always had three strong focus areas: health environment, information technology and business," Murphy said.

She said the Bio-SMART grant offers students an opportunity to align with three pathways. They are Bio-SMART engineering and technology, Bio-SMART business and marketing and Bio-SMART

medical and health sciences.

The grant will afford students a chance in their senior year for dual enrollment with Arlington and a community college.

"A student can become a certified nursing assistant, and can go on to be an RN or in pre-med or pursue a four-year degree," she said.

"Last year we restructured the building at Arlington and cut some staff not related to science, math, technology or business," Murphy said. "If the grant came through, we would be ready."

Murphy said Arlington has spent about \$200,000 in technology, materials, resources and equipment. She said students are learning how to use technology at a higher level.

"We're known as the high tech high school in Saint Paul," she said. "Our wiring and infrastructure allows us to be further ahead."

She said the staff went on vacation over the summer, came back, and instructors were reassigned to put people's talents where they made the most sense.

She said the grant calls for a district project director and a site project director at Arlington and Washington who will work with the principals, director and lead teachers to have the model move forward.

"As the building begins to define what this is for us, we will do some outreach in business, industry and higher education," Murphy said. "Century College was on board right away and wants to be a partner." She said there will be dual enrollment with the high school and college, field trips for Arlington students with college students and a summer camp at Century.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Seniors Tom Geisler and Tong Vang from Arlington High School will benefit from the \$2.19 million Bio-SMART grant to the St. Paul School District. (Photo by Terry Faust)

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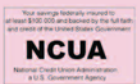
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Bio-SMART

Continued from page 10

Murphy said the three-year grant will begin with transition this year.

"The grant primarily supports the director and administrative positions, salaries for lead teachers, classroom professionals with lots of experience, and secondary partnerships," Murphy said. "There is also money in the grant for additional high-end science and technology-related equipment."

She said there will be an internship coordinator position for an individual who will work with staff and students. Students will be doing on-the-job training.

"There are two reasons students at Arlington have fallen short in academic testing," Murphy said. "Fifty per cent of our students are ELL, English Language Learners." Murphy said she supports testing students in their own language. "I'd like to see our governor try and take a test in the Somali language," she said.

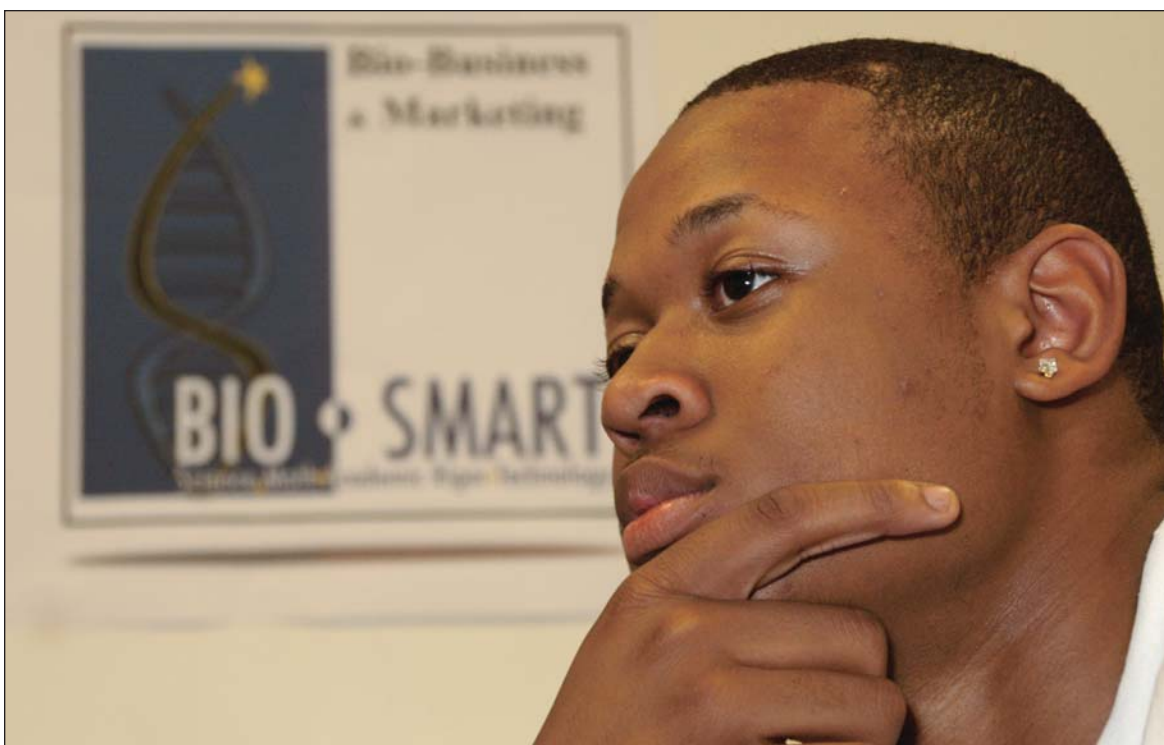
Murphy said the second reason is mobility. "It comes with poverty," she said. "The parents have to move a lot, and it's unfair to the kids." She said students are in school one day, may move the next, come back a year later.

