



Snelling projects
looming in 2015

Page 5



Midway Murals
project takes
aim at Snelling

Page 10



Hamline-Midway
History Corps:
love story

Page 11

Midway
Como

Monitor



Your community newspaper
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February 2015 • Vol. 40 No. 10

www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

21,000 Circulation

Como rail crossing considered one of most dangerous in state

The at-grade crossing southeast of Lake Como will be upgraded to either a tunnel or bridge if MnDOT gets approval

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

An at-grade railroad crossing in Como has been ranked one of the most dangerous in the state, but plans are being made to change that.

The crossing at Como Ave. southeast of Lake Como (next to Minnesota Indian Econ Development at 831 Como Ave.) is the only at-grade crossing that remains in the Twin Cities along this high-speed, high-grade line.

There are 50 to 70 trains a day traveling along the line that bisects the Como neighborhood

in St. Paul, according to Kathy Hollander of MN350. It's one of the main lines in the state, and it is carrying seven trains each day of highly flammable crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota.

3500 people within one-half mile

According to Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) freight and rail planner Dave Christianson, this crossing has "the highest concentration of

people around a grade level crossing in Minnesota."

About 3,500 people live within a half-mile radius, according to the U.S. Census. That doesn't factor in those traveling through on buses, enrolled at one of the three schools in the area (Como Park High School actually borders the track), taking classes at the training center, or enjoying the trails around Lake Como.

"Is there anything we can do to get the trains out of the area?" asked a Como resident during the District 10 Community Council Land Use Committee meeting on Feb. 2.

"Almost nothing," replied



Dave Christianson of the Minnesota Department of Transportation informed residents that upgrades are being planned for the at-grade crossing on Como Ave., southeast of Lake Como. The crossing has been deemed one of the most dangerous in the state given the large number of people who live within a half-mile of it. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Christianson. "We're doing everything we can, but because it is federally regulated we are not the final decider."

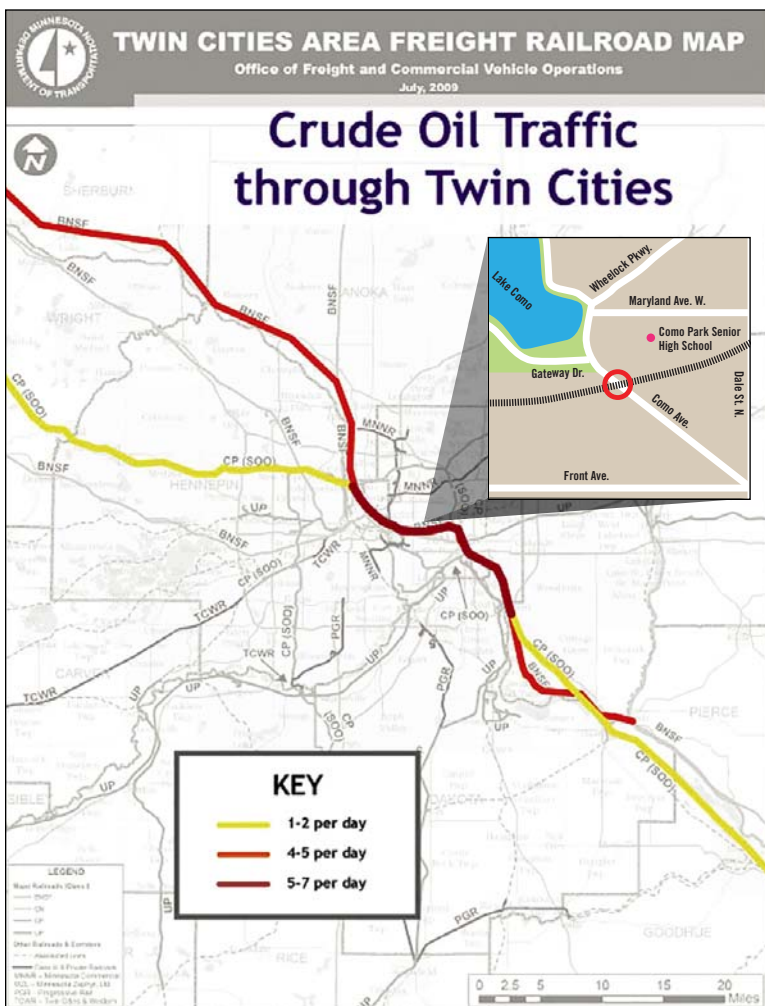
A tunnel or bridge?

However, the state can work to change the at-grade status at the intersection. Details on what this grade separation will look like, whether it will be a bridge or tunnel, will be made after an engineering study that the city and railroad will complete.

It costs \$15 a foot to go under and \$25 a foot to go over.

The crossing is currently protected by four guard gates. There has been one recent accident at the Como crossing, according to Christianson. A driver broke through the gate in front of an oncoming train and was killed. It backed train traffic up for three hours. "The best protection we could put at an at-grade crossing wasn't enough," said Christianson.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Currently 7 Bakken oil trains, carrying 21 million gallons of Bakken crude, run through the metro each day, and right through Como and Midway. And, the number could rise.

Making Art in a Spirit of "Radical Inclusion"

Interact Center for Performing and Visual Arts moves to Midway after 18 years in downtown Minneapolis

By **MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN**

The former charter school at 1860 W. Minnehaha Ave. has a new tenant: the Interact Center for Performing and Visual Arts.

Interact is a licensed adult day program, which means that clients across the spectrum of disabilities come from all over the Twin Cities to participate in structured activities. In the case of this adult day program, all of the activities center around making art in a multi-cultural, inter-generational environment.

Interact has two components: performing and visual arts.

The performing arts department puts on two full shows annually, with opportunities for all involved to sing, dance, act and create with a contagious spirit of joy. This year's spring show, called "Fool's Cap World



Members of the Interact ensemble cast rehearsing. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Map," will run Apr. 23 - May 16. As in every show, the performing arts staff (all of whom are practicing artists themselves) will perform alongside Interact artists, showcasing the organiza-

tion's mission of radical inclusion.

Lori Leavitt, director of marketing and communications, is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Monitor

1885 University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Calvin deRuyter

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe (651-917-4183)

Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Jane McClure, Jan Willms,
Tessa M. Christensen, Jon Knox,
Kyle Mianulli, Jill Boogren,
Margie O'Loughlin, Matthew Davis

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

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News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

New homes needed for planters

HMC is trying to find homes for the 30+ mosaic planters that currently adorn Snelling Ave. all of which need to be permanently relocated prior to the reconstruction of Snelling (currently scheduled to begin in May, 2015). Planters can be relocated to either public or private property. There may be some limited assistance available to relocate planters to public property, but currently no assistance is available to move planters to private property. If you are interested in providing a new home for a planter or planters, or have a creative solution for moving the 2,000-pound planters to private property, please contact Michael Jon Olson at michaeljon@hamlinemidway.org or (651) 494-7682.

Calling block club organizers

Hamline Midway Coalition is reestablishing its Block Club Program in 2015. We're currently looking for block club leaders interested in organizing their neighbors and working to create a vibrant, safe and successful community in Hamline Midway.

Every strong community is built on a foundation of personal relationships. People are social beings. We think more dynamically, are more likely to thrive, and simply have more fun when we function in the context of close, positive relationships with each other.

How well do you know the neighbors on your block? There are lots of reasons to organize, including being able to better col-

laborate on solving problems and sharing opportunities or resources; increasing public safety by practicing crime prevention tactics as a cohesive group; improving the beautification and environmental friendliness of the neighborhood with gardening or planting projects; caring for one another in times of emergency; and overall enjoying the place you live with the people around you.

Visit hamlinemidway.org/blockclubs for more information and to download your free Block Club Manual. If you're interested in becoming a block club leader, contact Kyle Mianulli at kyle@hamlinemidway.org or 651-494-7683.

Rain Garden Initiative

More than 50 neighbors have

elected to participate in the Hamline Midway Group Rain Garden Initiative. If you submitted your interest before the Jan. 30 deadline, a representative from Capitol Region Watershed District will be stopping by your boulevard sometime this month to do a free site evaluation. Not everyone interested in planting a boulevard rain garden will be able to, due to a variety of factors including location of electrical and utilities, tree proximity, boulevard size and location, and other considerations, but we are committed to bringing as many rain gardens to life as possible.

Once your site is evaluated we will get in touch with you about your potential options, cost estimates, and next steps. We are hopeful that with support from the city, cross-departmental cooperation and involvement of the Capitol Region Watershed District, this project will help set a new standard for community-level rain garden and watershed protection projects in throughout the neighborhood and city.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Hamline Midway Coalition is trying to find homes for the 30+ mosaic planters that currently adorn Snelling Ave., all of which need to be permanently relocated prior to the reconstruction of Snelling. They each weigh approximately one ton.



More than 50 neighbors have elected to participate in the Hamline Midway Group Rain Garden Initiative. The site evaluation of each will be analyzed this month by the Capitol Region Watershed District.

Visit the Monitor Event Calendar online at:
www.monitorsaintpaul.com/events/

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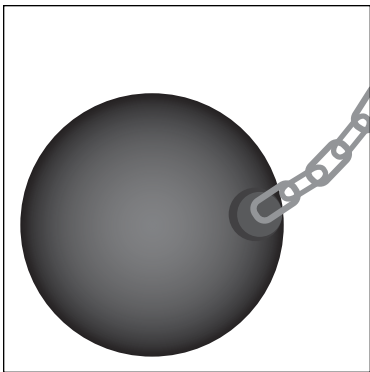
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HU home demolition

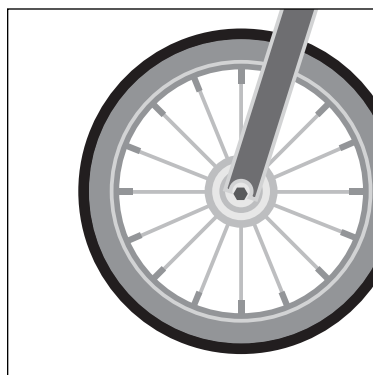
Talks will be getting underway centered on concerns about Hamline University expansion and demolition of homes around the campus. Ward Four City Council Member Russ Stark recently announced that the Minnesota State Office for Collaboration and Dispute Resolution (OCDR) will facilitate a collaborative problem-solving process. The state office is a neutral entity that provides dispute resolution and collaboration services to state and local government and citizens. Hamline University has agreed to fund the process. The funds will be administered by Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC).

The collaborative problem solving process will have three phases. A professional facilitator will meet separately with officials from the university, HMC, the advocacy group Historic Hamline Village, Hamline Church United Methodist, city officials and Midway Chamber of Commerce. Information gained will

Monitor In A Minute

help set the course for the process moving forward. Stakeholders will meet together to review findings in the second phase and review draft recommendations. In the third phase, the facilitator will lead the group following the agreed-upon meeting processes. Additional stakeholders will be invited to join in as the process continues.

