



# monitor

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## 'Polar Bear Girl' represents Como Zoo at the Arctic

By JAN WILLMS

With instructions to e-mail them every day, Georgia Lucas' parents saw her off on Sept. 27 to Churchill, the "Polar Bear Capital of the World," in Manitoba, Canada.

The 16-year-old Hopkins junior had achieved a rare honor. She was one of a dozen students selected from four countries to participate in the Polar Bears International Leadership Camp in Churchill. Serving as the Como Zoo's Ambassador of the Arctic, she joins other students from Canada, Australia and England.

Lucas, who has volunteered at Como Zoo since 2005, first applied for the ambassadorship in January. Requirements are that the Ambassador be 16 years old and a regular participant in Como Zoo youth volunteer programs.

Lucas said she had been looking for a summer job a few years ago when her mother had attended an expo and found out about the "Nature Walk" volunteering program at Como Zoo. Lucas said teenagers 13 to 17

years old are in little carts around the zoo, telling visitors about the zoo and connections between humans, plants and animals.

Lucas said the volunteering provides a good learning experience, talking to small children so they can understand and at the same time keeping their parents interested.

She and five other Como Zoo volunteers applied for the Ambassador of the Arctic position. They had to write a paper, give a presentation and be interviewed by Zoo administration members and a representative from Polar Bear International, which sponsors the competition.

"We had to pick an important issue in the country to write about," Lucas said. She chose the over-population of deer in Minnesota. During the presentation, applicants talked about what they think a good Ambassador needs to do.

"During the interview, we talked a lot about our experience at the zoo and how we would deal with someone who has a

very differing opinion on global warmth evolution, for example," Lucas said. "Sometimes people can be rude, and teens don't always have the best reputation, either. It can sometimes be an uphill battle talking to adults."

She said that during the trip to Churchill, which will last six days, she and other zoo ambassadors will be watching and giving presentations about issues facing the Arctic and facing polar bears.

"We'll talk about a plan of action for when we return," she said, "and how we will get information to the public about various issues."

Lucas said she has always had a love for the zoo and animals.

"I watched a lot of Animal Planet when I was young and had many pets," she noted. "As a kid, I liked frogs and amphibians. Then for a while I was really into wolves."

Lucas found out she had been selected when she received a phone call this spring after finishing track practice.



Georgia Lucas was one of a dozen students selected from four countries to participate in the Polar Bears International Leadership Camp in Manitoba, Canada.

"I was surprised, especially because I knew the other people competing," she said. "I thought they really had their stuff together." Lucas said she felt happy, nervous and bad all at the same time, because although she really wanted to be the Ambassador, she was competing with her friends for the honor.

Although she has been up to Canada for fishing, she has never been as far north as Churchill and has never been out of the country without her parents.

This is the second year Como has sent a representative. Lucas said last year's winner was Sarah Davy, a Como High School student who also volunteered for the Nature Walk.

"She's real excited for me and has been helping me out, telling me what to pack," Lucas said.

She said Churchill has about 2,000 people and has temporary holding tanks for polar bears that come into the town and can't leave until the ice breaks up. Many polar bears move toward the shore from inland in the autumn.

Lucas has read "Effects of a Warming Arctic" in preparation for her stay there.

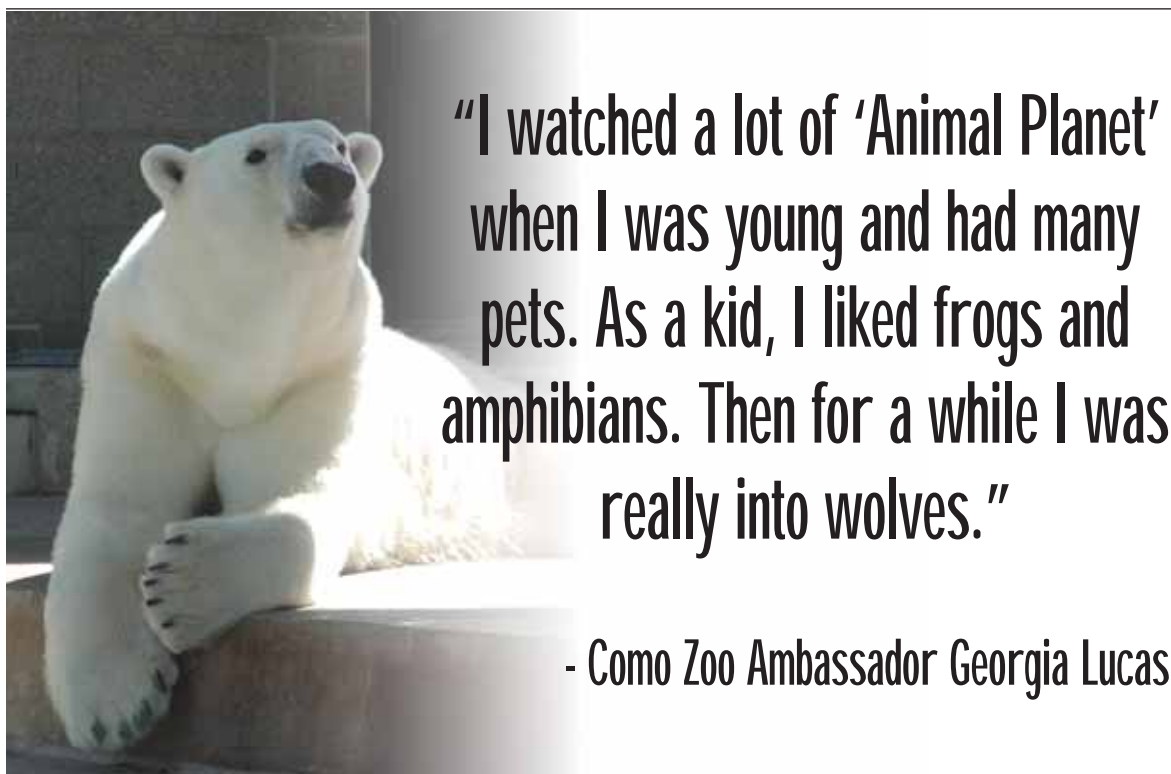
"We'll be talking about polar bears and harp seals that are at risk because of their dependence upon the ice," she said.

When not in school or volunteering, Lucas takes time to coach her little brother's soccer team and pursue her other interests, the study of Latin and enjoyment of old films.

"I like learning about animals, but I don't know what I am going to do for a career yet," she said.

Right now, she is eager about her trip.

"I don't know how I'm going to be able to top this," Lucas said. "I'm going to miss a whole week of school, but it's definitely worth it."



"I watched a lot of 'Animal Planet' when I was young and had many pets. As a kid, I liked frogs and amphibians. Then for a while I was really into wolves."

- Como Zoo Ambassador Georgia Lucas



# monitor

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## Monitor in a Minute

### Council squawks over chicken regulations

Regulatory changes that would make it easier and cheaper to keep chickens in St. Paul may not fly. Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark, who authored the changes, laid them over Sept. 9 when it became clear he lacked the four votes needed for passage.

The layover is for five weeks; the ordinance returns to the council Oct. 14. Stark may have to make changes to the ordinance or withdraw it entirely. If the ordinance is changed extensively, another public hearing will be required.

Some council members question whether the changes will make it easier for people to keep more chickens than allowed, to keep roosters or to have roosters engaged in cock-fighting. The city already prohibits residents from owning roosters. Cock-fighting is also prohibited.

St. Paul residents can already keep up to three chickens with a city permit that costs \$75 per year. They must first obtain signatures on a consent petition from neighbors before applying for the permit. The changes Stark proposed would eliminate the petition requirement and would reduce the chicken-keeping fee to \$25 per year.

Backyard chickens have become popular as pets and because people enjoy raising their own eggs and meat. Even though there is at least one organized chicken advocacy group, in Hamline-Midway neighbor-

hood, no one appeared at a Sept. 2 public hearing on the proposed changes. Council members said they were very surprised to hear nary a peep from the public, given the amount of interest the ordinance changes had raised.