"Our kids are bright, extremely street-savvy and resilient," Murphy said. "Once someone comes here as a staff member he or she stays; there is great joy in interacting with these kids. This model may help them to pursue careers they may not have traditionally thought of."

"This is the type of system that allows our kids to be successful in the future," said Gina Moore, assistant principal. "We have dedicated personnel, who are forming relationships with these kids. Everybody wants them to succeed."

Mary Toner, one of the lead teachers in the Bio-SMART program, said that industry in the area is also very excited about the grant.

"Our partners and potential partners are very committed to finding ways they can work with us and our students," she said. "No business has said it is not



Senior Marques Johnson works in Arlington's computer lab. Businesses near Arlington, as well as Washington Middle School, have all expressed interest in partnering with the schools to find ways they can work with the schools and its students. (Photo by Terry Faust)

interested."

Mike McCollor, the principal at Washington, has also expressed his excitement about what the Bio-SMART grant will mean to his school.

"We have a pretty stable student population," he said, "and technology is strong in our curriculum."

He cited the school's music program as an example.

"We have band and choir, but also a music technology program. Students learn keyboard, compose music on the computer and learn how it is done professionally. They learn every part of music," he said. He added that for math classes, two different computer technology programs are in use.

He said the grant will strengthen Washington's science field.

"In seventh grade, it will give us an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on the biosciences," he said.

He said some of the opportunities for students will include designing on computer using engineering software and learning how to make digital videos, pictures and web design.

"This grant gives us more support staff," he said. He said

four additional staff people have been added to Washington. "There is one in each of the three pathways and an overall coordi-

nator," McCollor said.

"In Junior High we will do some fun stuff," he added. "In the summer program we will be

building robots and shooting off rockets."

McCollor cited the great need for strengthening the science field.

"India is graduating a million engineers a year," he said. "We are not turning many out in the Saint Paul public schools."

McCollor emphasized that the Bio-SMART program is not just designed to serve as a college prep school.

"There are a lot of great jobs in the biolife sciences," he said. "If you study to be a nursing assistant, for example, you can get a job at any city in the country. There are jobs out there, but we don't have people ready to fill them. There is a labor shortage."

He said that if a student is in a program that might have a partnership with Regions Hospital, the student will have the opportunity to actually see the workers in the labs and be exposed to some of the technical jobs that he or she has not been aware of.

McCollor said some pieces of the Bio-SMART program have been started, but he expects it to really take off by September 2008.

Midwest Youth Dance Theatre presents 'The Nutcracker'



Performances for 'The Nutcracker' will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 30, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday December 1, and 2 p.m. on Sunday December 2. Anne Simley Theatre, Drew Fine Arts Center, Hamline University. Tickets \$10 Adults and \$8 Children and Students. For information call 651-644-2438. Rachel Hite (pictured at the right), a Midway area resident and senior at the St. Paul Conservatory for the Arts, is tackling the lead role of Clara. Hite is shown with fellow dancers (left to right) Elly Hollenhorst and Natalie Gorg.

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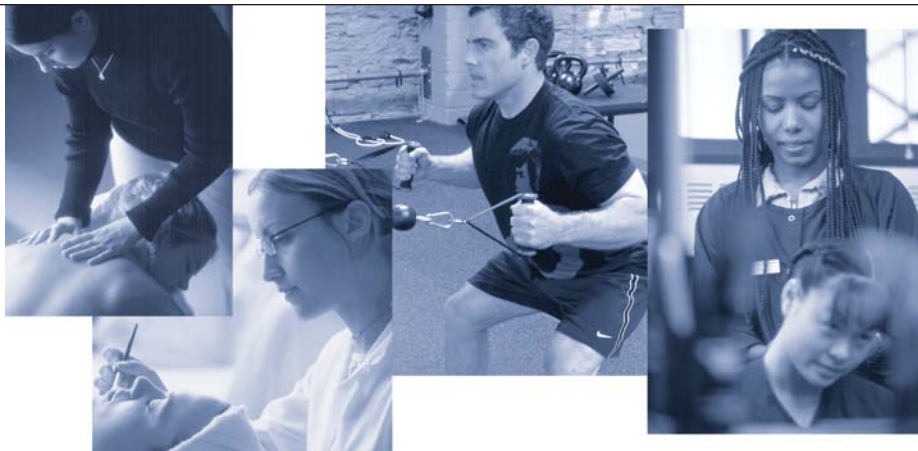
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In Our Community

GINKGO coffeehouse hosts Holiday Art and Craft Fair

On Saturday, December 1, from 10 a.m.-6 pm, GINKGO coffeehouse will host its annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair.

Artists will present a wide selection of affordable, unique items, perfect for holiday gifts or a something special for yourself. For the last seven years, this has been a place to support local artisans. The handmade products displayed have included pottery, handmade paper items, jewelry, visual arts, origami gift boxes, and handmade soaps. Like previous years, the products will include a wide variety of items.

Community Ed North End Senior Program Dec. 11

The North End Senior Holiday Party will be held on Tuesday, December 11th from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at North Emanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch Ave. Cost is \$12. This year's program includes entertainment by magician Richard Cunningham, food, prizes and lots of fun. Registration and payment due by December 3rd. Registrations can be made at 651-293-8811.