A moratorium on building demolition is currently in effect.



Bike project gets funding

Additional funding for the Charles Ave. Bicycle Boulevard was allocated Jan. 21 by the St. Paul City Council. The council approved an \$80,000 grant from the Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) fund.

The funds were recommended by the Neighborhood STAR Board. The bike boulevard project includes a number of completed and pending improvements for most of the length of Charles Ave. through Hamline-Midway and Frogtown neighborhoods including street signs, street markings, changes to intersections, traffic circles and corner bumpouts. The project also includes \$635,569 of federal Non-motorized Transportation Pilot funding.

The \$80,000 comes from an allocation given to the Ward Four City Council office. The project is also vying for 2016-2017 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget funding.

Rezoning for 550 Como

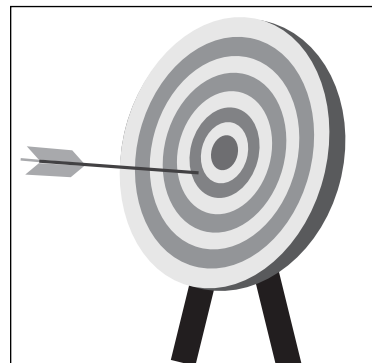
A property at 550 Como Ave. will be rezoned from transitional industrial development to commercial use, the St. Paul City Council decided Jan. 21. Owners Frank and Mary O'Gorman have a machinery component repair business operating in the structure at the rear of the property. They wish to lease out the front of the property to area resident Philip Smith.

Smith wants to open a motor vehicle sales business along

Como and need a zoning change and conditional use permit for that use. He would sell up to 12 used vehicles at the property but would not do body work or motor vehicle repairs.

The zoning change is needed to accommodate auto sales, which aren't allowed in the transitional industrial zone.

The St. Paul Planning Commission issued a conditional use permit for the project Jan. 30. The project has had no community opposition and was recommended by approval by the District 6 Land Use Task Force.



"Backyard archery" is banned

It's taken a year, but St. Paul has taken aim at back yard archery.

As a result of an ordinance adopted Jan. 28, outdoor archery will be illegal in St. Paul as of next month.

The only places where bows and arrows and crossbows can be used is on public property as part of classes, or at an authorized range. St. Paul doesn't have a range yet but has set its sights on placing a six-target range at Pigs Eye Park. City officials are seeking grant funding for the project.

The St. Paul City Council, led by Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark, struggled with the issue of so-called back yard archery for a year. Stark brought forward prohibitions in response to a complaint from a Merriam Park family whose neighbors practiced archery at their home.

But he laid the matter over after hearing from archery enthusiasts. The sport has enjoyed renewed popularity thanks to the Hunger Games books and movies, the television show Game of Thrones and Summer Olympics archery.

The ordinances approved Jan. 28 adds bows, arrows and crossbows to the city's list of weapons and prohibits their use except in the specified cases.

The ordinance doesn't ban city-sanctioned bow hunts held regularly to thin the deer herds in parks.

People with private indoor ranges can continue to use those.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

Every neighborhood derives its strength and success from the bonds of community and commitment of those who live, work and play there. Como Park is lucky to have many neighbors committed to growing and benefiting our community in spectacular ways.

Every year, we recognize outstanding community members and volunteers from Como Park as part of the citywide Neighborhood Honor Roll Celebration. Como Park residents nominate neighbors who have made significant and lasting impacts in the community each year who they feel deserve special recognition. The Como Park Community Council Board then votes on three winners who join other honorees from across the city at a special celebration in their honor.

Como Park's 2014 Neighborhood Honor Roll Recipients are:

1. **Jon Knox** has been the Board Chair of the District 10 Como Community Council for five years. Jon was elected Board Chair during a time of organizational crisis when the organization had lost the neighborhood's trust and was effectively bankrupt. Jon's steady hand, commitment to a fair and open deliberative process, and personal time investment were major factors allowing the Council to successfully navigate this crisis and become an effective advocate for the neighborhood.

2. A resident of the South Como neighborhood that was annexed to District 10 just this year, **Anne McInerney** has jumped full force into becoming an active volunteer with the District 10 Council. Anne spearheaded the effort to successfully launch a neighborhood-wide ice



Como Community Council Corner

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

Como Park's 2014 Neighborhood Honor Roll recipients:

cream social, worked hard to help raise funds, and supported other programs. Modest and willing to let others take the limelight, Anne exemplifies the best of neighbors working together to improve the Como Park neighborhood.

3. **Ted Blank** has been a board member, committee chair and Treasurer on the District 10 Community Council. Ted later served as the sole paid staff person for District 10, where he helped create successful fundraising and community building events. Ted helped guide District

10 through the expansion to include the South Como neighborhood.

District 10 Board Member positions open

As a Board Member of the District 10 Como Community

Council you have the opportunity to be a leader in your community and make a lasting impact on Como Park in ways that matter to you, your family and your neighbors.

The District 10 Como Community Council is now accepting applications for the following Board Member position: At-Large Board Member.

Please contact District 10 by phone at 651-644-3889 or by email at district10@district10comopark.org if you have any questions. Applications for the position can be found on the District 10 website www.district10comopark.org.



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The Horatio Alger Scholarship for 2015 was awarded to senior Jasmine Brown. Jasmine was one of ten Minnesota students to earn the coveted college scholarship, which is worth \$7000 annually to applicants who have demonstrated evidence of integrity and perseverance in the face of adversity.

The Future Educators club wrapped up the second phase of their "First Book" fundraiser in January. The club members had



News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Como student wins prestigious scholarship

already collected the necessary funds from community donors to purchase books for every first grader in Dayna Thomas' classroom at Como Park Elementary. On Jan. 15, the Future Educators

visited Thomas' classroom, paired up and read to small groups of students. Following the reading time and bonding, each first grader was given their own book by a Future Educator to take home.

From Jan. 22-25, 40 Como Park MCJROTC Cadets participated in a Winter Cadet Leadership Camp at Camp Ripley located in Little Falls, Minnesota. The camp's purpose was to develop teamwork, discipline, leadership, cohesion, and basic winter field skills. Cadets took classes, trained, hiked, skied and camped. Major John Foley and his cadets were appreciative of the Camp Ripley staff for hosting the Cadets, along with the Marine Corps League North Star Detachment #943 and the Minnesota Marine Corps Coordinating Council for their generous financial donations that made the unique experience possible.

"The Voice of the Cougar Idol" singing competition concluded in January with junior Angel

Khang being crowned the champion and junior Adrienne Cunningham the runner-up! Auditions were held after school, narrowing the field of 20 talented voices down to the Final 5, which was no easy task for the faculty judges. The fun-filled event was sponsored by Tri-M, Como's Music Honor Society.

The Como Park Winter Instrumental concert took place on Jan. 29. All of Como's instrumental groups performed, featuring music of many styles and countries, from Bach to the White Stripes, from Spirituals to Spain. The evening concluded with a performance of Como's Honors Jazz Band.

The Robotics team recently hosted a summit for other St. Paul teams to discuss strategy, marketing, and technical issues during the current build season. The creative and cooperative effort culminates with the 10,000 Lakes Regional Competition Apr. 2-4 at Williams Arena.

Students and staff hosted National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) at Como on Tue., Feb. 9. A program welcomed all parents in the Como Auditorium at 8:30, followed by classroom visits and a lunch social for parents and their students with Principal Theresa Neal.

Como tours for prospective students and families will continue to be offered through February on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8am-12:30pm. Shadowing opportunities are also available. Call Sandy Kestner at 651-744-3997 or email sandy.kestner@spps.org to set up your visit.

Como's Guidance Counselors will coordinate and host "FAFSA Nights" with staff from College Possible to assist students and parents with the FAFSA form on February 17 and March 18th from 5-7 in the library computer lab.

20 AP Government students will participate in the national Close Up program in Washington D.C. from March 1-6. Students will be conducting study visits to the monuments and memorials, meeting with their Senators and Representative on Capitol Hill, see Congress and Congressional Committees in session, attend a play at the Kennedy Center and much more in an action-packed week.



Aazhra'rae Jackson, Como Park Senior High School Future Educator, reads to a kindergarten student in Dayna Thomas' Como Elementary classroom.

Police Department initiates online non-emergency complaint program

The Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD) has unveiled a new online police reporting system for the public. The system allows people to file online police reports for certain non-emergency incidents at any time and from any com-

puter with access to the SPPD website. The service is also available at kiosks located in each of the three department district headquarters—including the Western District located at 389 Hamline Ave. N.

The online reporting system, which can be found at www.stpaul.gov/onlinereport, offers people a convenient way to file reports for crimes that: —are non-emergencies; —occurred within the city of St. Paul; —have no known suspects; —did not occur on an interstate freeway; and —are not motivated by bias.

Reports can be filed by anyone who is 18 or older and has an email address.

Crimes that can be reported online include burglary of a detached garage, damage to property, fraud and forgery, harassing phone calls, illegal dumping, lost property and theft from automobiles. A complete list of issues and crimes

for which the system can be used is provided on the online report website. In addition, the system can also be used to share non-emergency neighborhood concerns with the police department.

Once the user visits the website, he or she can select the appropriate crime or concern, answer a few simple questions to ensure that an online police report is appropriate and provide information about the crime and the person reporting it.

Once the information is submitted, it is reviewed by a police officer, entered into the records management system and assigned a case number. The person reporting the crime is then emailed confirmation of report acceptance and may print a copy of the report

from the system.

According to Assistant Chief Kathy Wuorinen, the new service is designed to meet the changing needs of the public while making the police department more efficient and effective.

"This is a great tool. People who simply want to report a crime that has no solvability factors no longer have to wait for an officer to respond or call them back," Wuorinen said. "It also allows the department to allocate resources to address the most serious crimes and analyze crime trend data, which ultimately makes our city a safer place."

Visit www.stpaul.gov/onlinereport to file a police report using the new online reporting system.



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HU professor to receive literary award

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library has announced that Mary François Rockcastle, Director of The Creative Writing Programs at Hamline University (HU), as the winner of the 2015 Kay Sexton Award. Sponsored by Common Good Books, the award is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of long-standing dedication and outstanding work in fostering books, reading, and literary activity in Minnesota.

A visionary force in the development of HU's nationally-acclaimed creative writing programs, Rockcastle exemplifies the spirit of the award for her accomplishments and contributions to the state's literary community. Friend and colleague Patricia Weaver Francisco called

her "an innovator who creates opportunities for writers to grow" and said, "I watch Mary brainstorm, connect and create every day on behalf of writers, literature, and the literary community she loves; initiating, collaborating and volunteering with almost super-human energy and enthusiasm."