At the Sept. 9 meeting, a few fake chickens did show up at City Hall. Someone left a rubber chicken at Stark's council chair. Ward Two Council Member Dave Thune, another chicken advocate, had a black and white chicken figurine at his chair.

### New Griggs St. Bridge now open over I-94

The new Griggs Street pedestrian/bicycle bridge crossing Interstate 94 in St. Paul is now open. The bridge opened in September, connecting neighborhoods north and south of the freeway. The bridge is heavily used by residents of Skyline Tower, Concordia University and users of Dunning Field.

Work on the new bridge between Lexington Avenue and Hamline Avenue began April 13 to replace the previous bridge that was removed in December due to structural problems.

The new bridge is a two-span structure with metal railings and a concrete barrier in the middle that will allow pedestrians and cyclists easy access across the freeway. The old bridge had sharp turns at both ends which made it difficult for bicyclists and persons with disabilities to use.

Additional painting and cleanup operations continued throughout September and required occasional temporary late

night lane closures on I-94 in both directions.

Griggs Bridge was built when the freeway was built in the 1960s. It is one of several pedestrian bridges in St. Paul. MnDOT and city officials would like to replace other bridges in the future, including the bridge west of Snelling Avenue.

The much-debated Dunning Field of Dreams got a final vote of approval Sept. 16 from the St. Paul City Council. The council voted unanimously to accept a \$124,590 grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund.

The grant will help pay for field lighting, irrigation, fencing, grading and seeding at Dunning. Work on the project got underway in late summer, with most of the work to be completed this fall.

No one appeared at a City Council public hearing Sept. 16 to speak for or against the project.

### Groups work to improve Dunning Field

The Dunning Boosters, Midway Baseball, Friends of St. Paul Baseball and other groups have worked for several months to make improvements to Dunning. They have raised money and worked with city staff to design the field.

The project has support from the Union Park District Council Parks and Recreation Committee and from the Lexington-Hamline Community Council neighborhood organization, Concordia University and Arts-Us, the organization that leases Dunning Recreation Center. But the field plans were opposed by some Lexington-Hamline neighborhood residents and the Union Park District Council.

Opponents contend that Dunning should be available for all types of community recreational use. Some of the strongest opposition came from Skyline Towers, which is just north of Dunning Park and Inter-

state 94. Skyline's immigrant residents have no green space of their own, and no place for pickup games of soccer and other sports. They were not mollified by city staff promises that there will be open recreation space at Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, where soccer games can be played. They also contend that Dunning will not have enough space for soccer after the fields are rebuilt.

Skyline residents access Dunning via the Griggs Bridge over I-94. The bridge was rebuilt this spring and summer, and opened for pedestrians and bicyclists last week.

In the spring the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommended approval of the project, saying it will meet unmet needs for baseball field space in the city. More than 1,000 youth play ball at Dunning.

Plans call for a youth baseball field near the Dunning Field-Dunning Recreation Center entrance at Griggs Street, a multi-use field at Syndicate and Marshall, refurbishing an existing practice field on Syndicate and adding trees, a walking path, a picnic pavilion and other features. Work would start this year and be completed by 2010. The Dunning Boosters and Midway Baseball have already been raising money for the project. No city dollars would be used for the field improvements. The \$266,890 project would be paid for with an MLB Baseball Tomorrow Fund grant as well as donations from current and former Minnesota Twins baseball stars Paul Molitor, Joe Maurer and Justin Morneau. Molitor and Maurer played at Dunning when they were youngsters, as did former Twin Dave Winfield. The city would donate \$18,500 in in-kind services and would continue to own the field. The Dunning Boosters would maintain the property as they maintain the fields and run the baseball programs now.

- Compiled by Jane McClure



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# Taste German culture at Oktoberfest October 10

Come and taste a bit of German culture on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at the 9th annual Saint Paul Oktoberfest! The family-oriented festivities are from noon until 11:00 p.m. on Rice Street between Rose and Geranium Avenues on the north end of Saint Paul. Admission to the event is free. For additional details, please check the website at [www.saintpauloktoberfest.org](http://www.saintpauloktoberfest.org).

Three German bands—DyVersaCo, Bavarian Musikmeisters and Alpensterne—will be performing on the main event stage. Patrons to Oktoberfest will also enjoy authentic German food and drink, with additional entertainment including folk dancers, carnival royalty, a K-9 Unit demonstration, and even a clown or two.

Other Oktoberfest events include Bed Races, Renewal of Wedding Vows, Dachshund Races, the Children's Area and a Teen Area, with bowling available. Details include:

- Bed Races at 3:00 p.m. – Our version of the original Oktoberfest horse races. Win and receive a cash prize for your favorite area organization. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m. To sign up a four to six-person team, please contact Randy Graff at [Randy.Graff@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Randy.Graff@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or at 651-558-2392.
- Renewal of Wedding Vows at 3:30 p.m. – Oktoberfest began in celebration of a wedding. To renew your wedding vows at the non-denominational ceremony, please pre-register by calling Deb Grosskopf at 612-377-5894.
- Dachshund Races at 4:00 p.m. – A popular event common at Oktoberfests around the world. The races will be held on the grassy lot near the corner of Rose Avenue and Albemarle Street. Advance registration of your dachshund is required, so please contact Tyrone Schenk at 612-275-7260.
- Children's Area – Free games will be available, the Teddy Bear Band will perform from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m., and a movie co-sponsored by

Comcast and the St. Paul Parks and Recreation will follow.

- Teen Activities – Guitar Hero and Dance Dance Revolution will be available in the Saint Bernard's Bowling lanes during the event.

ing the event.

- Saint Bernard's Bowling Lanes – The Lanes will be available to all Oktoberfest patrons for a small fee per game including shoe rental.

The first Oktoberfest was celebrated in Germany in 1810 with the wedding feast of Princess Therese and the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig. Oktoberfest is celebrated in Munich and around the United States each autumn.

The Saint Paul Oktoberfest is supported by a collaboration of the German American Heritage Foundation, North End and Saint Paul community organizations, and German heritage and cultural groups throughout Minnesota.


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# U of M files lawsuit against Met Council over LRT

By JANE MCCLURE

The University of Minnesota has taken its fears about the Central Corridor light rail line to court. The U of M filed suit against the Metropolitan Council Sept. 22 in Hennepin County District Court, raising red flags about electromagnetic fields and vibrations from light rail trains. The impact of train traffic on East Bank campus research facilities has long been a concern for U officials, despite efforts by light rail project staff to add mitigation measures. Both sides have indicated that they are continuing to negotiate.

Utilities relocation for the 11-mile light rail line began this summer in downtown St. Paul. Full construction is to start next year, with completion in 2014. The lawsuit isn't expected to stop the project but it could potentially add more costs and delays to the \$928 million project. Metropolitan Council officials have indicated that if there is even a one-year delay, it could add \$30 million to the project costs.

"This action is being taken because we are simply not far enough along in reaching a solution to the very real challenges this light rail line poses for the University of Minnesota's core research mission," said U of M President Robert Bruininks. "The

Board of Regents and I have a solemn responsibility to protect the university's core research mission, decades of public investment in research infrastructure and hundreds of millions of dollars in research grants brought into this state each year by faculty research in facilities that are at risk." There are 80 laboratory facilities in 17 buildings along or in close proximity to the proposed Washington Avenue stretch of the light rail line.

Metropolitan Council Chairman Peter Bell called the lawsuit "premature and without merit." In a statement, Bell said the U's concerns about project impacts on its research facilities and the mitigation plans were adequately addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), as required by federal and state law. He also indicated that university officials are seeking a level of detail that wouldn't be addressed in the project until later. Project officials are hoping for federal approval this fall to enter final design, and hope to complete design by mid-2010. Once

that work is done, federal funding to start full construction can be obtained.