Tour: Como Poinsettia Show/Alexander Ramsey House. This tour will include a visit to the Como Conservatory for the Poinsettia show, guided tour of the conservatory, visit to the new tropical encounters, an animal presentation and lunch at Como. After lunch we will travel to the Alexander Ramsey House to receive a guided tour of the home decorated in its 19th century holiday décor. Wednesday, December 19th, Fee \$50.

Pick-ups Sites: 9:15 a.m. Conway Rec. Center - 2090 Conway St., 9:35 a.m. Rice and Arlington Athletic Complex-1500 Rice Street. Approximate return time is 3:30 p.m. Registrations can be made at 651-293-8634. Registration Due by December 1st.

Art Blooms at Conservatory Holiday Show opening Dec. 1

Imagine the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory as an artist's canvas, the holiday poinsettias his paint and the Holiday Flower Show his greatest work of art. The Holiday Flower Show takes on an art theme with this year's cultivars named after renowned artists. The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory Sunken Garden's Holiday Flower Show, opens December 1, 2007 and runs through January 21, 2008.

Making an appearance at the Holiday Flower Show are Da Vin-

Como resident to receive award

Como area resident Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton has been named this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Minnesota Accordion Association. Newton will receive the award during his November 9th performance at the 2007 Northeast Accordion Festival.

"Daddy Squeeze" is a frequent guest on the "A Prairie Home Companion" radio broadcasts, leads the Café Accordion Orchestra, Rockin' Pinecones, and has recorded and produced nearly 20 albums of mostly accordion-oriented music.

The Northeast Accordion Festival, presented in association with the Walker Art Center, will be held at the Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis, November 9th-11th.

For schedule and ticket information go to <http://airaccordion.com/neaf2007.htm>, or call The Cedar Ticket Line 612-338-2674 ext 2.



Dan Newton will be performing at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 24th at The Coffee Grounds, Hamline and Hoyt.

ci, Monet Twilight, Premium Van Gogh, Premium Picasso, and Premium Miro along with Avant-garde Red and Avant-garde Marble. Over 1,000 plants in a red to pink palette, accented by artist series Ageratum in a blue purple hue.

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

Visitors can get a sneak peak of the Holiday Flower Show with, Bouquets: An Evening of Wine & Flowers, on Thursday, November 29 from 6-9 p.m. Marvel at the beautiful arrangements while sampling a variety of wines and an array of hors d'oeuvres. Tickets for this fundraiser are \$50 per person in advance. Bouquets: An Evening of Wine & Flowers is a production of the Como Zoo and Conservatory Society. For reservations, call 651-487-8229.

For more information, visit www.comozooconservatory.org.

November adult forum held at Jehovah

Each Sunday of November the 9 a.m. Bible Class at Jehovah Lutheran Church, corner of Snelling and Thomas Avenues, is studying some of the more than 2,000 Bible verses about loving the poor and doing justice. The

Rev. Dr. Maynard Dorow, retired missionary/New Testament professor will lead the Bible study starting with Old Testament and the prophets through the Gospels, Jesus and Apostle Paul. As a complement to the "God's Mercy Mandate: Loving the Needy" scripture study, a video or DVD showing love in action internationally and locally will round out each class, followed by sharing and fellowship. On November 28 Lydia Volz will report on her trip to India, including especially work among the needy there. The visual segments are from Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Social Services of MN and Keystone Community Center.

All are welcome to come, share stories of God's love in action and be energized by God's call to further love in action. Enter through Thomas Avenue door and come to the lounge. More information at 651-644-1421 or www.jehovahlutheran.org.

Zion Holiday Bazaar, Bake Sale November 10th

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond at Aldine St. will host a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bake sale, craft, recycled Christmas items, coffee and cookies are available for purchase. A light lunch can be purchased between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Please bring your neighbors and friends. For more information call the church office at 651-645-0851.

Thanksgiving Eve Service at Zion Church

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697

Lafond Ave., will host the Midway Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service this year on Wednesday, November 21st at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there.

Midwest Youth Dance presents "Nutcracker"

Performances at 7 p.m. on Friday November 30, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday December 1, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 2: Anne Simley Theatre, Drew Fine Arts Center, Hamline University.

Tickets \$10 adults and \$8 children and students. For information call 651-644-2438.

This production of "The Nutcracker" is a lively version of the holiday tradition, which is unique in featuring over 80 dance students (and a few parents) in all of the roles including the lead roles of Clara, the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Rachel Hite, a Midway area resident and senior at the St. Paul Conservatory for the Arts, is tackling the lead role of Clara who is the young woman given a Nutcracker at the holiday party by her eccentric grandfather Drosselmeier.

Conservatory hosts Holiday Tea December 7

Leave the cool weather and holiday stress outside and relax as you delight in an afternoon garden tea service surrounded by the majesty of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's gardens, including the Holiday Flower Show featuring over 1,000 poinsettias. The Holiday Tea will be held Friday, December 7, with two seatings one at 11 am and one at 2 p.m.

Guests will dine on a five-course traditional tea service in the North Garden, as well as be taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Conservatory and witness the Sunken Garden's Holiday Flower Show. The menu includes oven hot scones, petite sandwiches, fruit tarts and more. This traditional tea service is hosted by volunteer Tea Ladies in traditional Victorian attire and the tea is provided by the Tea District.