Rockcastle joined the adjunct faculty in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program at HU after completing an M.A. with a double emphasis in English and creative writing from the University of Minnesota. She and her colleagues launched the MFA in Creative Writing program in 1994—the first of its kind in Minnesota—and Rockcastle went on to create the low-residency MFA in Writing for Children and Young

Adults and the BFA in Creative Writing (established by Rockcastle in 2007 and 2010, respectively).

Also to Rockcastle's credit is the award-winning national literary journal, *Water~Stone Review*, now in its 17th year, she is the author of two novels published by "Rainy Lake" (1996) and "In Caddis Wood" (2011).

Rockcastle will be honored on Sat., Apr. 18, at the 27th annual Minnesota Book Awards Gala, to be held at Saint Paul's Union Depot. Awards will also be presented in eight book categories, as well as the annual Book Artist Award. Tickets are now on sale.

For more information on the Minnesota Book Awards, visit www.mnbookawards.org, or call 651-222-3242.

Snelling projects looming

Bridge work, mill work, overlay, lighting, median plantings, and bus stations all in the mix of projects planned in 2015

By JANE MCCLURE

Much of Snelling Ave., and its bridge over Interstate 94, will have a new look by fall. By year's end new bus rapid transit service will be up and running as well, when the A Line starts service.

That's exciting news for area residents and business owners, but getting there is likely to cause some pain. A mill and overlay project on Snelling from Pierce Butler Rte. to Snelling Ave., bridge re-decking, construction of in-street bus platforms and an array of streetscape and sidewalk improvements will mean detours at times for all types of travelers.

Lump in upcoming work on the I-94-Fairview Ave. bridge, as well as street projects along the current Route 84 bus line and it could be a long construction season.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Metro Transit and St. Paul, Minneapolis and Ramsey County departments of Public Works staff have been working to get the word out about the various projects. One message, at two Jan. 26 open houses, was that motorists and bus commuters need to plan their routes and travel schedules now to avoid disruption later.

"We're coordinating the projects as much as we can," said Katie Roth, Metro Transit A Line project manager. But she noted there will

be delays.

Eric Rustad is a MnDOT engineer working on the Snelling project. "It's always tough when you have to do a project in a busy urban area," he said. But he maintained the long-term benefits should outweigh the inconveniences.

A Line station construction this year, in anticipation of a service start in late 2015, prompted MnDOT to move up its plans for Snelling and the bridge. Metro Transit plans to put 20 bus platforms in the street to create A Line stations, as part of the \$25 million rapid bus project. The bus service will extend from Rosedale Center to the Blue Line Light Rail's 46th Street Station.

MnDOT and city officials said the A Line work means it makes sense to redo Snelling and the bridge now, rather than have to remove platforms later.

Rustad said MnDOT's intent is to keep one lane of traffic on Snelling open in one direction at all times during the mill and overlay work. If the street has to be closed down in one direction the contractor would pay a "lane rental" charge. The one exception is a weekend closing between Minnehaha Ave. and Pierce Butler Rte., when the city will do storm sewer line work in conjunction with the project.

A multimodal transportation

study of Snelling, which was led by MnDOT, was completed in January 2013. Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark said those who participated in the study didn't expect some aspects of the study, such as accessible crosswalks, new street lighting and median plantings, to be implemented so soon. "It's been a bit of a race for us to catch up," said Stark.

He sees both projects as having the long-term benefit of helping to revitalize Snelling in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. "We have several vacant storefronts along north Snelling and that's a concern," he said. A resurfaced street and streetscape improvements could entice new businesses to come in. "North Snelling could use a little TLC."

Both MnDOT and Metro Transit projects are to go out for bid in March, with work starting in May. Much of the early focus for both projects will be in the north.

The big disruption will come when the freeway bridge is closed and bridge re-decking starts in May and continues until August. Travelers should watch for detours. On some weekends, I-94 will be closed, so area residents should expect heavier traffic on east-west streets. Detours will be posted in advance.

All projects take a break during the Minnesota State Fair, so that Snelling can be open for traf-



Construction signs, lane closures, and traffic delays will become the norm in 2015 along Snelling Ave. as major projects are undertaken.

fic. Snelling needs to reopen Aug. 22 and stay open until Sept. 8. "As we know the state fair rules that area," Roth said.

It's hoped work on Snelling will be completed by November.

The two open houses on the Snelling and bus projects drew dozens of people. MnDOT's open house at Hamline University gave neighborhood residents and business owners a chance to ask questions about the Snelling mill, overlay, and bridge re-decking. Staff answered questions and gathered information on everything from when businesses and institutions along Snelling are open, to which neighborhood events and festivals could potentially be affected by work.

Metro Transit's presentation and open house at Macalester College provided information about the bus station platform construction. That event itself drew more than 30 people, with questions about loss of parking, bus service times and other issues.

Pre-construction work to relocate utilities around the Snelling-I-94 area has already caused traffic backups and detours. Snelling traffic, and traffic on adjacent streets, is impacted until Feb. 14 due to the closing of St. Anthony Ave. between Pascal St. and Snelling. There have also been lane closures on southbound Snelling. Cars can still use the westbound ramp to I-94. Trucks are being detoured along University to Vandalia St.

Development activities continue all along University Ave. throughout the winter.

Project for Pride in Living's (PPL) Hamline Station development work is well underway at the northeast corner of Hamline and University avenues. The mixed-use development will include two buildings on the former Midway Chevrolet block.

At the southeast corner of Western and University avenues, a partnership is working to convert the former Old Home Dairy property into a mixed-use building.

The next development to open its doors will be the new Goodwill/Easter Seals flagship store, opening Feb. 28 at 1239 University Ave. The nonprofit is completing work on its new \$10 million retail-office building at the northwest corner of University Ave. and Griggs St. The site was occupied for many years by Whitaker Buick. The new facility will have more than 22,000 feet of retail space, with additional space for goods receiving and offices, for a total of about 30,000 square feet. There will be a drive-through drop-off space, as well as parking west of the store.

The Goodwill facility at Fairview and Charles avenues will stay open, but have its retail space converted to an outlet center. Donations will still be taken there and at the new store. But that means closing the current outlet store near University and Hwy. 280.

Skyline Tower to be redone

Skyline Tower, 1247 St. Anthony Ave., will get a new look in the

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Hamline Station, Goodwill, and mixed use projects all move forward

new year. The high-rise apartment building will be renovated thanks to \$10.24 million in funding from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. New windows and plumbing improvements are planned.

The building has been owned for almost 15 years by CommonBond Communities. CommonBond develops, owns and manages low-income housing throughout the region. Skyline Tower is the state's largest affordable multi-family high-rise that is financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CommonBond provides activities as well as supportive services for residents. Skyline Tower is the state's largest affordable multi-family high-rise that is financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

More funding for stadium site

Efforts to clean up and redevelop the Midway Stadium property got another boost in late January from the Metropolitan Council and its brownfields cleanup grant program. This is a repeat grant for the site along Energy Park Dr. west of Snelling Ave.

The council announced a to-

tal of \$3.3 million in grants, earmarked to clean up polluted land for redevelopment. Midway will be replaced this spring when the new ballpark opens in Lowertown neighborhood.

The stadium site will benefit from \$750,000. It is being redeveloped by a partnership of the St. Paul Port Authority and Pohlad family. The site was a dump years before the stadium was built, which forces the cleanup.

A smaller grant of \$28,200 was awarded to do additional en-

vironmental testing and develop a response plan for mixed-use redevelopment near University Ave. and Vandalia St. The city is working with developers in that area.

Developers seek help in CIB round

A handful of private and nonprofit projects in the Midway area are among those seeking assistance through St. Paul's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) round. The city received

125 applications for various playground, public facility, parks, streets and bridge projects by the Jan. 16 deadline. Decisions will be made by year's end.

Among the applicants for assistance was the Midway YMCA, which is in the midst of a capital campaign to replace its 61-year-old building on University Ave. The Y received city funding in the 1990s for a building renovation project so there is a precedent for assistance.

Another area nonprofit throwing its hat into the ring is Model Cities, which is seeking city funding for its Central Station project northeast of the Victoria-University intersection. A mixed-use development is planned there.

Nearby the Frogtown Neighborhood Association is seeking city help to redevelop the former Victoria Theater at 839 University Ave. as an arts and theater space.

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In Our Community

Monitor

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

Parent Fair canceled at Hamline Church

A parent fair set for Sat., Feb. 28 at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave., has been canceled due to low registration. Community members should watch for details of a different event for families in March. Check www.hamlinechurch.org or email hamlinewomen@gmail.com for details.

Mardi Gras dinner planned at Jehovah

Jehovah Lutheran Church (1566 Thomas Ave.) will host a potluck Mardi Gras celebration beginning at 6:30pm on Tue., Feb. 17. It will feature live music including a performance by the Handbell Ensemble of Concordia University in St. Paul, noted for its appearance on the radio show "Prairie Home Companion." All are invited to bring a dish to share. A Mardi Gras King Cake will be provided. The event is free and open to the public. More information is available at 651-644-1421.

Hamline Church hosts kids' time

Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave., hosts free regular children's play times, every third Saturday and every other Tuesday. Come and enjoy free play on riding toys, climbers and other toys. Have a free snack and beverage and meet other parents and children. Tot and Kid Time is 9-11:30am on the third Saturday of each month (Feb. 21), with children and caregivers. Toddler Time is scheduled every other Tuesday (Feb. 17, Mar. 2, etc.), 9:30-10:45am, for ages 0-5 years old, with a caregiver. Parents and caregivers are welcome to bring their craft projects and enjoy a warm and welcoming space. Check the church website for details at www.hamlinechurch.org.

HM Elders plan monthly events

Hamline Midway Elders (HME) is again partnering with the Hamline Midway Library for a winter series held at the library and featuring guest speakers on a wide variety of topics. Programs are held on Wednesdays starting at 1pm and refreshments are provided. Each Wednesday features a different speaker on an interesting topic – please check with the library for the complete schedule.

The monthly luncheon will feature Barbara Hannah, a certified pre-planning specialist, who will share information on planning and pre-funding funeral and

Como student is regional award winner



Como High student Adrianna Cardoza has received a Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) Triple Impact Competitor® (TIC) Scholarship. She received the award Jan. 25 at TCF Bank Stadium. The TIC program awards scholarships of \$1,000 to high school athletes, based on their essays explaining how they meet the standard defined in "Elevating Your Game: Becoming a Triple-Impact Competitor," by PCA Founder, Jim Thompson. This standard includes: —Personal Mastery: making oneself better; —Leadership: making one's teammates better; and —Honoring the Game: making the game better.

Students apply in their junior year. In addition to their essay they must also submit one testimonial from a school administrator (athletic director, teacher, counselor, etc.), one testimonial from a coach, and at least one testimonial (and up to three) from individuals who are familiar with the student-athlete (i.e. fellow teammates, competitors, referees etc.) and able to speak to his/her embodiment of the TIC principles.