The timing of the lawsuit is affected by Metropolitan Council's Aug. 26 approval of the FEIS. A statement from Bruininks said the U of M had 30 days in which to ap-

peal or lose its ability under state law to protect its interests. Court documents state that the rail project "may destroy the public's enormous investment in the university's research facilities." The lawsuit and Bruininks' statement note the variety of research being conducted at the U of M.

How to mitigate rail impacts on the university of Minnesota is a topic that has dominated planning for the light rail line, which will connect downtown St. Paul to downtown Minneapolis. Minnesota Public Radio also raised concerns about noise and vibrations.

U of M officials originally wanted a tunnel below Washington Avenue. When that proved to be too costly, the U pushed for a study of the "northern alignment," which would have taken the light rail line north of the main campus, through Dinkytown and along an existing rail corridor.

But that route was rejected for a number of reasons, including added travel delays and costs.

The decision to put light rail on Washington has come with a price of added mitigation measures, ranging from added track construction features to mitigate noise and vibration impacts to extensive plans to direct motor

vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic around the area. Washington is envisioned as a transit-pedestrian mall.

Bruininks added that the university has long been a supporter of the light rail project and is eager to reach agreement with the Metropolitan Council on scientifically effective mitigations so that the project can move forward. "But the consequences of not protecting our land grant university's research infrastructure along the Washington Avenue corridor from the adverse effects that could result if this public works project is not done right are just too great to risk."

"We have said on a number of occasions that our fundamental objective is to identify effective solutions, based on sound science, that will move this transit project forward while protecting our public research mission and resources from potentially serious degradation. It remains the university's goal to find these solutions. This lawsuit does not preclude us from continuing to sit down with our project partners and work through the remaining issues to find scientifically effective solutions that will protect our research mission," said Bruininks.



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# City looks to find off-street parking for Rice Street

By JANE MCCLURE

Redevelopment of Rice Street will mean finding enough off-street parking for new buildings, renovated buildings and buildings awaiting renovation. Then St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board Sept. 23, approved an Invest St. Paul business loan program and commercial corridor parking study and implementation plan.

One of the neighborhoods eyed for the funds is Rice Street, which is in an Invest St. Paul area. The \$900,000 budget amendment OK'd Sept. 23 is divided into \$500,000 for business loans and \$400,000 for commercial corridor building and parking studies and implementation. Rice Street business and property owners, as well as community groups, would like to use some of the funding to study parking needs, acquire property and develop off-street parking.

The intent would be to draw from a recently completed Payne Avenue parking study, to affect the use of vacant and occupied commercial buildings. Like Rice Street, Payne Avenue's commercial area dates from streetcar days. Many of the buildings have little or no off-street parking.

Tom Sanchez, who helps oversee Invest St. Paul for Planning and Economic Development (PED), said the studies of parking are estimated to cost \$60,000 to \$70,000 per study. If property is to be acquired for parking that would come back to the HRA for discussion and approval.

The funds would provide an important boost as the city has few resources devoted to commercial parking needs. The recent planning for Central Corridor light rail has forced businesses and city officials to cobble together funds from a number of sources, to pay for

parking improvements to existing lots and creation of new lots.

Rice Street has not had any shared commercial parking created since the 1980s.

The parking issue flared up last month when the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted 5-1 to grant a 32-space parking variance to Open Cities Health Center. The clinic is moving into a larger space, into what has been the Quality Furniture Store, 916 Rice St. The move requires Open Cities to have 32 off-street parking spaces. But none are available, requiring a 32-space variance.

Clinic Director Dorii Gbolo said the move to a larger space will help the clinic better meet its patient needs. The move will provide 15,000 square feet of space, about double what the clinic has now.

The building at 916 Rice St. is currently retail on the ground floor and apartments above. The clinic plans to use the upper-level space for storage. The building will be extensively renovated before the clinic moves in.

The clinic at the new location would actually require 61 off-street parking spaces. But when building uses change, city zoning staff factor in the previous use to determine the new variance.

The clinic had obtained a number of letters of support from North End businesses, community leaders and organizations, including North End Business Association and North End Community Foundation. The project also has a letter of support from Helgen. Had the BZA variance decision been appealed, that support would have precluded Helgen from voting on the appeal at the City Council level.

The variance is opposed by District 6 (North End-South Como) Planning Council and some neighbors who already deal with

spillover commercial parking. District council members know there is a need to address parking in the area, "and we don't feel variances are a good solution," said District 6 Director Kerri Antrim.

The clinic has been on Rice Street since 1973. Antrim said District 6 recognizes the importance of the clinic and its need for more space. But the issue is parking.

District 6 would like to see more done to find off-street parking for the clinic and for other Rice Street area businesses. When the Winnipeg mixed-use development was built to the south, that building was granted a 54-space parking variance. Antrim said the concern is for the cumulative effect of granting multiple variances in one

area, without planning for the total area parking needs.

Another pending redevelopment site is the former Caron-Fabre store, just a few blocks to the south. Efforts to redevelop the historic building have stalled in a slow economy. But when a new use is found for that building, it, too, will likely need more off-street parking, Antrim said.

Gbolo said Open Cities has continued to discuss parking needs with Sparc and with other area businesses. She said the clinic is willing to find ways to address parking issues, such as off-site employee parking. The clinic will maintain its current location at Rice and Manitoba for dental services through 2012; that building

does have some off-street parking that can be shared with the new building.

BZA members laid over their initial vote on the Open Cities variances to give the clinic time to seek more off-street parking, voting approval Sept. 21 when the board saw progress in that area and got its questions answered on the parking issues.

"I think this is a large variance and it would help if they could get more parking," said BZA Chair Joyce Maddox. The BZA also asked for more information on how many clients drive to the clinic, how many walk or take public transportation and how many use the clinic's own transportation van.

## Halloween Spooktacular event to help fund a seizure alert dog for grandchild

Halloween has always been a favorite of Karen Ueland. When her kids got too old to trick or treat, she started decorating her yard and each year made it bigger and better. After her husband made a 10x12 playhouse for her daycare kids, she started to dress up and have the kids Trick or Treat in the back yard. Each year she makes a few changes and adds to her vast collection of decorations.

Karen is a mother of four grown children and grandmother of four. Her oldest grand child Kylie Gibbons (age 5) suffers from a rare genetic disease called Tuberous Sclerosis. Kylie has lesions and a tumor in her brain and suffers from uncontrolled seizures. She is also developmentally delayed and is the light of her grandma's life. Kylie's parents have been strong volunteers and have risen over \$100,000 for the TS Alliance over the years since her diagnosis. A charity Golf Tournament is held in her name and they chair the annual Step Forward to Cure TSC. All

the money they have raised over the years goes directly to the charity to help raise awareness and find a cure for the disease. In fact they were awarded Volunteers of the Year for the TS Alliance Midwest Chapter.

They have been checking into the possibility of obtaining a seizure alert dog for Kylie. Kylie frequently has seizures during the night, and her parents are afraid to let her sleep in her own room. They know of other children who have died from prolonged seizures during the night. They are hoping that a seizure alert dog will sleep with Kylie and alert them when she has a seizure, especially at night. They checked locally but no one in Minnesota trains dogs for this purpose. Midwest Assistance Dogs in South Bend Indiana has had success training seizure alert dogs for children. The cost of a seizure alert dog is \$6,000 plus the cost of the trip and training in Indiana. Maria, (Kylie's mom) didn't feel comfortable asking

people to give again, even though they have never benefited directly from the fundraising they do. Karen decided she could help raise funds for the dog by holding a Halloween party during the day of Halloween and charging admission. She plans to add more decorations this year (a giant spider web, Dracula's Castle, and pirate ship) there will be carnival games, prizes, and treats. The event will be held Halloween Day from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Location of the event is 801 Lakeview Ave. Children are encouraged to come in Costume. Admission is \$5.00 per person and all proceeds will go to help pay for the seizure dog. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance. For further information please call or e-mail, Karen Ueland at 651-488-3262 or e-mail at klu@aol.com. Kylie's caringbridge site, www.caringbridge.org/mn/kylie and a website has been created for the event at www.halloweenspooktacularmvevent.com

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# LETTERS

## Instant Run off Voting a simple choice

When you go to the polls on Nov. 3, you'll have a chance to change the way we elect candidates in Saint Paul. It's called "Instant Run off Voting" (IRV) or "ranked choice voting." It's really very simple.