The Holiday Tea is Friday, December 7 at 11 am and one at 2 p.m. Ticket prices for the Holiday Tea is \$45, which includes the meal, tea and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Conservatory. Space is limited and reservations are required by calling 651-487-8250.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church hosts seminar Nov. 9

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in St. Paul will host its 5th Annual Reformation Renewal Seminar on Friday, November 9, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The presenter will be a former Muslim who is now a Christian. During the 3-hour seminar the following topics will be presented: 1) Islam - Basic Beliefs and Chronology; 2) Islam - Theology; 3) Islamic Culture; 4) One Man's Personal Journey and Outreach.

There is no cost for the evening seminar, and refreshments will be served.

Mt. Olive is located just east of the State Fairgrounds, and west of Como Park, at 1460 Almond Avenue at Pascal Street. You may call Pastor Carl Henkel at the church office (651-645-2575) for directions to the church or for more information.

'Osteoporosis' topic of Nov. 13 luncheon

On Tuesday, November 13, the topic, "Osteoporosis: What Is It and What Can You Do About It?" will be presented at a luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the community space of Hamline Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Avenue. A free will donation is taken for the meal. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations for the luncheon, request free transportation or if you are a senior or caregiver and would like information about keeping seniors independent at home (www.blocknurse.org).

Anyone interested in volunteering to gift wrap between December 16-22 at a neighborhood retail location should call 651-209-6542. Several shifts are available and proceeds will benefit Hamline Midway Elders.

Rice Street Library plans November activities

The Rice Street Branch Library has a wide variety of activities planned for November. Please join us!!

The Rice Street Branch Library will be celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Saint Paul Public Library with an Open House on Saturday November 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. A dedication of the colored glass windows by local artist Barbara Keith will be held at 2:30 pm followed by Billie Young reading from her new book, A Noble Task: Saint Paul Public Library Celebrates 125! at 3 p.m. Refreshments will also be served.

The Library will offer early-literacy-based preschool story times on Tuesdays from 10:30-11 a.m. on November 13, 20 and 27.

A Neighborhood Police Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. Meet with the local police to discuss conditions in the North End neighborhood. Everyone is welcome.

Free Job Search Assistance will be offered by a consultant from Goodwill-Easter Seals on Fridays November 16 and 30 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. No appointment is necessary.

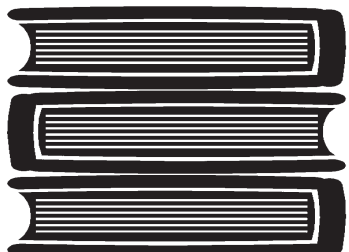
The North End Book Club will meet Monday, November 26, at 12:30. All are welcome to attend. For more information please call Sandy at 651-293-8811. This group is sponsored by North End Community Education of Saint Paul Public Schools.

The STARS Homework Help Center is a comfortable place for students of all ages to work on schoolwork. STARS also provides homework helpers to help students with their questions. Open Mondays through Thursdays from 3- 7 p.m.

Teens in Action Club will be meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15 - 6 p.m. This program, offered in collaboration with Camp Fire USA, offers teens the opportunity to play crazy games, compete in challenges, plan and do projects that help our community, meet special guest speakers, and learn about different cultures. Stop in, have fun, or learn something new!

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between Lawson and Hatch. Our phone number is 651-558-2223. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12:30-9; Tuesday 10-9; and Friday and Saturday, 10-5:30.

Saint Paul Public Library, 90 West Fourth St., Saint Paul, MN 55102 - www.sppl.org



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New Big Top Liquors and Walgreens stores given City Council approval

By JANE MCCLURE

Midway Center's new Big Top Liquors and Walgreens stores can proceed with October 10 approval of the stores' site plans. But St. Paul City Council approval isn't likely to end the ongoing and at times heated debate over redevelopment along the proposed Central Corridor light rail line.

The council unanimously denied an appeal led by University UNITED. But approval of the site plan comes with a number of requirements meant to make the development more attractive.

The plans approved have stores facing north toward Spruce Tree Drive and University Avenue. Four different design proposals, including the idea of having the stores face Snelling Avenue, were rejected by Midway Center owner Rein Midway. The council postponed a decision on the site plan October 3, so that a compromise plan could be sought. University UNITED and area district councils had pushed for a new design that they contend would be more in keeping with city plans for transit-oriented development along University Avenue.

But Rein Midway representatives contended that their Midway Center plans as designed do meet the intent of transit-oriented development. They also argued that the proposed transformation of Midway Center and plans called for breaking up its super-block with an extension of the area's street grid system, are many years away. Their arguments have been supported by business groups.

The layover was punctuated by sharp words between council



Midway Center's new Big Top Liquors and Walgreens stores can proceed with October 10 approval of the stores' site plans.

members Debbie Montgomery and Jay Benanav. Montgomery contended that the community groups didn't discuss alternative plans with her, a situation she said would "not be tolerated" in the future. Representatives of the community groups said they had invited Montgomery to meetings and had met with her staff.

The development's location at the southeast corner of Snelling Avenue and Spruce Tree Drive is in Ward 1 but is across

Snelling from Ward 4. Benanav contends the project as designed by Rein Midway will have more traffic impacts for his ward than for Ward 1.