Adrianna was one of four scholarship recipients. More than 40 students were finalists for the four available scholarships in Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and Dakotas. Nationwide, PCA distributed more than 115 scholarships.

Adrianna has played softball since she was four years old and intends to continue playing in college.

cremation arrangements. The luncheon will be held on Tue., Mar. 10, 11:30am-1pm. Free blood pressure checks will be provided and transportation for neighborhood seniors can be arranged with advance notice. New attendees are always welcome at our second Tuesday monthly luncheons held at Hamline United Methodist Church (1514 Englewood Ave.). Free will donations are encouraged.

The Caregiver Support Group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs. This group is facilitated by HME's Monica Gallagher and trained volunteers. The group will meet on Thur., Mar. 12 from 6:30-8pm (and routinely meets on the second Thursday of each month) at Hamline United Methodist Church (1514 Englewood Ave.). There is no cost and new attendees are always welcome.

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

Acting class scheduled Feb. 25

The Lex-Ham Community Theater

is partnering with Saint Paul Community Education on acting classes. This month's class is "Comedy Acting for Absolute Beginners." Students will learn basic approaches to playing comedy and how to make people laugh. Fundamentals about timing, pace, comedic stage action and vocal projection will be tapped into. There will be fun work with scenes by Neil Simon, George Bernard Shaw, Gore Vidal, Sarah Ruhl and Wendy Wasserstein. The class (Course# 3502-WHA) will be held at Saint Paul Central High School, Wed., Feb. 25, 7-9pm. The instructor is John Townsend, and the cost is \$45.

Barn Dance slated at HU Methodist

Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood, will hold a Barn Dance, on Sat., Feb. 28, 6:30-8:30pm. Enter through the alley entrance. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. With a great band and caller, the cost is \$5 for individuals; \$15 for groups.

Free Bible course offered at Emmaus

Rev. Dr. Tom Trapp will offer a course called "Living with God" over the next five years (two 10-week sessions per year) to highlight important insights from his 30 years of teaching the Scriptures. Co-sponsored by Concordia University and the Minnesota South District, these sessions will be offered at no charge. CEUs will be available. The second 10-week class will cover Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings on Thursdays beginning Mar. 5 at either 1-3pm or 6:30-8:30pm. Classes will be held at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1074 Idaho Ave. W. So they can be prepared for the number of people who will be attending, please register in advance by contacting Emmaus: emmaus@q.com, or call 651-489-9426. About 70 people participated in the classes in 2014. Find out more at www.emmaus-lutheran-church.org.

Volunteers sought for Ordway gardens

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is currently recruiting volunteers in the Ordway Gardens.

The Ordway Gardens and the Charlotte Partridge Ordway Japanese Garden are popular destinations for visitors who seek to experience the art form of Como's Bonsai collections and the beauty of nature in the quiet of the gardens. Volunteers are trained about the key elements and tradition of Japanese gardens and then share these insights with visitors. Volunteers with an interest in Japanese culture, public education and the cultural gardens are a great match for this opportunity.

Como provides the information and resources to prepare for these volunteer positions. Those interested will be required to attend training sessions on Saturdays, Apr. 11 and 18, from 8:30am - 2:30pm.

Registration can be completed online at: www.comozooconservatory.org. For more information contact Como Volunteer Services at 651-487-8252.

Women's Bible study scheduled to begin

A Bible study for women will focus on the importance of Sabbath, a day of rest, and will focus on women's need to take time for spiritual purposes. The sessions are on alternate Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm at Jehovah Lutheran Church Feb. 25 through May 6. The church is at 1566 Thomas Ave. The leader, via DVD, is author Priscilla Shirer. Sessions are based on her book "Breathe: Making

Room for Sabbath." The sessions are free. The optional book is available for \$9.95. Snacks are provided. Call 651-644-1421 for more information.

La Leche Group scheduled Mar. 10

The next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Mar. 10. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Lenten soup suppers planned at Jehovah

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., will serve soup suppers from 5:30-6:30pm on Wednesdays Feb. 25 through Mar. 25. The suppers are free, although a donation of \$2 per person is welcomed. Lenten services follow at 7pm. More information is available at 651-644-1421.

Holy Childhood plans March rummage sale

Holy Childhood, 1435 Midway Pkwy., will hold a rummage sale on Thur., Mar. 12, 9am-7pm; Fri., Mar. 13, 9am-5pm; and Sat., Mar. 14, 9am-noon. Housewares, clothing, CD's, books, puzzles, some furniture and many other treasures will all be for sale.

Camp Fair slated for Feb. 28 at Como

Minnesota Parent magazine presents its 9th annual Camp Fair Sat., Feb. 28, 10am-2pm at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Dr. The event is free. With so many summer camp programs out there, *Minnesota Parent* makes it easy for parents to sift through the many options available. The Camp Fair gives families a chance to meet representatives from day, overnight, music, science, computer, art, and performance programs—and more. Parents and children can browse exhibitor booths to learn about each unique camp or program experience and find the perfect fit to satisfy both child and parent. Now is the best time to get a start on planning for your child's summer camp adventures. This year's entertainment includes face painting and a creation station where kids can make one of a kind art projects! *Minnesota Parent* staff will pass out goodie bags, and there will be door prizes provided by exhibitors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

History Theatre produces play by Como resident



Playwright Kristine Holmgren (left) and "God Girl" actress Summer Hagen. The History Theatre is staging the production through Mar. 1.

History Theatre is producing the world premiere of a play by Como Park resident and Presbyterian pastor Kristine Holmgren. "God Girl" tells Holmgren's story of being one of the first large classes of women accepted to the Master of Divinity program at an elite Ivy League seminary. In 1975, when the war in Vietnam was over and the women's liberation movement was in full swing, a bright, spirited Macalester graduate decided to change the world starting with her ordination to ministry.

This new play reflects on the hard work, humor and heart-break experienced by the women who dared to break through the stained glass ceiling within the protestant church. The play tells the stories of women who felt assaulted, rather than nourished, within the seminary walls. Physi-

cal attacks, humiliation, sexual harassment and inappropriate use of power are a few of the realities Holmgren and her classmates experienced, and are portrayed in the play.

"My story is one of perseverance, tenacity, outrageous hope and determination," Holmgren shared. "I had people in my life who told me that it was important and ... we knew we were making history. We knew we were changing things."

"I found Kristine's story to be dramatic and it struck a chord with me. It became clear that the women of the 21st Century and women of Kristine's 'baby boomer' generation see gender issues quite differently. It is almost as if the 'women's lib' movement of the '60s and '70s have been forgotten. As a result, I found myself totally engaged in

bringing Kristine's story to the History Theatre stage," said History Theatre Artistic Director Ron Peluso.

Although Holmgren has retired from active ministry, she still feels she is making a difference through her plays. Her stories deal with people and circumstances and provoke thought.

"I hope to be having an impact. It's what my life is about. I went into the ministry to change the world. Everything I've done, I've done to try and inform myself on how to be a better person, how to make a difference wherever I am, and this playwriting has certainly been that way," she said.

"God Girl" is playing Thursdays through Sundays, through Mar. 1 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Call the box office at 651.292.4323 or visit www.historytheatre.com/tickets.

District 11

Continued from page 2

We are grateful to the many neighbors who have expressed interest and are eagerly supporting this project. We will be launching a public education campaign around the project this summer and will be looking for volunteers to help spread the word, organize plantings and more. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in planning, organizing, education and outreach around this project, contact HMC Communications and Engagement Director Kyle Mianulli at kyle@hamlinemidway.org or 651-494-7683.

Snelling construction

The Minnesota Department of Transportation hosted a well-attended open house last month for residents, business owners and community members to ask questions and get information about the reconstruction of Snelling Ave. and replacement of the bridge over I-94 this summer. With the street being resurfaced throughout the project area from Selby to Pierce Butler Rt., sidewalk and pedestrian improvements, and installation of new state-of-the-art bus stations for the city's first Bus Rapid Transit Line, closure of traffic lanes, sidewalks and streets will occur throughout the summer and into fall. For the latest detour and closure information, you can sign up to receive alerts and notices at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/snellingfalconheights/>. Also stay tuned to the HMC Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter for regular updates. Check hamlinemidway.org/snelling-construction-2015 for project background and major developments.

List your event on the HMC Calendar

Have an event you'd like to publicize to the neighborhood? Whether it's a one-time celebration or a recurring meeting, let us know what you have coming up and we will list it on our events calendar at hamlinemidway.org/events and include it in our regular communications and outreach efforts. To submit your event, email the details to kyle@hamlinemidway.org.

getting to know Dr. Taiwo Lawal



I am: an internal medicine physician.

I became a physician because: I have always been fascinated by science and pursued medicine because I have a passion to help people.

Most people don't know: that I have training in ophthalmology.

Something I have learned from my patients is: that they are my teachers. They all contribute to making me a better doctor.

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The best thing I have done for my health is: having regular quiet time for recuperation.

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Interact Center

Continued from page 1

quick to point out that Interact is not an art school, but a base for creating art on a professional level. All performing and visual artists are paid for their performance time or sale of their work through the Interact Gallery and private commissions. This model goes a long way toward giving artists with disabilities a sense of identity and stronger self-confidence.

While artists do not need to have previous training in the arts to join Interact, they do need to have a professional work ethic and an earnest desire to work

and live as an artist.

"Our goal is that each client feels happy, healthy and fulfilled as an artist and as a human being," Leavitt said about the expectations of Interact artists.

The visual arts department moved into its new space with ease. On any given day, there are between 30-35 artists seated at tables painting, drawing, working with clay, weaving and making jewelry. The four staff people, headed up by studio and gallery manager Kathleen Richert, offer suggestions when asked, pulling from their own professional disciplines.

The studio artists have two gallery shows each year, and their hand-crafted artwork is available



Exterior view of Interact Center for Visual and Performing Arts building. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

for purchase in the Interact Gallery during regular hours of operation.

Interact was founded by executive director Jeanne Calvit in 1996, and housed in the warehouse district of downtown Min-

neapolis for 18 years.

Calvit, a Louisiana native, is an accomplished actress and director herself, a graduate of the Lecoq School of Theatre in Paris and a veteran of acting on stages across Europe for 10+ years.

Calvit was trained in a type of acting called physical theatre, which is how the performing artists work at Interact. The actors on stage have a strong sense of

physical presence, emphasized with hand gestures and body language. They are a collaboration of artists with and without disabilities, from mainstream and marginalized communities, whose stories and life experiences drive their ensemble-generated work. The artists start with an idea which finds its final form

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Artists at work in the studio space. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Members of the Interact ensemble cast rehearsing. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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Interact Center

Continued from page 8

through improvisation, trial and error. Even within that final form, every performance is slightly different - keeping the work fresh and alive.