Minneapolis will be the first city in Minnesota to use IRV in the upcoming election. Under IRV, instead of simply voting for your first choice candidate, you also get to rank your second and third choices. If your first choice candidate doesn't receive a majority of the votes, your vote will count toward your second and third choice candidates until there is a majority winner.

In Saint Paul, instead of voting in a primary for mayor and city council, you would vote in the general election and rank your choices, toward the selection of a majority winner.

Last month, only five percent of eligible voters showed up to vote in the primary election. It hurts our electoral process to have such a small number of voters determine our choices in November. Under IRV, voters would be able to rank all their candidate choices during the general election, ensuring that the most voters were casting their votes for the greatest number of candidates.

Our system is broken when voters feel forced to choose from the lesser of two evils. Under IRV, by allowing voters to rank their choices, they can vote for their favorite candidate and rank the rest accordingly. Voters concerned about splitting the vote between

the progressive and conservative candidates in one party, can rank those choices without giving an advantage to the other party.

Political leaders as diverse as President Barack Obama and Senator John McCain support IRV because it will help to revitalize our electoral process, increase turnout, expand choices and empower voters. Please join me in voting for IRV on Nov. 3.

Ellen Anderson  
State Senator  
District 66

## Another supporter of Instant Run off Voting

This fall, I am supporting IRV (Instant Runoff Voting) for St. Paul elections. My reasons for supporting this voting reform are simple. First, IRV is an efficient method that puts the primary and general election on the same ballot. Second, IRV lets me rank my candidate choices so I never "waste" or "spoil" when I vote my conscience. And third, IRV smartens-up elections for voters because candidates cannot mudsling and divide if they wish to win.

IRV is an incredibly easy, widely-used, and modern voting method. So take a moment to visit the campaign's website (betterballotcampaign.org) or attend a local house party to see it in action. I bet you'll agree it's time for a change from politics as usual; vote yes for IRV on the ballot!

Amy Brendmoen  
Como neighborhood

## Encouraging a vote 'Yes'

This November, St. Paul voters have a chance to decide if we will use instant runoff voting for future elections for Mayor and City Council. I encourage you to vote "yes," and help usher in a new system of elections in St. Paul. I support instant run-off (also known as ranked choice) voting for St. Paul City elections for two simple reasons.

With instant runoff voting, we would eliminate the September primary and have an "instant runoff" election in November, when voter turnout is typically higher. This means that more people will participate in the key (and only) step in the process.

The second reason I support instant runoff voting is that I believe it will encourage more good people to run for local office. This system allows voters to rank the candidates in the order in which they prefer them, allowing voters to "vote their conscience" without feeling like that vote will be "wasted" if their candidate of choice seems unlikely to win. I think this will reduce the perception that only one or two candidates have a real chance of winning. With more good candidates to choose from, chances are even more voters will participate in local elections.

Vote yes for instant runoff voting in November.

Russ Stark  
Ward 4 City Council

## Fall events at the Hamline Midway Library

Enjoy readings by local authors, celebrate Teen Read Week, get spooked and more at the Hamline Midway Library this month!

Join us for the first installment of the local author series, Neighborhood Voices! Minnesota Book Award nominated poet, Katrina Vandenberg and fiction writer John Reimringer will read from their works on Thursday, October 8 at 7 p.m. Hosted by the Hamline Midway Library Association.

Come to our Fire Department Storytime on Friday, Octo-

ber 16th at 10:30 a.m. to meet our fire department friend!

Celebrate Teen Read Week at the library! On Thursday, October 22 from 3-4:30 p.m., teens can make creepy, crawly, scary foods sure to delight the most macabre senses at Treats Not Tricks. On Friday, October 23 from 3-4:30 p.m., make Creepy Crafts sure to fright and delight.

The Mighty Midway Storytellers will present a special storytime on Tuesday, October 27th at 6 p.m. Bring your kids to experience the joys of read-

ing!

On Thursday, October 29th at 7 p.m. author Catherine Friend will discuss her personal farming and livestock journey in her award-winning book *The Compassionate Carnivore: Or, How to Keep Animals Happy, Save Old MacDonald's Farm, Reduce Your Hoofprint, and Still Eat Meat*. A Minnesota Book Award Winners Program sponsored by the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## 'The Circus Moves by Rail' show coming to Bandana Square

Come one come all to "The Circus Moves by Rail" at Bandana Square, October 10 and 11. Zellmar Bros Ring 80 of Circus Model Builders Inc announces a fantastic weekend of circus models in conjunction with The Twin City Model Railroad Museum.

Circus Model Builders Inc is an international group dedicated to preserving circus thru models of various shows both present and past in miniature. Zellmar Bros Ring 80 is a group of members from Minnesota that show together as often as possible in the area. Many of the members have shown their models around the country and for hundreds of thousands of people! "The Circus Moves by Rail" Show will feature modelers from around the Midwest with modelers coming from Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota.

Come see hundreds of elephant, horses, lions, tigers and bears all in miniature displayed for your pleasure. See many of the famous circus acts from the past all in different scales from 1/8th inch = a foot to 1 inch = a foot. See a colorful cavalcade of

clowns cavorting, performers decked out in costumes and of course the colossal parade wagons rolling down the streets of Small Town USA! All this and more in miniature!!!! This event promises to be a kaleidoscope of color and wonder for ages from 1 to 101!

The show will take place at historic Bandana Square, 1021 Bandana Boulevard East, Saint Paul, Minnesota, the home TCMRM's O Scale Railroad layout located on the 2nd floor in Suite 222. Bandana Square was constructed in 1885 and once housed a Northern Pacific Railway repair shop. Directions to Bandana Square can be found on the TCMRM web site, [www.tcmrm.org](http://www.tcmrm.org). Admission to this special show will be included in the Museum's normal admission price of \$6 per person, children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

For information about this event you may contact Chris Grieder from the Circus Model Builders group at 612-619-0444 or by email at [christophergrieder@yahoo.com](mailto:christophergrieder@yahoo.com).

## Interactive Storytime at Hamline Midway Library

The Mighty Midway Storytellers will present a themed, interactive storytime for toddlers and preschoolers at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 27 at the Hamline Midway Library near the intersection of Minnehaha and Snelling streets.

Celebrating autumn by reading stories and singing songs. Followed by an art activity to make your own autumn leaf placemat. All ages welcome!

The storytellers present the themed story time at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month.

The Mighty Midway Storytellers group is only a four-month-old group, headed by Erin Sutton who received a grant from the Hamline-Midway LIS-Ten program. She heads up an interactive story hour the last Tuesday of each month (different readers each time) to build awareness of the Hamline Midway Library and to bring in kids for the other, twice-weekly story hours. The interactive story hour will be held the last Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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# Local boy earns scholarship to Central Lutheran School

By KAREN TRUDEAU

A few weeks ago Isaac Harris came home to find his mother crying on the phone. This caused the sixth-grader concern until Fran Harris explained through her happy tears that his school tuition had been paid through a full scholarship. The son of Ken and Fran Harris of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood, Isaac attends Central Lutheran School, located at 775 North Lexington Parkway.

Fortunately this young student isn't the only one eligible for financial help. At a time when public and parochial schools alike struggle with budgets, CLS has just recently received a \$1.25 million endowment for scholarships. The gift comes from William R. Jayson, of Center City, who died in May at the age of 87.