Montgomery said everyone tried hard to find a compromise. "None of the plans are perfect," she said. "They all have strong points and weak points."

After that flare-up, the council members and community members did try to seek a compromise. Tom Beach, who over-

sees site plan reviews for the city, said the two sides met October 9 but were unable to reach agreement on a compromise plan.

Rein Midway wants to tear down Big Top's existing building, which also houses Great Clips and previously housed a video store.

On the site two new buildings would be erected. The site itself is about 1.7 acres, only a small part of the 18-acre shopping center.

The Walgreens building would be 14,490 square feet on each level and would be closest to Snelling. It would have a drive-through lane on its east side. The Big Top building would be 17,200 square feet in size, with 2,400 square feet of that space in the mezzanine.

The plan is seen as reviving a shopping center that has struggled with vacancies in recent years. A south side storefront, which more recently housed a beauty school, is now vacant. A women's clothing store and a dollar store recently moved out.

The redevelopment site is just north of the former Metro Transit bus barn property and an east-west alley that Rein Midway would like to ultimately transform into a street called Midway Drive. The site's location and the need to accommodate merchandise deliveries and trash removal make it difficult to design a site that hides those uses. There is also the need to design a site that has east-west and north-south access to the bus barn property, which Rein Midway would like to buy from the Metropolitan Council. Rein Midway already has plans to put a home improvement store on land it owns southeast of Midway Center, at Pascal and St. Anthony Avenues.

There have already been design changes to the Walgreens and Big Top plans. Walgreens will be in a two-story building, not one story. The Big Top building will have a mezzanine level. The Snelling sides of the Walgreens building will not be a flat wall but will have glass windows.


CONTINUED ON PAGE 18


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THE LEADER IN IMPROVING OUR URBAN COMMUNITY

Hamline Park

Continued from page 3

On Oct. 20, the Pals held Refurbish Day Phase 1: Paint the Pavement at Hamline Park. Community residents planted a community peace pole with Melvin Giles, a regional peace representative of the World Peace Prayer Society, headquartered in New York state; painted sidewalk games (hopscotch, 4 corners, snail, and Chinese hopscotch); and also painted dinosaur and elephant feet along the paths of the park.

"It was so wonderful," said McCoy. "Melvin Giles assisted us with the peace pole ceremony to create peace in our community. We paraded through the neighborhood with the peace pole, blew bubbles and planted it together in the garden by the tennis courts."

Another part of the park's improvement movement is to get money for a new tot lot, which residents will build together as a community. McCoy is currently involved in grant writing to get funding for it.

"They want neighbors in the community to tell them why they should give us money," she said.



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"We really need everybody's support to finish the project. We're asking for money for the tot lot as well as a large rope jungle maze for kids 5 and older to replace the exercise equipment area right by the basketball court."

McCoy was instrumental in getting St. Paul Parks and Recreation to renovate the basketball court at Hamline Park.

"Charity McCoy pointed out it was in need of repair," said Bob Bierscheid, St. Paul Parks and Recreation director. "She brought it to our attention. It was high on our list in the top five. The community really wanted it there. So, we bumped it up."

Having partnerships with outside groups like the Timberwolves is important to Parks and

Recreation.

"By partnering with them, we save tax money and get the amenities that citizens of St. Paul should deserve," said Bierscheid. "We try to get people as active in St. Paul as we can. This is one way to do that. At the same time, we can reduce the burden on taxpayers."

These partnerships help Parks

and Recreation.

"I'm convinced this will be a heavily used facility," he said. "I'm very pleased with the Timberwolves and very pleased with Charity's dedication to help that particular park."

McCoy feels the new basketball court greatly affects what she is trying to do at Hamline Park.

"It gives it a new facelift," she said. "It creates a new mood within the park. It helps youth know there are people who cared and actually did something. It creates more unity and respect in the community."

Understandably, McCoy can't stop praising the Timberwolves.

"I'm so grateful that they support us and they care enough to stand by their word," she said. "That means a lot. Investing in each other keeps us going."

Improving Hamline Park is important to McCoy because she loves parks.

"I'm a big kid myself at heart," she said. "I loved to go to the playground and run around. It's a place for creativity and spontaneity. It's the focal point of our community of interaction."

McCoy's hope for Hamline Park is simple.

"I hope that it becomes the safe and playful place it really is and can be with everyone's help," she said.



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Como Park Senior High seeks business partners

Como Park Senior High is seeking St. Paul businesses to serve as sites to hire students through its Community Outreach Program and Academy of Finance. The benefits of participating are enormous. Students begin to apply what they learn in a work environment and they can receive amazing training in a selected occupation in the community. The businesses have a chance to provide input into developing the local workforce and to foster positive workplace behaviors, such as increased attendance and productivity among prospective workers. Contact Ms. Rosenow at 651-293-8800 or gail.rosenow@spps.org for more information.

St. Anthony Park Elementary School gives thanks

November is a good month to give thanks to the community that supports St. Anthony Park Elementary School, 2180 Knapp Street. Thanks to those who volunteer their time to run the fund raising events and to those who respond with generosity. The school enjoys a wealth of supporters who really make a difference in the quality of its programs. The St. Anthony Park School Association's (SAPSA) mission is to support, encourage and enhance learning at the school by providing volunteers and funds. SAPSA meets monthly to plan and execute activities

that take place throughout the year.