Calvit and the other staff are excited about their new space in the Midway neighborhood. While they miss the "buzz" of downtown Minneapolis, the tradeoff has been well worth it. The search for this space was a long one but, according to Calvit, "we knew we would thrive here as soon as we saw it." The many amenities include larger classrooms, huge windows, a community/lunch room, storage space, free parking and, best of all, everything is on one level.

Each of Interact's 115 artists is paired with an artist mentor in their area of performing or visual arts - one of the professional artists they work with who sees them every day they're there. In addition, each artist has a client care coordinator who serves as their case manager.

Karen Prince, client care coordinator for performing arts, has a rich background in social services and theatre. When she takes off her case manager hat, she works on every show backstage. "There's a whole lot of choreography going on back there too: the timing of props and costume changes, helping people to get in their places on cue," she said. "It's an exciting place to be."

Interact's mission is to create art that challenges the perceptions of disabilities. They've



Jeanne Calvit, founder and executive director of Interact. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

been opening those doors for nearly 20 years, creating an atmosphere where both artists and audiences are challenged by what they see. That is the moment of interaction - when the idea of what is possible as human beings begins to change and grow.

If you or someone you know would like to explore the

options for adult day placement at Interact, call 651-209-3575 to arrange an "experience day." The only requirements are to fit somewhere in the spectrum of disabilities, be over 18 years old, have an interest in the arts, and be willing to do your best work.

"Clients and staff alike come here and stay for a very long time," Calvit said.

Naa Mensah, an actress/dancer with Down Syndrome, is one of many shining stars at Interact. When she graduated from high school, she took a cleaning job in a local mall. There was limited social interaction and Mensah is an outgoing, sociable woman. When her family learned about Interact, her abilities as a dancer quickly surfaced and she has been studying and performing there ever since.



Naa Mensah, center, is an actress/dancer at Interact. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Members of the Interact ensemble cast rehearsing. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

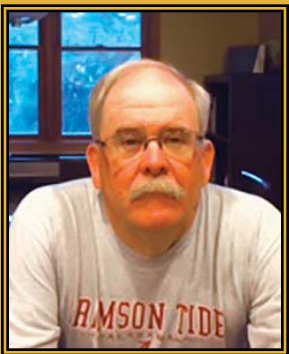
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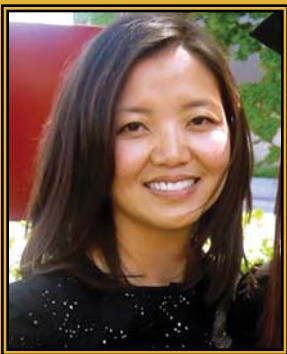
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Bruce P. Corrie, PhD
Economist / Educator
www.ethniccapital.com



"David has been representing community to the system for decades. He will represent our neighborhoods to the city as our city council member."

Roy Magnuson
Teacher Saint Paul
Public Schools
AFSCME



"David supported students' success in various capacities from providing a welcoming, safe, and community friendly space in his business to giving coupons for free snacks at his restaurant to my school's Students of the Month. David understands that a big part of our city's prosperity is in its people, by investing in the youth."

Chong Thao
Teacher at Como Park
Senior High School



"As a long-time resident and business owner in the area, David Glass knows the people and the issues. As our Ward 5 City Council member, David will listen to the many voices in our community and respond to the needs in a responsible manner that will benefit our ward and the city."

Mary Thoenke
Editor
North End News



"David works for all of Saint Paul's diverse communities."

John Sherman
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Midway Murals seeks to 'transform' Snelling Ave. in 2015

By KYLE MIANULLI

While Snelling Ave. is in the throes of construction this summer, the Midway Murals project will seek to transform a half-mile stretch of the street between University Ave. and Van Buren Ave. into a vibrant outdoor art gallery that tells the stories of the people, cultures and communities that define the area.

The installation of four professional murals by four separate artists on the sides of primarily immigrant-owned businesses will connect artists, business owners and the community around the theme "starting anew."

With Snelling Ave. due for major reconstruction in 2015 (see story pg 5), "starting anew" seems an appropriate motif. But project organizer and Hamline Midway resident Jonathan Oppenheimer says the ambitious project's goals extend well beyond the streetscape.

The theme also refers to the changing nature of the Midway area in general, as well as the specific stories and experiences of new residents and immigrant



Hamline Midway resident Jonathan Oppenheimer is the Midway Murals project organizer. He says the ambitious project's goals extend well beyond the streetscape. (Photo by Kyle Mianulli)

communities, Oppenheimer says. The murals will be installed on highly visible walls at 512, 555, 638, and 689 Snelling Ave. N.

The project officially kicks-off

with a public celebration at the Turf Club (1601 University Ave. W.) Feb. 20 from 4-7pm, where organizers will launch an intensive community process designed

to gather input and bring together artists, neighbors and business owners to tell their stories.

"The artists will listen and engage with the community to craft their vision," Oppenheimer says. Separate panels made up of business owners, residents and community leaders will review the artist's designs for each location before installation.

Oppenheimer's vision for the project was born of his daily experiences on Snelling Ave. and in the neighborhood. He sensed a lack of connection between residents and businesses on Snelling, he says. Both regularly express interest in beautifying the area and drawing more attention, visitors and customers.

With more than 30,000 vehicles a day, Snelling Ave. is one of the busiest roads in the state. Unlike the stretches around Selby and Grand avenues, the high traffic has yet to bring a surplus of

customers or investment to the area around University Ave.—one of the most central transit nodes in the Twin Cities.

"If you are at the heart of the crossroads of St. Paul and the Twin Cities, how do you represent that in all its glory and beauty, and make it a place where people want to get out of their car and see what the businesses are all about and see what the neighborhood is all about?" Oppenheimer asks.

The project is not just about appealing to people outside the neighborhood, though. There's also an integral community-building component. Hamline Midway is not exempt from the cultural and racial divides that still mark communities across the city, state and country, Oppenheimer notes.

"I think it's very important that we talk openly about racial and cultural divides...this is one of the toughest discussions we can have—what keeps us apart? In order to focus on this notion of how do we 'start anew,' we do have to recognize some of these divides that exist."

Public art has a unique power to unite cultures and communities, says Lori Greene, one of the four mural artists who is also a Hamline Midway resident and owner of Mosaic on a Stick, 1546 Lafond Ave.

"It shows the beauty and the history of people and culture, and it's out there for everybody to see, and we all recognize ourselves in it," Greene says.

In addition to Greene, Oppenheimer has enlisted some serious talent from the Twin Cities' public art world for the project. Each artist, he says, has a distinct style, medium, and background, but all represent an important

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Mural artist Lori Greene is a Midway resident and owner of Mosaic On A Stick. (Photo courtesy Midway Murals)



International muralist Greta McLain has worked on numerous Twin Cities murals. (Photo courtesy Midway Murals)



Artist Yuya Negishi. (Photo courtesy Midway Murals)

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Hamline-Midway History Corps: a neighborhood love story



Steve and Nancy Bailey of the Hamline-Midway History Corp. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Do you have questions about your family history?

Do you want to learn more about your neighborhood or the house you live in?

The Hamline-Midway History Corps can help you become your own best history detective. This group of amateur history enthusiasts meets at the Ginkgo Coffeehouse (721 N. Snelling Ave.) on the third Saturday of each month from 2-4pm. There is no cost to join or participate in the History Corps and the co-captains, Steve and Nancy Bailey, are so enthusiastic that they haven't missed a meeting since assuming leadership in 2006. Steve noted, "If you're going to commit to something, why not go all the way?"

The boundaries of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood extend from Prior Ave. on the west

to Lexington Pkwy. on the east, and from University Ave. on the south to Pierce Butler Rd. on the north. It's a small area, only 2 square miles, but has a decidedly colorful past. The Baileys have put together an encyclopedic volume they call the Book, which clearly lays out the history of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood going all the way back to 1878.

The Book consists of more than 500 fastidiously researched pages, organized into eight volumes. It is overflowing with maps drawn to scale, exquisite photographs, period illustrations and business advertisements, all of which combine to transport the reader back in time. Steve, a retired printing specialist, and Nancy, a retired office administrator, bring their unique talents to bear on the Book. In addition to being an impressive visual presentation

of neighborhood history, is just plain well-written and fun to read.

Their particular interest is in tracing the history of business succession block by block. To understand how this works, consider the address of the Ginkgo Coffeehouse - the unofficial headquarters for the History Corps.

The Bailey's findings for 721 N. Snelling Ave. begin in 1917, a year before World War I ended. Then, it was a meat market. In the nearly 100 intervening years, there were 13 separate listings including 7 grocery stores, a block ice business, 3 hardware stores, a book seller and, most recently, the Ginkgo Coffeehouse. The Baileys gathered this information using a combination of reverse telephone directories (where, if you have the address, you can learn a business name in a particular year), print ads in community newspapers and high school yearbooks, and research available for public use at the Minnesota Historical Society.

They are quick to point out that the Book is a product of their mutual love of history. Steve writes, Nancy edits, and they value using each other as springboards for new ideas.

In addition to collecting facts, Steve and Nancy also enjoy collecting things. Wearing one of his more than 60 Hawaiian shirts, Steve describes a few of their favorite collections with a broad smile. He says, "We love old-fashioned View Masters, depression glass and miniature rum bottles. We also believe that a bare wall is something of a sacrilege." Nancy laughs.

Steve and Nancy are impressive history sleuths, and they have quite a history of their own. They married young and embarked on a six month honeymoon in a 1968 Dodge van, whose roof they had raised to accommodate their new "on the road" lifestyle. Heading east, they ended up in Washington DC where, true to historic form, they spent the next four weeks touring the Smithsonian Museums.

"We're both collectors by nature," Steve explains, "and collectors are history-minded people."

The Baileys continued their extended honeymoon in Niagra Falls where, by chance, they visited The Houdini Museum. They



The Midway Horse Market at 1945 University Ave. was the greatest horse market in the west. The cross-section of Prior and University avenues became the center for a number of support businesses such as blacksmith shops, livery stables and harness dealers. (Advertisement courtesy of Steve and Nancy Bailey)

stayed a few weeks, long enough to learn the basics of performing magic tricks—and slight-of-hand became their source of income for the next two years.

Eventually they landed in Southern California, and stayed there for three decades.