Principal Bob Kuhlman explained why Jayson presented this generous gift to the small Lutheran School. As a boy, Jayson had been granted a full scholarship to Trinity Lutheran School (1858-1942) which was

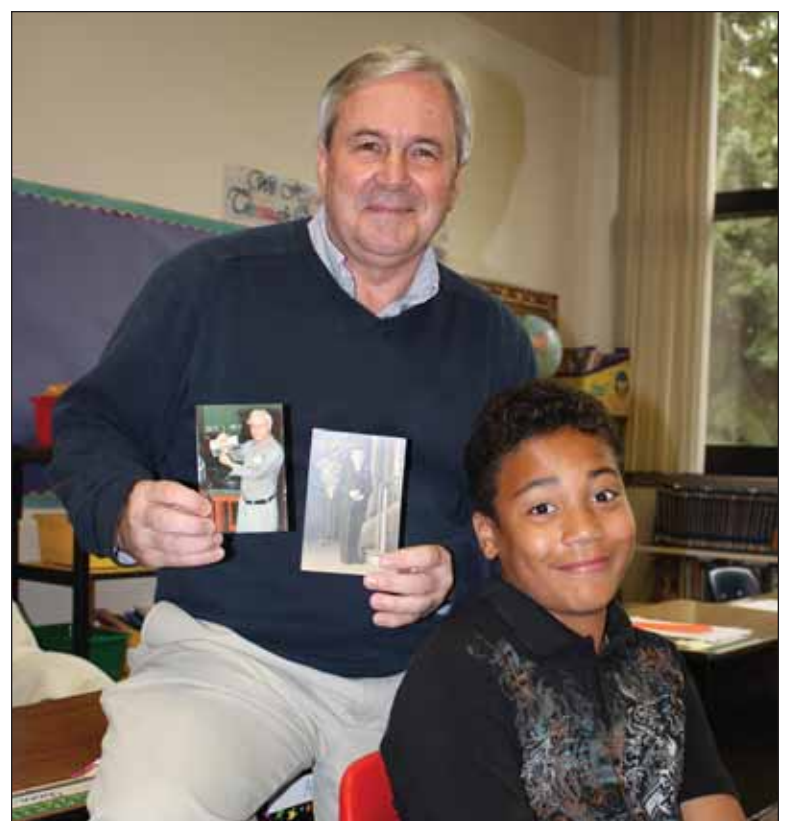
located near downtown St. Paul. In 1951, CLS was founded as a descendant school of Trinity and carried on teaching philosophy, which is why Jayson chose to will his money to Central. CLS offers a pre-school program as well as educating kindergarten through 8th grade. Enrollment presently stands at about 220 students.

Principal Kuhlman said Jayson's gift was nothing short of phenomenal. "This means funds are available for kids in the neighborhood to come here. It helps provide a foundation for the future, a solid foundation to build our programs. We do have a scholarship program, but this helps guarantee it for the future. That is not to say that we don't still require support, but this gift is a nice addition. Jayson turned out to be a blessing to this school. We are now ready to begin issuing scholarships from his endowment. They will be based upon need."

The principal went on to discuss 'money-problems' affecting many parochial schools. "How do you supply Christ-cen-

tered, quality education for families in our area? There were five Lutheran schools that closed in the Twin Cities during this past year. It shows the challenges we are facing, but Jayson's legacy will help this school meet these challenges."

Ironical that Jayson has eased 'challenges' for parochial students, because during his own childhood, this person faced so many burdens. And, though decades separated their school years, young Bill Jayson and student Isaac Harris had something in common—hardship. While Isaac's father suffered a stroke this past year; Jayson's father died when his son was young. His mother made a living for the two by cleaning houses. But times improved for young 'Bill' once he began attending Trinity, according to JoAnn Boudin who had been both Jayson's friend and his accountant. "Based on need, the school waived tuition for Bill through 8th grade. He always remembered that. He was always impressed, not just with the education, but also the moral values



At a time when public and parochial schools alike struggle with budgets, the Midway's own Central Lutheran School has just recently received a \$1.25 million endowment for scholarships. Principal Bob Kuhlman explains that the gift, from recently deceased William R. Jayson, is nothing short of phenomenal. Isaac Harris, who lives across the street from Central Lutheran School, attends the school on a full scholarship. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

he was taught; and Bill always wanted to give that back"

A local cousin of Jayson's

confirmed Boudin's assessment, "He wanted all of his money to go to kids' education, so they would have the same chance he had. The scholarship Bill had received and going to Trinity meant that much to him."

Sadly, Jayson did not fare quite so well in public high school, he actually quit before graduating. Still Jayson found work as a mechanic for Northwest Airlines, where he discovered his love of airplanes and flying them, according to Boudin. While living on his hobby farm near Center City, Jayson even managed to rebuild an old airplane.

This avid flyer took his cousin up once to show her how her property appeared from the sky. (This relative requested to remain anonymous, but agreed to an interview in her home.) "When we were in the air, Bill joked with me saying 'maybe we should try some stalls or spins', but I declined, 'I wasn't ready for that.'" Coincidentally, a small plane happened to fly over the neighborhood just as the woman reminisced. With her dining room windows open, the hum of the engine was easy to hear, and it coaxed a smile. "That made me think of Billy."

However Boudin attested that other than flying, Jayson spent little on himself, "He lived modestly and made sound investments." His last couple of years were spent at a retirement home in North Branch. And when he died this past spring, the former blue collar worker's 'frugal living and good investments' added up to an amount to which sizably increased Central Lutheran's scholarship fund.

Students such as Isaac Harris benefit. And at the end of classes one day, Isaac took the time to tell about his school. Though all suited up for soccer practice, Isaac was not in any particular hurry. Instead, he smiled and described his first days at CLS when he was a 3rd grader transferring from another school. "Everyone was friendly. Kids just

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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# Albany residents "Paint the Pavement"

By LAURA OYEN

On a lovely Saturday in September neighbors on the 1400 block of Albany Avenue got together to create art and meet their neighbors. According to Jeanne Baumann, "We became a closer community, we grew to know each other better, we worked successfully on a project together, and we created a public space of art and recreation, we've slowed down a few cars—all the aims of the Paint the Pavement program."

What does it take to get a project like this done? What started the wheels moving on this idea? It all started back in March of this year when Ms. Baumann saw a district notice for an information session on "Paint the Pavement." She e-mailed her fellow neighbors and got enough interested feedback that she decided to attend the meeting. Follow-up e-mails ensued and by May they had a core group of people to be the organizing committee.

An amazing amount of planning took place. E-mails were circulated; neighbor approvals were needed, first to paint the street and second to close the street for the day's activity. Neighbors went door to door, petitions were signed and new relationships were formed. A contest was created to determine the design that would be painted on the block. In July an ice cream social was



On a lovely Saturday in September neighbors on the 1400 block of Albany Avenue got together to create art and meet their neighbors.

hosted to determine the winning design. A neighborhood daycare made posters and put them up all along the block to remind people to check out the designs and come to the social. Over 45 neighbors came for ice cream and voted for the winning design called "Mighty Oak" which was based on a Pennsylvania Dutch design.

On the day of the event it seemed like "the whole block showed up for the event!" according to neighbors. The organizing committee was there early wearing their special t-shirts donated by a local business, UBP Ideas.

kids who laughed and pointed to the "big machine" going up and down the street. There were jobs for everyone! Paint mixers, photographers and videographers, design layout teams, an emergency shopper, paint distributors, pattern piece makers, and most of all PAINTERS!

Throughout the day the layers of design were added. First, a perfect circle of special white street paint was put down for the base. Various patterns were traced. Core design colors were mixed and added to the template. Up and down the street families added small murals in front of their homes that used the same pattern pieces and colors that went into creating the master design. Lunch was had as neighbors looked on from shaded canopies as the work progressed. By the end of a very long day final touch-

es were added that included free hand painting of veins on the leaves, group pictures being taken with the finished product and a final pot luck dinner.

According to Ms. Baumann, "everyone who took part seemed to relish in the accomplishment and the kids have been playing together and riding their bikes around the circle of the design since Painting Day!" Another neighbor commented on an added bonus of the design, "we didn't plan it this way, but the design is located under a street light. At night there is a warm reflecting glow from our street art that really gives you a special feeling as you gaze upon it."

For information on how you can organize your own "Paint the Pavement" community art check out their website at [www.paintthepavement.org](http://www.paintthepavement.org).