During November special activities at the school include: The Art Adventures Program, which will begin in November. The Minneapolis Institute of Art provides training and materials for volunteers to teach students in art classes about select pieces of art from the MIA. Art specialist Courtney Olen creates art projects to go along with the lessons.

The Second Grade Saint Anthony Saints Reading Celebration will take place on Thursday, November 8. Parents and others will join teachers Bro Just and Ruth Krider as they cheer on students as they read their way to a goal of 15 or more books or 400 or more pages by November. There will be no school on Friday, November 9 as teachers prepare for conferences later this month.

Magazine Sales begin on November 12. Now is the time to subscribe to your favorite magazines.

Site council and SAPSA meetings are scheduled on the second Monday of the month. November 12 the site council will meet at 5 p.m. and the SAPSA meeting will follow from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Childcare is always provided.

Conferences will take place on the following dates:

Monday and Tuesday evening, November 19 and 20. Wednesday, November 21, during the day.

During conferences, families are encouraged to visit the Donate-a-Book table in the hallway and to purchase a special book for the school library.

There will be no school on November 21, 22 and 23, Wednesday through Friday, for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Leslye Orr performs in 'The Stuffed Animal Show' (Photo courtesy of Dreamland Arts)

Dreamland Arts presents 'Stuffed Animal Show'

Dreamland Arts, 677 Hamline Avenue North, will present The Stuffed Animal Show co-hosted by Chipmunk Zip and Leslye Orr. The show is an interactive theater experience for children ages 3+. The show will run Fridays, November 9, 16 and 23 at 7 p.m., Saturdays, November 10, 17 and 24 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The cost is \$7 (\$5 for children, free for stuffed animals). Call 651-645-5506 for reservations and more information. Only 40 seats are available per show, so reserve early.

Children, bring your favorite stuffed animal to Dreamland Arts to meet Chipmunk Zip and his playful pals who interact with the audience with funny tales, and even funnier tails. Leslye Orr animates the whole gang with wacky sounds and voices while also sharing creative ideas for imaginative play. A tiny-sized tea party for all stuffed animals follows every performance. Running Time: 45 minutes.

Como Park students recognized for PSAT scores



Congratulations to three Como Park High School "Commended Students" recognized for their excellent scores on the PSAT exam. Over 1.4 million students nationwide took this test. Michela Dimond, Elisabeth Edgerton and Amanda Muehlbauer scored in the top 50,000 students. Pictured in photo are: Dan Mesick, Como Park H.S. principal (left to right) Michela Dimond, Elisabeth Edgerton and Amanda Muehlbauer.

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New Spirit's Star Student of the month receives a \$25 gift certificate for a local bookstore.

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Hamline Midway Library

Continued from page 1

"We did not have the computers that the public comes in and uses in droves," she said.

"The usage number was never what it is now. We had 160 full-time employees."

Huggins said that 26 years later, there are only 19 more employees.

"That's barely one new employee a year, but business is booming," she said.

Huggins said the irony in the targeting of Hamline is that she knows the area is a literate, book loving community.

"I know it's a neighborhood of readers, families who bring children to story time and university students," she said. "People are reading somewhere."

And if Brown has anything to say about it, Hamline-Midway neighbors will continue to read at the Hamline Midway Library in the years head.

"I tell them: 'The library will close over my dead body,'" Brown said.

She said she thinks it is premature to be discussing what may happen with the Hamline Midway Library.

"It's not a question of how many books are checked out," she said. "I think that's a little misleading."

"The library building belongs to the citizens, and it's up to them to decide what to do with the physical plant they own," Brown said. "I know Melanie wants to get together with people in the community to discuss options."

Brown said St. Paul has always had an incredibly strong relationship with its libraries. She said it is hard to just measure the use of a library by its circulation.

"You have to look at the entire library system, and that takes time," she said. "When you finally accomplish a plan, it works for about 25 years. A lot of renovations have been accomplished to bring us into the 21st century. Now it's time for us to take another look at what's happening and what needs to be done."

She said unique things could be done in the neighborhood.

"Hamline University is interested in giving assistance, but doesn't want to take over running the library," she said. She added that people have been generous over the years in library giving.

Brown said she is a member of a loose-knit but longstanding community group, the Hamline Midway Library Association, that gets together once a year and passes around a can to collect donations for the Hamline Branch.

"There are about a half dozen of us, and we get about \$400 to \$600 every year," she said. Brown said that money goes to the branch for the librarian to use as needed for things that are too small to go through regular appropriations.

"Sometimes there is just a

need for the community to feel it can give that kind of discretion," she said, "because a small branch should be personal."

Brown said putting a coffee shop in the library might hurt the local coffee shops, but she thinks there might be some other service a library needs, such as a little teahouse.

"Other things could be done to generate revenue," she said. But she feels the best solution is to not close the library.

Huggins also emphasized the need for the community to stay in touch and know what is going on with the Hamline Branch.

"We don't want to lose the library, but the budget is going to make a difference," she said.

She contemplated what kinds of services the library could provide.

"We have got to get really creative," Huggins said. "We need to think beyond the physi-

cal building. Is there some partnership that would work?"

She said she would love to have a conversation with Hamline University.