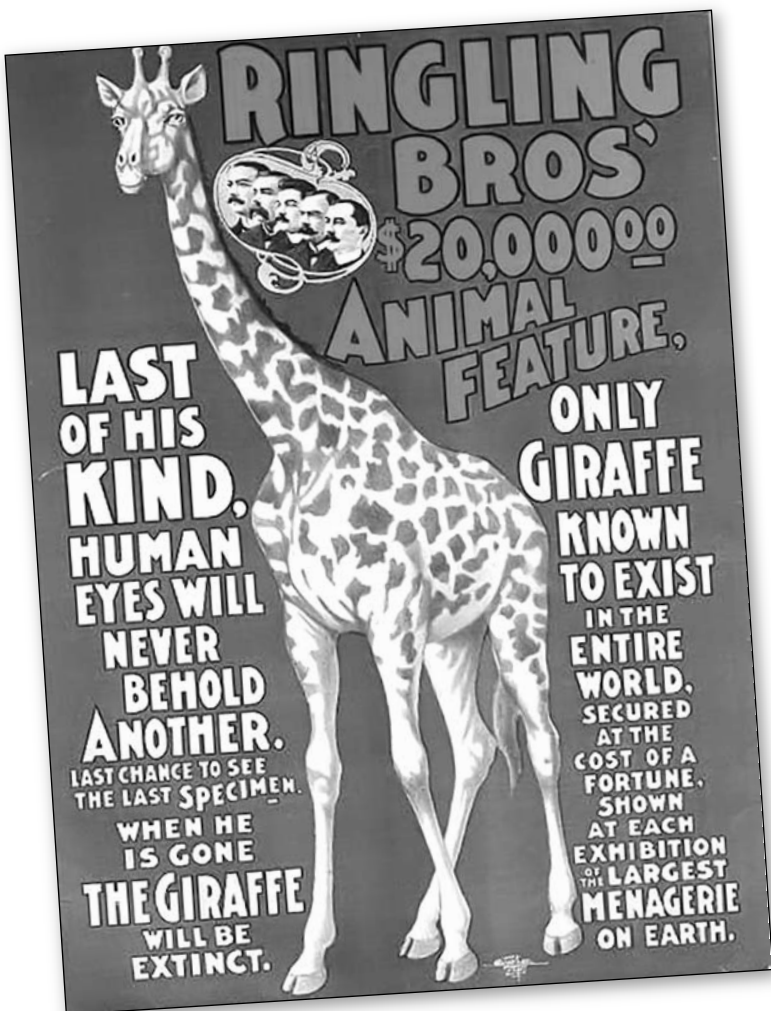
Both Minnesota natives, Steve and Nancy decided to return home in 2005—"for a thousand little reasons." They now live in the 1913 house where Nancy grew up and, as Steve says with believable happiness, "Everything we do, we do together."

This summer they'll be celebrating fifty years of shared life (45 years of marriage) and, even after all this time, they have the

easy confidence of two people still marching to the beat of the same drummer.

Steve and Nancy came to their first meeting of the History Corps in 2005, with some basic questions about the house they had just acquired from Nancy's family. Once settled, they became interested in the grocery store on the corner, and then the grocery store on the next corner. The rest, as they, is history.

To learn more about the Hamline-Midway History Corps, its monthly meetings, or its annual spring walking tour, contact Steve or Nancy Bailey at sjb-nab@aol.com or call Steve at 651-644-5220.



Circus Hill, on the site of the current day Central Medical Building at Griggs and University avenues, was home to more than 58 different circus companies between 1860-1945. Tents could be struck overnight to accommodate the menagerie of exotic animals, curiosity shows, and the big top for main stage performers. (Illustration courtesy of Steve and Nancy Bailey)



Montgomery Ward Department Store, on the site of the current day Herberger's, was a one-stop shopping experience as well as a catalogue-outlet. There was almost nothing that couldn't be bought there, from a shiny washing machine to a flat of newly hatched chicks. Its state-of-the-art construction boasted the tallest tower of reinforced concrete (21 stories) in the nation at the time. (Illustration courtesy of Steve and Nancy Bailey)

In Our Community

Continued from page 6

Host families needed for 2 weeks in March

Seen the movie, Madagascar? From March 13-25, twenty-two students from an island off Madagascar (Reunion Island) will be here to have an American experience—and will need caring homes to stay while they are here. Last year's highlights for students included seeing snow and skyscrapers for the first time! Hosts must do an online application, pass a background check and be on a bus line. Hosts provide the student with his/her own bed, food and light transportation. Students will come with their own health insurance, spending money and a bus pass. They will attend an international high school in downtown St Paul while they are here. A stipend is available to hosts. Applications are being taken today. Contact Rachel McGillat crownblue5star@yahoo.com or phone/text her 651-399-2222 to learn more. Broaden your horizons in 2015 and learn about Reunion Island first hand from the comfort of your own home while helping a young person experience the U.S.

Free after school homework help

Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI), 2388 University Ave. W., is a non-profit that offers homework help to students K-12 in all subjects. MOI offers free of charge homework help, extra-curricular reading practice, and creative writing prompts to enhance critical thinking skills and confidence. Volunteer tutors are background checked and trained in the standards set by Saint Paul

Public School Foundation. High school students can receive help from 3-4:30pm Mon.-Thur., and K-8 students can receive help Mon.-Fri. from 4:30-6pm. To register go to <http://tinyurl.com/moistudent>, or email volunteer@oi-msp.org, or call 612-367-7827.

Hamline Theatre continues season

Hamline University Theatre continues its 84th season with "Dancing at Lughnasa." This contemporary play will run at Hamline's Anne Simley Theatre at 7:30pm on Feb. 27, 28, Mar. 5, 6, and 7. You can contact the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or tickets@hamline.edu.

Co-ed Drum Circle planned Feb. 27

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will conduct a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Feb. 27, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored, and all levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. \$10 at the door and drums provided. Info and registration can be found at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Job Corps looking for volunteer tutors

One of the best parts of working with students at the Humphrey Job Corps Center is having the opportunity to see young adults accomplish things they never thought they could do: earning a high school diploma, solving a tough math problem, or reading a difficult article. If you would like to learn more about the academic programs at Humphrey, or think that you may be interested in volunteering as a tutor, please contact Janna Graham, Manager

of Academic Training, at graham.janna@jobcorps.org. There is a particular need for tutors who have daytime availability, and all tutors must pass a background check.

NAMI hold free support groups

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in St. Paul from 6:30-8:30pm, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., Room 123, on fourth Tuesday of the month (Feb. 24). For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524 or 651-645-2948.

Music Under Glass continues at Como

The free concert series, "Music Under Glass," continues at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park, featuring some of the Twin Cities' finest musicians. On Sundays, from 4:30-6:30pm you can listen to live local music and beat the winter weather blahs inside the comfy confines of the Conservatory. Beer, wine, pop, and light snacks will be available to purchase. (Please, no outside food or beverages.)

Upcoming performances include:

—Feb. 22, Café Accordion Orchestra is valse-musette, swing, ballads, tangos, cha chas, cumbia and more, delivered with French flare, Latin heat and Bohemian attitude.

—Mar. 1, Sarah Morris has a way of captivating her audiences with songs about the highs and lows of love. With a voice both cozy and commanding, demure and daring, Morris allows us to feel every note. Her lyrics resonate with a unique combination of unflinching honesty and heartfelt tenderness: authentic portraits of love, loss, gratitude and regret.

Jehovah Lutheran continues study series

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas, is continuing a 10-session Bible study on "Living Faith: Exploring the Essentials of Christianity." Each session

includes a 25-minute DVD-based discussion led by N.T. Wright, a former bishop in the Church of England who now teaches at the School of Divinity, University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Other participants via DVD will be the Rev. Joel Quie, pastor of Prairie Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, and Marilyn Sharpe, former columnist for Metro Lutheran. Sessions will continue through Mar. 22. A full listing of topics is at www.jehovahlutheran.org. The free sessions begin at 9:30am on Sundays in the church lounge. Coffee and snacks are provided.

Artaria in concert for Music in the Park

Music in the Park 2015 Series Family Concerts will present "Artaria String Quartet: Making Friends Through Music" on Fri., Feb. 27, 6 and 7:15pm. The performance features Ray Shows, Nancy Oliveros, Annalee Wolf, and Laura Sewell. The four members of Artaria play all kinds of music, from "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," to quartets by famous composers like Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. And, for the finale, a gifted – and friendly – teen quartet from the Artaria Chamber Music School makes a special appearance! Concerts are approximately 45 minutes in length and take place at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Tickets are \$7 at the door.

New exhibition opens at gallery

"Fire and Light," a new exhibition of Kevin Caufield pottery and Robynne Limoges photography will open on Fri., Feb. 20, from 6-8pm at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave.

Kevin Caufield is one of the founding members of Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis, and teaches classes and workshops there. He conducts workshops for local schools and art and community centers around the region. Kevin's work is in many collections world-wide, and he has been featured in *Ceramics Monthly*. He is known for his custom dinnerware.

Robynne Limoges has said of her photography, "The grammar of light and dark, solitude, silence and ambiguity have always shaped the way the world speaks to me. These photographs represent partly told stories with uncertain endings, and a few tears maybe. Many of the images in this show were taken at concen-

tration camps."

The exhibit runs through Mar. 27. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 10am-4pm, and Sat. from noon-4pm.

Pappas receives Consortium award

State Senator Sandy Pappas (Dist. 65) has been given an award by the Minnesota Women's Consortium for her work on the Women's Economic Security Act (WESA). The 2014 package worked to close the gender pay gap, expand family sick leave and pregnancy accommodations for working families, and support women-owned businesses and careers in non-traditional jobs.

The Consortium noted that Pappas was the chief author of WESA, and was a hardworking champion for working women in Minnesota throughout the entire bill process. Her 30 years of promoting equality for women as a state legislator made her a clear choice for leadership within the WESA coalition.

Family support group meets monthly

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

Series on violence continues March 2

"Mental Health, Bullying and Violence toward Self," is the third in a series of 4 sharing conversations with people with personal and professional experience with violence in our community and our relationships. The program will be at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave. on Mon., Mar. 2 6-8pm. The evening begins with soup supper and the program is offered at no cost.

Program of Irish Memories set Feb. 28

For one night only, celebrated Irish-American musician, storyteller, and showman, Tom Dahill, remembers a pageant of characters from St. Paul's history. This is the first time Dahill has combined his family's memories with his rich repository of light-hearted songs, tunes, and tales. Tom will combine his talents with the Celtic Collaborative's actors and writers to dramatize a lost world of Prohibition gangsters, and crooked and honest cops. The program will be held at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 217 Mackubin St., on Feb. 28, 7:30pm. Tickets are \$8 at the door (no credit cards).

Visit www.celticcollab.org or on Facebook at CelticCollaboration for more information

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Calendar of Events

February March 2014 April

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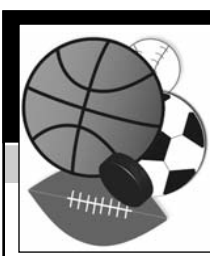
2 Hounds of Finn live at the Dubliner Pub
3 AARP Tax Assistance
4 Pickleball
5 Chess Play and Lessons
6 The Delight of...
7 Baby Fundamentals
8 Toddler and Pre-School Storytime
9 "Crocodile Seeking Refuge"

Central senior 106-pound wrestler Zach Ferguson has reaped the benefits of competing outside of the high school season. He wrestled for a Minnesota club during back-to-back summers, which including competition at nationals in 2014. He reached state the follow high school season the first time around and a sought another appearance at the Xcel Energy Center in February at the No. 10-ranked 106-pounder in Class AA.