The street had been cleaned by the city the day before much to the delight of the local daycare



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# In Our Community

## Barn dances held at Hamline Church

Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave., will host Community Barn Dances on three Friday nights: October 16, November 13 and December 4.

These family-friendly events feature a three-piece Appalachian string band. Robin, the dance caller, teaches all the dances. Suggested donation is \$5/person or \$15/family.

Dancing is from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at 651-645-0667 or check out the Friends & Fellowship page at [www.hamlinechurch.org](http://www.hamlinechurch.org).

## 'Women at War' performed at HU Nov. 11

Although she won't be there to see it, the late Fran Ford's most recent play, "Women at War," will finally have its opening at Sundin Hall on the Hamline University Campus at 7 p.m., Nov. 11.

Ford, who died May 8, 2008, after a tough battle with cancer, wrote the remaining segments of the play from her hospital bed.

The nonprofit group she founded, War Plays Project, Inc., made a decision to get Ford's play produced and presented to an audience.

The play depicts violence against women in the military and is directed by Esther Ouray, who is on the staff of Heart of the Beast Theater.

Ford, a well known actress in the Twin Cities, had written and produced other war-related plays in recent years. She presented "Letters To, Letters From, Letters Never Written," a history of letters exchanged between soldiers and their families throughout numerous wars and campaigns.

Ford also interviewed veterans from recent wars and conflicts, getting their stories on video.

"Women at War" will also be presented at the chapel on the Macalester campus at 7 p.m. on Nov. 13. There is no admission charge.

## Book Fair planned October 17 at Knox

Knox Church, 1536 W. Minnehaha Ave., will hold a book fair on Saturday, October 17th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Books of all kinds will be for sale, fiction, non-fiction, hobbies, cooking, kids books. Movies and music. Make and take crafts for adults and kids.

Also, bake sale and Sloppy Joe lunch served from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. Donations of books,

music and movies will be gratefully accepted through Wednesday, Oct 14th. 651-645-6488, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. weekdays.

## Hamline University invites neighbors for digs

Hamline University would like to invite Midway neighbors to join us for two community archaeology digs on campus and at the Hamline United Methodist Church in October. The digs are part of the Hamline Village History Project, an ongoing collaborative community research project focused on the early history of the Hamline neighborhood. The project is a loose affiliation of people and organizations, including the Hamline-Midway History Corp, Hamline University, and a variety of local history enthusiasts, genealogists, and architectural historians.

There will be two dig dates that are open to the community: Saturday, October 10 and 17 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information on the project visit: <http://olddirt.wordpress.com/hamline-village-history-project/Questions?Contact=bhoffman@hamline.edu>

## Reducing harmful chemicals discussed

"Reducing Harmful Household Chemicals" will be the topic at a luncheon for seniors on October 13 beginning at 11:30 at 1415 Englewood Avenue (lower level, Hamline Methodist Church). Attendees will learn the basics about using hazardous products safely and how to properly store and dispose of them, and have the opportunity to sign up for a free home assessment. A free will donation is asked for the meal. On November 10, luncheon attendees will be entertained by the Norwich Singers and hear from two veterans. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations or request free transportation for the event or for medical appointments.

Hamline Midway seniors may call the office of HM Elders 651-209-6542 to determine their eligibility about receiving a monthly food box through Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS). NAPS is a supplemental food and nutrition program designed to provide healthy and nutritious food products each month at no cost to eligible individuals.

## Turkey Bingo at St. Columba November 14

Save the date and your appetite for Turkey Bingo, Saturday Nov.

14, at St. Columba Church, 1330 Blair Ave. Adult tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and include a Turkey Buffet Dinner with Beverage plus 2 Bingo Cards for each game. Bingo play runs about 2 hours with chances to win turkeys as well as special prizes and drawings. Doors open after mass at 5:30 p.m. with Dinner and Bingo starting at 6:30 p.m. For more info or tickets call 651-646-4419 or Email us at [madradish@comcast.net](mailto:madradish@comcast.net). Join us for the fun-there's plenty of good laughs to go around.

## St. Paul Arts Crawl coming soon

Please join award-winning artists Linda Bryan, Dan Makerman, Chuck Solberg, Linda Crouch, Karlyn Eckman and others in the Chittenden and Eastman Building (2402 University Avenue West, Saint Paul) for the Saint Paul Art Crawl. Artists on the 5th floor of the building will open their studio doors to display new works.

Crawl hours are: Friday October 9 from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday, October 10 from noon to 8 p.m., Sunday, October 11 from noon to 5 p.m.

The annual Arts @ 2402 open studios and sale will take place this year in the Chittenden and Eastman Building (2402 University Avenue West). This event is held each year on the weekend before Thanksgiving. Twenty-five local artists known as the "Masters of the Midway" will open their studio doors, offer refreshments, and be available to talk about their work. The 2402 artists have created a common gallery on the main floor, where artists will display samples of their work together. Many local businesses co-sponsor this event. Artworks includes pottery, paintings, textile art, sculpture, environmental works, urns, jewelry, and much much more. Dates and times are:

Friday, November 20 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For photos and more information, check out <http://artat2402.blogspot.com>

## Local La Leche League meets October 13

The next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche League will be on Tuesday, October 13 at 7pm. Current and expectant mothers

with their babies and toddlers are invited to attend. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

## Bethlehem holds Collectable Fair Oct. 24

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be holding their Craft & Collectable Fair on Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us for lunch, bake sale & baking & eating nuts. Raffle (Drawing at 3:30 - need not be present to win) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 N Roy St.

## October activities at Rice St. Library

The Rice Street Branch Library has many fun and exciting programs planned for October. Please stop in and join us!

The Collector's Corner Neighborhood Trading Post will have its Grand Opening on Saturday Oct 24 from 1-4 pm. Bring a tradable natural object to the library and volunteers from the Science Museum of Minnesota will help you learn more about it.

Family story times will be offered on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10:30-11:00 and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00-7:30. Join Rice Street's storytelling experts for stories, finger plays, rhymes, and songs. All ages welcome.

Teen Time will be offered Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00. Join us for a rotating roster of activities each Wednesday! Board games, video games, & crafts are just a few of the activities teens can do.

The Runescape Club will meet on Thursdays from 3:30-5:00. Each week it's nothin' but Runescape. Bring your friends!

Free Family Friendly Movie Matinees will be shown every Saturday at 2:00. Please stop in or call the library at 651-558-2223 to learn which movie will be shown each week.

The North End Book Club will discuss False Impression by Jeffrey Archer on Monday October 26, from 12:45-2:30. For more information or to register, please call Sandy at 651-293-8733. This group is also offered in partnership with the Community Education Senior Program.

Computer classes are offered on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10:15-12:15. For more information or to register, please call Sandy at 651-293-8733. Classes are offered in partnership with the Community Education Senior Program.

Free Job Search Assistance will be offered on Fridays from 10:30-12:30. A job consultant from Goodwill-Easter Seals

## 'Two Bowls of Cereal . . .' presented at Jehovah

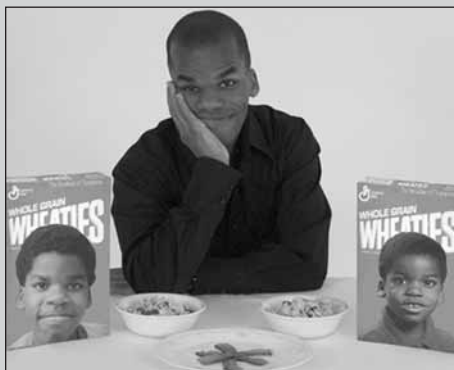
"Two Bowls of Cereal and Some Bacon," a 2009 MN Fringe Festival drama, returns to the stage this time in the Hamline-Midway area beginning November 12. "Two Bowls..." unravels the truth, heart-breaks and hope experienced by the writer-performer, Mahmoud Hakima, in his childhood in California and Alabama. The moving one-man show is for ages 12 and above and "can't promise cereal or bacon," but can promise truth.