"I know they have space needs—so do we. They promote lifelong learning—so do we.

They are interested in the community—so are we," Huggins said.

Huggins said 2008 is a time to spend in exploration.

"Right now the worst thing we could do is say we could only partner with Hamline University," she said. "It sounds like lots of people are willing to enter the conversation, and that's really exciting. I would hope for Hamline University to stay interested."

"The real message here is that every community loves its library dearly," Huggins said. "No one wants to close. But when faced with budget realities that are sometimes grim, we

have to make difficult choices. The best thing is that we come up with other choices that are not so challenging."

Jun-Li Wang, community organizer for the Hamline Midway Coalition, said that she fears that the circulation numbers for Hamline Midway Library may not reflect the accurate picture of library usage.

"Perhaps we should not be surprised that the gate counts are reported as lower at times," she said. "In the past few years, there has been less outreach about library events that often attract new or different types of users."

"We need to simply remind folks that the library is a resource for more than just books and videos," Wang added.

Wang pointed out that with the opening of the new Rondo Library at University and Dale in fall of 2006, Hamline Midway Library undoubtedly lost some traffic.

"With the opening of Rondo, some users may have been interested in the new facility for its novelty factor or greater offerings than the small library we have here. But this does not mean that the Hamline Midway Library should be considered less successful or less needed than other libraries," Wang said. "The gate counts do not tell us the cause of a drop or increase in numbers. From the comments I have heard from community members, even before this current budget shortfall, there was a desire and now, plenty of energy, to turn the library into a more vibrant community asset with more innovative programming and outreach."

She suggested that any community members who want to get involved with preserving the Hamline Midway Library and deciding how the facility can be better used can call her at 651-646-1986.

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Midway Center

Continued from page 14

The conditions added by the City Council include:

*What the City Council describes as the "majority" of the exterior of both buildings must be faced with brick, to match other buildings in the area. Montgomery noted that many of the newer buildings along University Avenue have brick facades.

*A wall of at least three feet in height needs to be placed along Snelling, between Wal-

greens and the sidewalk.

*A wall of six to 12 feet in height must be placed at the south end of the building to screen the loading area.

*More landscaping must be added to the site.

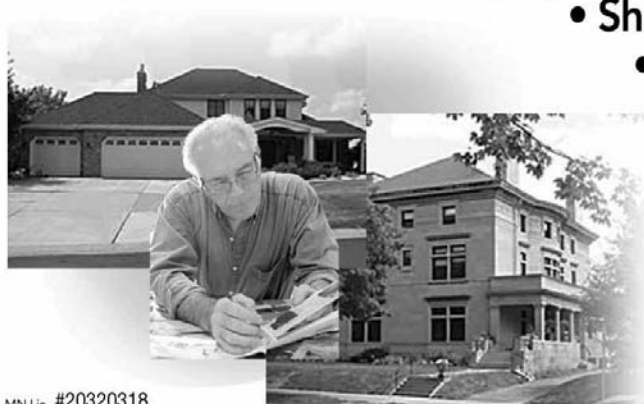
*Owners of Midway Center will be involved in station area planning for Central Corridor and will participate in efforts to improve pedestrian access to the shopping center.

*Windows on the Walgreens building, which is closest to Snelling, must be designed with clear glass that allows people outside to see into the store. Below that can be translucent glass. That allows shelves to be placed against the walls inside the store and not block the view in and

The windows caused the most discussion among City Council members. Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen said that using spandrel glass, which allows light out but isn't transparent, hasn't been an attractive option at the CVS Pharmacy at University and Snelling. "I'd actually rather see some nice brick work," he said.

Other council members said they like what Midway SuperTarget has done with its windows along Hamline Avenue, which are lit and used for advertising displays. Montgomery said she likes the CVS Pharmacy windows design at Grand and Oxford, where there is clear glass at the top of the windows and space for advertising graphics below.

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Station planning

Continued from page 5

ing the Rock-Tenn paper recycling plant in the redevelopment area. Adding more buildings in the Hampden and Ellis areas was discussed.

This group talked about the amount of commerce in the station area and how that could be further strengthened with additional businesses to serve the surrounding neighborhoods. There were also discussions of extending the Midtown Greenway bike way as well as the University of Minnesota busway to link with rail.

Westgate: This roundtable was the most open to discussing heights, suggesting some new

buildings reaching four to seven stories. Transitions in building heights were suggested.

This group had a lot of discussion about the need to have better connections between Westgate and surrounding residential neighborhood, for pedestrians and bicycles.

The group also discussed the types of retail and commercial uses that would serve an area that is already becoming more residential, such as grocery stores and restaurants.

The roundtable comments will eventually be used to draft station area plans. The plans will be reviewed by the St. Paul planning Commission and adopted by the City Council. The plans will be used to make zoning changes and guide redevelopment around transit stations along the 11-mile light rail line. A steering committee will start reviewing the plans this

month, with the intent of holding more community meetings.

The station area plans will include zoning recommendations for each area around each station. The station areas are currently under a year-long interim ordinance which restricts development. That ordinance is in place until station area plans and permanent zoning changes can be made. The intent is to promote more dense, transit-oriented development around the station areas.

Plans for downtown stations will take place in 2008. If Metropolitan Council decides to add stations at Hamline, Victoria or Western, that planning will also take place next year.