"Wrestling against some of the best kids in the country almost every day gives you a lot of confidence; it gives you a lot of experience," Ferguson said.

Ferguson, who has recruiting interest for both St. John's University and Augsburg College, started wrestling in the club season after his sophomore year. He won 35 matches as a junior and hit the 60-win mark on Dec. 17 of this season.

Ferguson also had a key part



Prep Sports Notebook:

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Off-season competition pays off for Central's Zach Ferguson

in a third-straight St. Paul City Conference title for the Minutemen in an undefeated conference dual season (6-0). Central went 18-6 overall through early February. "We're trying to form a dynasty here," Ferguson said.

It kept going during a rebuilding year after the Minutemen graduated a number of key seniors and needed younger wrestlers to step up.

"When we started out, I didn't know what type of team we were going to have because we graduated a lot of athletic wrestlers," Minutemen coach

Wardell Warren said. "This team is my most physical team compared to other teams."

Maurice Fields had a strong season at 195 and may compete at the next level in college. Harvey Bradley, a 120-pounder, also had a strong season and jumped out to 19 wins quickly at 19-3.

William Brennhofner did well for the Minutemen in moving to the heavy weight class after starting the season at 220. Silas Burnett, 126, also put up points in duals and tournaments for the Minutemen.

Historic night for Como

It had to end sometime.

Andrayah Adams scored 37 points in a game with Central on Jan. 21, and the Como Park girls basketball team ended its 25-game losing streak. The Cougars won by double digits too, 58-46, for the first win against the Minutemen in more than a decade.

Adams, a 5-8 junior guard, has led the Cougars to one of its best season on the hardwood in years with a 12-6 start through early February and a solid chance to win the St. Paul City Confer-

ence title. Though a junior, major Division I programs have already begun contacting her.

Minutemen boys hoops gaining momentum

Central did not have an easy start to the season at 2-7, but the Minutemen went on to win six of ten games going into early February. They have adjusted to life without graduated seniors Rayeon Williams and Kalu Abosi – two of Central's top scorers last season. Sam Gubbrud leads the Minutemen with 16.6 points per game, and Garrett Gardner and Abdi Muse average in double figures at 10.4 and 10.2 points respectively.

Moreover, the Minutemen trailed Class 3A powerhouse St. Paul Johnson by just two games in the St. Paul City Conference season's midpoint.

A little guidance for going solar

Interested in powering your home with solar energy but don't know where to start?

Before investing in solar, you should apply some of the simplest energy-saving improvements—get an energy audit, seal air leaks, add insulation, maintain or upgrade heating and cooling equipment, use a programmable thermostat. By investing in energy efficiency first, you can decrease your overall energy demand, reduce the size of and the investment needed for your solar energy system, and optimize the returns on your system.

Now that you're ready to explore solar, here are a few steps to follow:

Get educated. Solar power can generate electricity, heat water, or help heat your home. Making electricity is the most common application of solar en-

ergy in Minnesota today, and solar heating applications are increasing too. Learn about solar through sources such as the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), Minnesota Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Take a class on solar basics. Check the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities system or community education opportunities in your area. Also, talk to neighbors and friends who have installed solar.

Plan your system. Find out if your location is suitable for solar. A "Minnesota Solar Suitability App" developed by the University of Minnesota can help identify the solar potential for homes and businesses in Minnesota, but you will need a site assessment to determine if your location can capture enough of the sun's rays. A third-party source, such as the

Minnesota Renewable Energy Society, can provide an independent site assessment.

Learn how to pay for it. The Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency provides the most complete list of financial incentives for solar systems. It includes information on the 30 percent federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit (good through 2016); incentive programs, rebates, and loans from utilities and state agencies (including the Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive Program); and state sales and property tax exemptions. Your solar contractor can help identify financing options.

Get bids. To locate installers near you, check lists from Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA), North American Board of Certified En-



ergy Practitioners (NABCEP), and the Clean Energy Project Builders. Get two or three bids and make sure you compare apples to apples. Be sure each bid specifies system type and size, expected energy production, maintenance requirements, warranties, and installed cost.

Finalize a contract with a professional solar installation company and have your system installed.

Maintain your system and keep track of its energy production.

If your home is not suitable for a solar energy system, you can consider subscribing to a community solar garden. CERTs offers information on Community Solar Gardens, an emerging option among several Minnesota electric utilities. Another option for some electricity customers is a green pricing program.

Midway Murals

Continued from page 10

theme of the project's vision. International muralist Greta McLain, spray paint artist Eric Mattheis, and Japanese artist Yuya Negishi, will each install a

mural on one of the four walls. International muralist Greta McLain worked with Greene on the mural at Seward Co-op and was a featured artist on the public television series, "Minnesota Original." *City Pages* voted her project at Green Central School in South Minneapolis the best

mural of 2014. Spray paint artist Eric Mattheis, also known as Blaster in the Twin Cities art collective Rogue Citizen, brings an important street element to the project, which Oppenheimer says was important to help overcome the stigma of graffiti and spray paint as merely vandalism and blight.

Artist Yuya Negishi, arrived in the Twin Cities art scene with a splash five years ago when he immigrated from the rural Gunma region in Japan. His playful and vivid illustrations draw from classical Japanese techniques, and his work has been displayed in multiple gallery showings, public art installments and commissioned work.

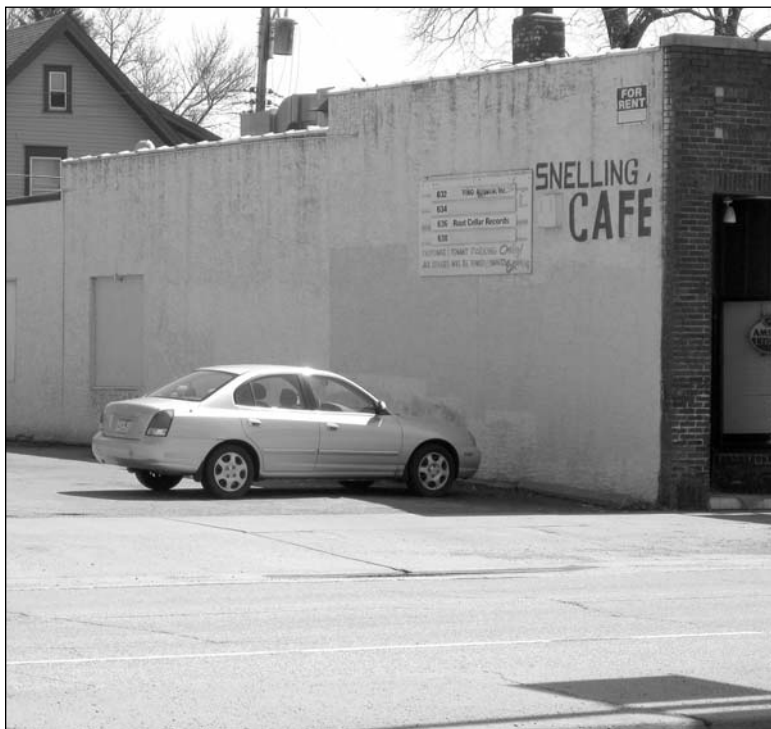
"I'm just so happy to have these four artists from different backgrounds...It's really important that all these murals not look the same and that they represent the diversity that we're trying to highlight and lift up in this project," Oppenheimer says.

In addition to the murals, all four artists are creating original pieces to be auctioned off at the Midway Murals launch celebration at the Turf Club on Feb. 20.

Midway Murals is one of 42 project winners in the 2014 St. Paul Knight Arts Challenge. That \$25,000 grant will cover part of the total project budget, which is

upwards of \$85,000, according to Oppenheimer. He is working hard to raise the remaining funds through other grants, public and private donations, as well as a

crowd-funding campaign that will kick-off Feb 16. The project will culminate with a grand unveiling celebration towards the end of August.



This building, the Snelling Cafe, 638 Snelling Ave. N., is one of the four building walls chosen for the Midway Murals project. (Photo courtesy of Midway Murals)

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Como Zoo welcomes baby orangutan

Como Zoo announced the birth, via Caesarean section, of a female orangutan in January. Markisa, a 27 year-old Sumatran Orangutan, gave birth to a female infant weighing a healthy, 3.45 pounds on Jan. 7. The newborn was delivered at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center by Dr. Micky Trent, DVM, Veterinary Medical Center Surgeon and lead veterinarian for Como Zoo, with the consultation of an extensive pre-appointed medical team comprised of human obstetricians, neonatologists, and veterinary anesthesiologists.

This is Markisa's second required C-section. "C-sections are very rare in that there are only about a dozen recorded within the more than 1,200 international captive births," said Como Zoo primate keeper Megan Elder.

This is a very important birth both for Como and for the species. Markisa was recommended for breeding by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Orangutan Species Survival Plan (SSP) because of her status as one of the most genetically valuable female Sumatran orangutans in North America.

The delivery was attended by an assemblage of experts in human maternal health and consultant veterinarians from the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center and the University of Minnesota Fairview Medical Center. Many of these individuals have been prepping for weeks for this procedure and several (Yasuko Yamamura, MD and Kirk Ramin, MD) consulted on Markisa's last C-section. These included an obstetrical team of 14-16 indi-

viduals including professionals from the human and animal neonatal intensive care units, human maternal-fetal medicine, veterinary surgeons, veterinary technicians, veterinary anesthesiologists, a nutritionist, and a biosecurity supervisor.

The baby is now bonding and resting comfortably in the arms of her mother, Markisa. Now the baby just needs a name, and the zoo is expected to announce the name at a "Baby Shower Weekend" on Feb. 14-16.

About 200 orangutans are currently on exhibit in zoos throughout the U.S. Their native population, found primarily in Sumatra and Borneo, has dwindled due to commercial logging, agriculture, hunting and poaching—all of which put the species under the threat of extinction.



The baby orangutan born at Como Zoo in January will be given one of three names at its "baby shower" Feb. 14-16. The three name choices are: Aanjay (pronounced On-jay) meaning unconquerable; Cinta (pronounced Chin-tah) meaning love; or Kemala (pronounced Key-mala) meaning magic stone.