Directed by MaryLynn Mennicke, an area resident, the Fringe Festival performance of "Two Bowls..." attracted the attention of Bridge Production Founding Producer Michelle Storm, and she and veteran theater artist Zarawaar Mistry, are collaborating with Hakima and Mennicke to expand and improve the original show. Mistry and his wife, Leslye Orr, own Dreamland Arts, a local performance venue at 677 Hamline Ave.

Audiences are invited to this special and moving performance by these Twin Cities most-promising young artists at two local venues Dreamland Arts and Jehovah Lutheran Church. Tickets for performances at Dreamland Arts on Nov 12, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. are available at [www.dreamlandarts.com](http://www.dreamlandarts.com) 651-645-5506, for \$15/\$12 per ticket. The performance on the 21st offers an audio described performance by Laura Wiebers.

A special fundraiser performance of "Two Bowls of Cereal..." will be staged Friday, November 13, 7:30 p.m. at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Avenue, for a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. Funds raised at this performance will go to the St. Paul area children and women's shelters. More information at [www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org).

Each performance will be followed by a post-show discussion with playwright Hakima and director Mennicke. Refreshments will be served at the Jehovah Lutheran church special fundraiser on Nov. 13.



"Two Bowls of Cereal and Some Bacon," a 2009 MN Fringe Festival drama, returns to the stage this time in the Hamline-Midway area beginning November 12.



# In Our Community

Continued from page 10

will provide assistance with resumes and online applications. For more information, please call the library at 651-558-2223.

Free Foreclosure Counseling will be offered by the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development on Wednesdays from 12:30-5:30. No appointment is necessary.

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

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between Lawson and Hatch. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12:30-9 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The library will be closed October 12 for Customer Service Improvement Day.

## St. Paul Arts Crawl scheduled October 9, 10, and 11

Please join award-winning artists

Linda Bryan, Dan Makerman, Chuck Solberg, Linda Crouch, Karlyn Eckman and others in the Chittenden and Eastman Building (2402 University Avenue West, Saint Paul) for the Saint Paul Art Crawl. Artists on the 5th floor of the building will open their studio doors to display new works.

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For photos and more information, check out <http://artat2402.blogspot.com>



At a time when public and parochial schools alike struggle with budgets, CLS has just recently received a \$1.25 million endowment for scholarships. The gift comes from William R. Jayson, of Center City, who died in May at the age of 87. As a boy (pictured above), Jayson had been granted a full scholarship to Trinity Lutheran School in St. Paul.


## Scholarship

Continued from page 8

would come up to greet you. And the teachers introduced themselves and welcomed me. I felt a part of the place right away." Presently, Isaac enjoys the athletic opportunities; wrestling, basketball, and soccer; wrestling being this student's favorite. "I won first place last year. Then taking on a

more serious tone the boy added. "We do meaningful projects too. Last year we did 'Feed My Starving Children'. We worked at packaging a bunch of food, and then we sent it over to Haiti where they needed it."

The principal had already told Isaac about the generous gift from a man, who when young, attended a school similar to CLS. Isaac's reaction? "I think that's great. I want to give back someday too!"



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Spielmanszug Minnesota Tanz Garde

**Bed Races 3 PM!**  
The winning team wins money for their favorite charity. Sign up your team now, contact Randy: [randy.graff@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:randy.graff@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Renewal of Wedding Vows! 3:30 PM**  
Oktoberfests and Weddings have gone hand-in-hand since 1810! To renew your wedding vows at this year's Oktoberfest, contact Deb: [debgrosskopf@hotmail.com](mailto:debgrosskopf@hotmail.com)

**Dachshund Races 4 PM!**  
Witness the 2nd Annual Dachshund Dash and Hurdle event! Purebred Doxies need apply, contact Tyrone: [ty.schenk@gmail.com](mailto:ty.schenk@gmail.com)

**Forester's Mass 5 PM**

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First-time clients on the rise...

# Keystone's foodshelf numbers skyrocket

By JAN WILLMS

Christine Pulver has been seeing some familiar faces walking through the doors of the Keystone foodshelves these days. As the holidays approach, it is a traditional time for families to donate canned goods and nonperishable items for the needy. But some of these donors have now become recipients of food donations themselves.

"We are seeing families who have never needed to access social services before," said Pulver, Basic Needs Program director for Keystone Community Services. "Some who donated are now on the receiving end."

Keystone, a nonprofit human services agency founded in 2004 through the merger of Merriam Park Community Services and Neighbor to Neighbor, includes three foodshelves among its primary services. And the numbers of people using them keep steadily increasing, according to Pulver.

"Our numbers have skyrocketed," she said. "We're up 45 per cent from June. A year ago we couldn't have predicted this," she said.

Pulver said the foodshelves served over 5600 in July. At the time of this interview, August statistics had not yet been gathered. But by the end of September, over a million pounds of food had been distributed this year.

"We have tracked a lot of new people this year," Pulver said. She said the number of households coming to the foodshelves each time is much larger

than ever before.

Pulver said her agency is providing food for the working poor.

"These people are working, but making just enough to make ends meet," she said. "But if their car breaks down or a child gets sick, they might have to miss a shift at work. For many of us, that could be a small event. For many others, it can be a crisis situation."

Pulver said part of the growing problem is that Americans don't have a good track record of saving money.

"But some of us just don't make enough," she said.

Pulver said that the most difficult visit to a foodshelf is the first one.

"We try to provide a welcoming atmosphere," she added. "Often people are in tears when they call us for information. Just this morning someone canceled an appointment because they were too embarrassed to come in."

Pulver said that often people come to the foodshelves or for other services at the point when everything is in crisis.

"We can help with some services, but not everyone qualifies," she noted.

She said there are three requirements for obtaining food from the foodshelves.

"There must be a demonstrated need, patrons must live within the Keystone service area and their income must fall within 200 per cent of poverty guidelines."

She said foodshelf users can



Peg Lorch (front) and Carmen Riveros help to restock the foodshelves at Keystone. Keystone, a nonprofit human services agency founded in 2004 through the merger of Merriam Park Community Services and Neighbor to Neighbor, includes three foodshelves among its primary services. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

come in once a month, with exceptions made for emergency situations.

"To qualify, we look at a snapshot of the household income today, not on their last tax returns," Pulver said. "A family may have had a substantial income, but a breadwinner may have been laid off three months ago."

Pulver said that the foodshelves operate on a client-choice model.

"We don't do pre-packed bags," she said. "Clients can come through and make their own choices off the shelf, with some limits so that everyone can get items. This works especially well when thinking of our diverse clientele."

She said age, ethnicity, the ability to cook and special diets are all taken into consideration.

Twenty pounds of food per person in the household is allotted, plus bread.

"We always have enough bread," she said.

Pulver said the amount of fresh produce the foodshelves have seen this year has been phenomenal, with items coming from county gardens, home gardens and farmers markets.

"There has been a shift in the last two years in food selection," she said. "We are putting an emphasis on nutrition and food that is culturally appropriate. There is less sugary and less processed food and more fresh food being offered."

She said this has not necessarily been a popular move, but one that was needed. The goal is to try and make healthy foods more attractive.

Pulver said that in spite of the continued increase in food shelf patrons, the donations have kept level and have not dropped off.

She said that when the foodshelves were not able to keep pace with the service increase, a couple of foundations stepped up.

"We are keeping afloat," she said. "We are about as efficient as we can possibly be."

"Volunteers are the backbone of this program," Pulver said. She said the foodshelves rely on 120 volunteers working at the three sites. There is a paid staff of nine, some of them part-time.

She said there is ongoing volunteer recruitment.

"For those of us on the direct service end, I think we will see a change in the summer of 2010," Pulver said.

"It took us awhile to get into the recession. We were always increasing in numbers of users, but this has skyrocketed. It will take us awhile to reach economic recovery," she explained. "I predict a plateau. I don't predict any type of dip or decrease in the numbers coming."

Pulver said there will have to be an endpoint.