Anyone interested in the workshops or upcoming meetings can find information on the city's Central Corridor page, at <http://www.stpaul.gov>

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Without Reservations

Continued from page 9

The Cheapskate

I can't tell you how delighted I am to have Eden Pizza open up in my own backyard. Having practically shared a phone number (different only by 1 digit) for eight years, first with their predecessor Cheney's Midway Pizza and now with the delightfully fresh and homey Eden Pizza, I feel a certain sense of ownership, and I couldn't be happier. Mr. Cheapskate and I have enjoyed several takeout

"I can't tell you how delighted I am to have Eden Pizza open up in my own backyard."

pizzas and look forward to many more over the course of the cold winter, when having a steamy hot pizzeria within two blocks of home is a great stroke of fortune.

Pay no attention to the Snob and her issues—just follow along with the Bachelor, the Chow Hound, and the Cheap-

skate. And by all means let the good people at Eden Pizza know what you like and how you like it, so they can do more of it. They are full of goodwill and energy and youth, and you are bound to catch some of that with every disc of cheesy, saucy goodness.

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Thornley to speak at History Corps Speaker Series...

Local author writes guide to visiting gravesites

By KRISTA FINSTAD HANSON

Do you think of cemeteries as grey, dark, depressing, or even creepy places, or do they seem calm, restive, beautiful, and historic? If your connection with cemeteries is the latter, you will not want to miss the next Hamline Midway History Corps Speaker Series.

Stew Thornley, author of more than 30 books, is making his 2nd appearance at the Hamline Midway History Corps's Speaker Series. He will be delivering a presentation on his book *Six Feet Under: A Graveyard Guide to Minnesota* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004).

This event will be held Thursday, November 15, 7 p.m. at the Hamline Midway Branch Library, 1538 West Minnehaha Avenue in the lower level Auditorium. A book signing will follow with several of Thornley's titles for sale.

Stew Thornley's guidebook *Six Feet Under* gives the location of the final resting places and information of the historical significance of more than 375 notable Minnesotans. As Thornley notes in his introduction, "While some may find a hobby of visiting graves to be morose or even macabre, I find nothing morbid in seeking out history through cemeteries. There's much to be learned from our past, and one of the liveliest ways to do it is through our dead."

The book takes a witty and light look at death, yet provides



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the serious reader with important historical details. The organization of the book groups authors, artists, and architects in one category, with military or religious figures in others. Thornley also provides grave locations for each deceased Minnesota territorial and state governor. The book contains a useful appendix organized by county and cemetery, as well as a detailed index for the help in locating individual names.

This multi-talented and prolific author counts "graveyard hunting" as one of his hobbies in addition to his dedicated baseball historical research. He is a contributor to the Find-a-Grave website (www.findagrave.com) and he actively tries to visit the graves of U.S. Presidents and members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

He began working on this book in 2003 with the Minnesota Historical Society Press. "In this case I heard from them and [the project] just kinda fell into my lap," said Thornley, who had already written many books before this project. He recounts that this project "sounded like fun, and it was. I learned so much about Minnesota history."

One challenge with the project was narrowing down the field and determining whom was a "notable Minnesotan." Thornley said that "many people were involved in choosing who's notable." He asked friends and colleagues for ideas. "You can rattle off Hubert Humphrey and people like that," said Thornley, "but who's notable may not really be who's famous."

Thornley visited every one of the graves featured in the book. A memorable grave is that of C. Elmer Anderson (28th state governor) who is buried in Brainerd. His gravestone is a granite marker crafted in the shape of Minnesota. Thornley also recalls enjoying "learning about some different cultures—the Chippewa, the Ojib-

we, and the Dakota. It wasn't always a single grave but really some of the stories that would go along with it that were interesting."

While Hamline Midway's own Holcomb-Henry-Boom funeral home has been in business along Snelling Avenue since 1916, the neighborhood proper does not have its own cemetery. For the Hamline Midway connection, Thornley will show slides from nearby cemeteries including the historic Oakland and Calvary cemeteries. Famed architect, Emanuel Masqueray (who

designed the St. Paul Cathedral and St. Mary's Basilica in Minneapolis among many other buildings) is buried in Calvary Cemetery.

The Hamline Midway History Corps is interested in learning about where former neighborhood residents are buried in addition to our ongoing efforts to gathering stories and artifacts about this neighborhood's history. To share a story or for more information about the Hamline Midway History Corps, please visit the website at www.HamlineMidwayHistory.org

Make A Difference Day, October 27th



On Saturday, October 27th, as part of the national Make A Difference Day effort, Admission Possible students gathered 4,749 pounds of food in communities around the Twin Cities. The more than two tons of food will be distributed to food shelves in Southern Minnesota, benefiting those affected by recent flooding. Admission Possible is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping promising and motivated low-income young people prepare for and earn admission to college.

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Join us as we light up Hewitt Avenue at our annual

Tree Lighting Celebration

on Tuesday, December 4
outside Sundin Music Hall
from 4:30-5 p.m.

We'll have caroling, hot cocoa,
candy canes, and plenty
of light when we flip the switch!

Questions? Call Christine Berg Schroeder at x2426
or cbergschroeder01@hamline.edu

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