Midway Y closes, opens temp location, starts building



Midway YMCA, serving the community since 1907, has closed its building at 1761 University Ave. W. The last day of activities on Feb. 4 included a pooch pool party, where Midway Y members could bring their dog for a swim in the 62-year old pool before it was demolished. While their new building (pictured above) is being built (and opening in about 15 months), the Midway Y will operate out of a temporary location at 1000 University Ave. W. The Midway Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting to commemorate the opening of this transitional location on Mon., Feb. 9.

Twin Cities Aikido Center moving

Twin Cities Aikido Center (TCAC), a fixture at 2390 University Ave. since its founding in 1976, is moving.

A group of UM grads, wishing to continue studying the gentle yet effective martial art of Aikido, started the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on a shoestring in what had been a truck showroom. TCAC has grown to be the largest such group in the region.

Due to pending renovation and the proposed sale of the building which they shared with

Gremlin Theater and Loomis armored car, they were forced to search for a new home. That process started in May 2014, with something over three dozen possible properties investigated before finding their new location in the St. Anthony Park area. As of early April, TCAC will be in operation at 2382 Hampden Ave., at the corner of Raymond St. and above the Hampden Park Co-op.

Watch their website, tcaikido.com, for schedule information.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before Mar. 2 for the Mar. 12 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

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

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LANDSCAPING

Conservation Leadership Awards announced

Two local connections were recognized by The Trust for Public Land (TTPL) at its 7th annual Conservation Leadership Awards Feb. 4. The awards recognize outstanding support for the conservation of Minnesota's special places, from city parks to wilderness areas.

Local award winners were the Frogtown Farm Board of Directors and 4th Ward St. Paul Councilmember Russ Stark.

"These awards recognize leaders who do the hard work of keeping Minnesota special," said Susan Schmidt, TTPL's Minnesota state director. "Conservation leaders sometimes don't always get the recognition they deserve, and that's why we created these annual awards."

The Frogtown Farm Board of Directors was recognized for creating and implementing the vision for a new city park with a 5.5 acre urban farm demonstration project as one component in the heart of the Frogtown neighborhood in Saint Paul. The City of Saint Paul, Frogtown Farm and TTPL will be hosting a grand opening event for the park in the fall of 2015, and farm activity is projected to begin in spring 2016. Soyini Guyton, Frogtown Farm Board Chair, received the award on behalf of Frogtown Farm, a community-based organization dedicated to social equity, justice and interconnectedness.

Russ Stark, a member of the St. Paul City Council representing Ward 4, was recognized for his work in maximizing the Green Line Light Rail Transit benefit to the region. As a city councilmember,

and as a past nonprofit leader, Stark has worked tirelessly to promote better transportation and land use options for neighborhoods bordering University Ave. Stark was a key participant in TTPL-led collaborative "Greening the Green Line". <http://www.tpl.org/ourwork/parks-for-people/green-line-parks-and-commons>.

Other award winners were: Bill Becker, outgoing Executive Director of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC); Phyllis Kahn, a member of the

Minnesota House of Representatives representing Minneapolis; Craig Koester, Academic Dean at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul and a Lutheran pastor; and Carrie Rudd, a member of the Minnesota Senate representing Aitkin and Crow Wing counties.

"These individuals, and those who support them, are ensuring that Minnesotans continue to enjoy beautiful places to gather, play, work, hunt, fish and enjoy nature," said Schmidt. "Minnesota is so fortunate to have such amazing conservation leaders."



(L to R) Frogtown Farm members Jay Bell (Board), Eartha Bell (Executive Director), Norma Roberts-Hakizimana (Board), Soyini Guyton (Board Chair), Caty Royce (Board Vice Chair), Ryan Ellis (Board Secretary) and seitu jones (Board).



(L to R) John Herman (TPL MN Advisory Board), Susan Schmidt (TPL MN State Director), Glen Skovholt (TPL MN Advisory Board), Councilmember Russ Stark, Kathleen Anglo (City of St. Paul Landscape Architect), Jody Martinez (City of St. Paul, Parks and Rec Department), and Steve Christenson (TPL MN Advisory Board).

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Central student completes semester in elite science program

St. Paul Central High School sophomore Greta Mundt, recently completed the fall semester at Coastal Studies for Girls (CSG) in Freeport, Maine. Coastal Studies for Girls is a Semester School for 10th grade girls that features an integrated marine science and leadership curriculum based on fieldwork and experiential place-based learning.

While at CSG, Mundt completed a scientific research project examining the content of microplastics in household washing machine wastewater. CSG students have been conducting experiments analyzing elements of microplastic pollution in the Freeport marine ecosystems for several years.

Mundt and her team presented their research results in a public forum held at Bowdoin College in November. The science presentation was live streamed to viewers across the globe.

In addition to producing original marine research, Mundt also completed a semester-long leadership course, earned credits in literature, history, math and foreign language and traveled with her classmates on a 10-day expedition along the Maine coast and islands.

Each semester, CSG accepts only 15 girls from across the country to live in the school's farmhouse on the shores of Casco Bay. Mundt is the second student from St. Paul Central High School to attend the Coastal Studies for Girls Semester School.

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Rail crossing

Continued from page 1

7 trains carry oil daily

In all, 10 trains leave the Bakken oil fields each day. Currently, two travel to the west coast and eight come through Minnesota. Projections before the recent slowdown at the North Dakota oil fields was that those numbers would rise to between 12 and 15 trains a day, but those plans are on hold.

Those eight trains enter Minnesota through Moorhead (which is currently working to eliminate all at-grade crossings in its downtown). Then one travels south through Willmar and Pipestone to deliver the crude oil to the Gulf. Of the remaining 7, six are Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF) trains and one is Canadian Pacific (CP). The CP train takes a different route into St. Paul, traveling through Plymouth instead of Anoka, but then hops on the BNSF double-track line that brings it through Como along with

BNSF's six trains that carry about 3 million gallons of crude oil each.

Can the trains be rerouted around the Twin Cities?

No, according to Christianson. "There are no other thorough tracks left of high quality," he explained. "All trains come here and leave here."

The cost to construct new tracks ranges from \$2 to 5 million a mile. To bypass the Twin Cities, about 60 miles would need to be built at a cost of \$120 to \$300 million. On top of that would be the cost to hook up the 12 routes that come into the Twin Cities.

The risk to residents

The most common question Christian receives is: "How much are we at risk?"

His answer? There has been one accident in Minnesota in the last two years. There have been five in other places, including the fire that destroyed downtown Lac Megantic in Quebec and claimed 47 lives. The odds are high nothing will happen, "but at the same time there is always that chance

and that's what we're worried about," said Christianson.

One of the big problems with this type of crude oil is how unstable it is and how hot the fire burns when it erupts.

"The Bakken crude oil is light and extremely volatile," said Christianson.

Treating it is like fighting a tire fire, observed Christianson. Instead of burning out within a few minutes, it takes hours. Emergency personnel handle it by evacuating an area within a half-mile radius of the fires.

In comparison, ethanol, which is also transported by rail through St. Paul at the rate of one train a day, has a low flash point. Because of that and its other characteristics, it can be treated with simple water. In the last 15 years of ethanol production in Minnesota, there has not been a single fatality or major injury associated with it.

New safety improvements

"The railroads are the safest they have been in the last 50 years, yet all you need is one incident and all bets are off," remarked Christianson.

There have been several recent safety improvements. Last year train speed in major cities was reduced from 50 to 40 miles per hour.

The federal government is currently working on new guidelines to upgrade all existing tank cars that carry crude oil as they have been deemed insufficient for this use. However, it will take three years to replace the cars once the laws are written.

Additionally, as of Apr. 1, North Dakota is requiring that the

Railroads today

There are currently 4,400 miles of track in Minnesota, down by half from what it once was. Although 80% of hauling in the United States is done by truck, it is more efficient to transport crude oil via rail, pointed out Christianson. Rail offers more flexibility to the refineries on the coasts and the Gulf.

The railroads were declining prior to 1980 and so the federal government passed an act that deregulated the railroads. Within 15 years the number of railroads in the country dropped from 60 to seven, and they had returned to profitability, "They basically became land barges," observed Christianson.

It takes 30 to 45 days for a truck to load, get to its destination and return for a new load. A train cuts that down to 12 days.

Because trains journey across state lines, they are categorized as interstate commerce and are regulated by the federal government rather than individual states. Three agencies govern the railroads: the Federal Railroad Association (safety), Surface Transportation Board (disputes, mergers, and abandonments), and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Railroads have the power of eminent domain. As common carriers, they can't choose what they carry in their cars but must transport whatever they are paid to move.

1 in 7 barrels comes from Bakken

The first oil came out of the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota in 2000. Before that the oil was considered unrecoverable, pointed out Christianson.

It is now producing 1.2 million barrels a day. One of every seven barrels produced in the United States comes from Bakken. It is the second largest oil field in the U.S. and stretches out over one-quarter of North Dakota.

Only one-fifth of the wells have been drilled.

While new drilling has slowed down in response to lower crude oil prices in the Middle East, they are still drilling at three-quarter their previous rate. They're just not finishing the wells, remarked Christianson. This means that if oil prices rise again, they'll be able to come back online quickly.

While some of the crude oil from Bakken is transported via pipeline, it only has capacity for one-third to one-half of production over the next 10 years.



Community residents gathered Feb. 2 to learn more about the trains traveling through their neighborhood that carry Bakken crude oil. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

crude oil go through a gas separator and then be treated so that it is not as flammable to transport.

tee will discuss this issue next at its Mar. 2 meeting. Chair Kim Moon anticipates having a discussion with local fire fighters and police to learn more about how ready they are for an emergency at the tracks.

Learn more Mar. 2

The District 10 Land Use Commit-

Upcoming musical events at Hamline University

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

South of the Border: Traditions

Carnival Brazil features Batucada del Norte and Choro Borealis.

Time: Pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12 adults, \$8 students, \$5 ACTC students. Tickets also available at brownpapertickets.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Minneapolis Guitar Quartet

This world-renowned guitar quartet has commissioned two new pieces. The Flamenco-based performance will feature dancer Colette Illarde.

Time: 3 p.m.

Cost: \$20 adults, \$10 students

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Artaria String Quartet

"Music During War Time" (1940-1950), quartets by William Alwyn, Quincy Porter, and William Walton.

Time: 3 p.m.

Cost: \$17 adults, youth/students free

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

South of the Border: Traditions

Mariachi Mi Tierra, the Twin Cities' oldest mariachi ensemble, performs.

Time: Pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12 adults, \$8 students, \$5 ACTC students. Tickets also available at brownpapertickets.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel

"Bach, Beethoven, and ... Bartók!" features two chorale preludes by Bach, arranged by Busoni; Beethoven's Sonata in F Sharp, Op. 78; and Romanian Dances, Bagatelles, and a rondo by Bartók.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$28 adults, \$12 students

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For ticket information or to view the full concert calendar, visit hamline.edu/sundin, call 651-523-2459, or email sundinmusic@hamline.edu. Concert times are subject to change.