"Our budget isn't expanding," she said. "There will come a point where we can't stretch any further. I just hope we see the plateau before we see the endpoint."

## Keystone food shelf locations and hours

**Fairview Foodshelf**  
1910 W. Co. Road B  
Roseville, MN 55113  
Services provided:  
Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-3:00  
Tuesday, 5:30-8:30  
By appointment only. For an appointment, please call 651-917-3939

**Midway Foodshelf**  
1916 University Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Services provided:  
Monday through Friday, 10:00-3:30  
By walk-in only.

**Rice Street Foodshelf**  
1457 Rice Street  
St. Paul, MN 55117  
Services provided:  
Monday through Friday, 10:00-3:30  
By walk-in only.  
To learn more, please call the foodshelf information line at 651-917-3939.

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# Ayd Mill Road bicycle trail back in gear

By JANE MCCLURE

Ayd Mill Road's long-awaited bicycle-pedestrian trail, which would be the St. Paul extension of the Midtown Greenway, is back in gear. But will legal action by the Canadian Pacific Railroad stop the project in its tracks?

The trail and the studies of the future of Ayd Mill Road itself are back on the table thanks to two St. Paul City Council actions Sept. 2. One resolution jump-starts the studies of how Ayd Mill Road should ultimately be rebuilt. A second action calls for St. Paul Public Works to acquire land along Ayd Mill Road to build a two-mile bike and pedestrian trail. The trail is intended to be a link in the city's bike and pedestrian trail system, linking to Minneapolis' Midtown Greenway, the I-35E Trail, the Summit Avenue bike lanes and proposed lanes on Jefferson Avenue. The trail would extend from Marshall Avenue to Victoria Avenue, under the plan approved Sept. 2. The other stretches of the trail would be acquired at a later date.

Both resolutions were brought forward by Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark.

Stark said he brought the issue forward after hearing from constituents wondering what was happening with Ayd Mill Road. "I think it merits more study, in light of what has been happening over the past several years." One concern about the road he has heard from Union Park District Council is that the pending reconstruction of the Hamline Avenue Bridge be done in a way that accommodates all possible options to rebuild Ayd Mill Road.

The resolution adopted by the council states that "The possibility of commuter rail being located in the Ayd Mill Road corridor, the pending construction of the Central Corridor light rail project, the increased demand for bicycling, and likely continued increases in the costs of fuel for automobiles all suggest that the original assumptions underlying the 2004 EIS should be reviewed."

While the south end connection reduced traffic problems in the Randolph-Lexington-Jefferson area, it has contributed to a worsening of traffic congestion at the Ayd Mill Road's north end, said Stark. Northbound Ayd Mill Road motorists currently exit at Hamline or at Selby, increasing traffic congestion on those streets and at the Snelling-Selby intersections.

As it stands neither the study nor the bike and pedestrian trail construction will get underway any time soon. How the updated Supplement Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) will be conducted hasn't been fully worked out, said St. Paul Public Works City Engineer John Maczko. The resolution calls for a community process on Ayd Mill Road reconstruction but any community and city staff review won't start until January 2010 at the earliest, he said. That is because Public Works and planning staff are tied up with the Central Corridor light rail project.

In the 1980s and 1990s Ayd Mill Road options were studied by two community task forces. Maczko said he doesn't envision a community task force this time around but he said there will be

steps taken to gather community input. It's not clear how long the study will take place.

In 2000 the City Council approved a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) calling for Ayd Mill Road to be rebuilt as a two-lane parkway with off-street bike and pedestrian trails. That decision followed years of community debate, votes by eight district councils, a vote by the second incarnation of the Ayd Mill Road Task Force and a review by the St. Paul Planning Commission. The task force recommended tearing out the road and replacing it with

Various lane configuration tests were done and a final EIS completed to reflect the mayor's preference for a four-lane roadway. That was completed in 2004.

Ward Three Council Member Pat Harris, who co-authored the two-lane parkway resolution in 2000, said he appreciates Stark's leadership to get the studies of the two-lane parkway completed. "It's an extremely difficult issue," Harris said.

Maczko said there is a lot of good information in the 2000 and 2004 studies that can be drawn on for the updated studies.

"I think it merits more study, in light of what has been happening over the past several years."

- Ward 4 Councilmember Russ Stark

a linear park; the Planning Commission called for construction of a four-lane roadway.

But after he was elected mayor in 2002, Randy Kelly declared that he would connect Ayd Mill Road directly to I-35E at its south end and redo the environmental studies to recommend a four-lane roadway. That drew vehement protests and even an effort by foes to physically block the road.

The study approved Sept. 2 calls for looking at reducing the number of lanes from four to two, study of both four-lane and two-lane connections north to St. Anthony Avenue and looking at ramp closures and changes. The resolution calls for looking at possible changes for the Grand Avenue ramps and closing the ramps on the south side of St. Clair Avenue. The St. Clair ramps have a

direct impact on the residents of the adjacent Wilder Park neighborhood.

The resolution also calls for Public Works to immediately remove signs prohibiting bicycles on Ayd Mill Road between Jefferson and Selby avenues.

A separate resolution on off-road bicycle and pedestrian trails also passed Sept. 2. City officials would like to acquire the land this winter and build the trail in 2013-2014.

The Ayd Mill Road trail would be built in a 25-foot area between the road itself and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railroad tracks, said Dan Haak of Public Works. The council resolution authorizes Public Works to use condemnation or eminent domain if necessary to acquire the land.

Most of the land eyed for the trail is owned by CP Rail. Some land is listed as belonging to Liberty State Bank (now Associated Bank) and a small slice of land belongs to a private individual. Cost of the last is estimated at \$1.7 million. It would be covered through Municipal State Aid (MSA) funds of \$994,415 and Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) dollars of \$705,585. Earlier this year the city lost a federal grant for the project because it couldn't get the project started in time to meet the grant's timelines.

CP officials were quick to respond to the city's proposal, filing a complaint against the city Sept.

1 in U.S. District Court in St. Paul. As of last week the city hadn't filed a response to the railroad.

CP Rail has long opposed the bike and pedestrian trail plans, citing safety reasons and proximity of a trail to the tracks. The tracks are used daily by freight trains and by Amtrak. Court documents indicate that trains move through the area at speeds of 40 miles per hour. Rail officials also note that the condemnation proposed Sept. 2 could be just the first step in taking railroad land. Rail property north of Marshall and along the tracks is also eyed as part of the Ayd Mill Road trail and the Midtown Greenway connection, for a total of 4.2 miles of rail right-of-way. Public Works officials say it could be a three-phase project

But the key issue for the railroad is its contention that federal laws governing railroads supersede the city's ability to condemn and develop the trail, if the trail would present a safety risk and if the trail would interfere with railroad operations. In correspondence with the city, CP Rail officials have indicated that the line's main line status leaves open the possibility of building a second set of tracks in the future. CP Rail is asking that the city either be barred outright from taking the land or seeking approval from the federal Surface Transportation Board prior to condemnation taking place.

**Central Baptist Church**  
420 Roy Street N., St. Paul  
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[www.centralbaptistchurch.com](http://www.centralbaptistchurch.com)  
Dr. Ronald Saari, Senior Pastor

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# City approves parking lot expansion for St. Columba

By JANE MCCLURE

The Church of St. Columba has expanded its parking area along Lafond Avenue, as a result of a St. Paul City Council decision Sept. 9. The council voted to uphold a variance request that allowed for parking area expansion, despite opposition from the Hamline Midway Coalition and some church neighbors. HMC and neighbors are disappointed at the loss of trees and green space between the church and a building used by the Franciscan Brothers of Peace.

But the church and the Franciscans didn't get everything they wanted. Instead Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark successfully pushed for an amended variance to preserve more green space than the original variance request allowed. And although the HMC appeal was denied, the district council will get half of its \$435 appeal application fee refunded.

More than three dozen supporters of the church and neighbors concerned about loss of green space and trees attended a Sept. 2 City Council public hearing on the

variance. The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) granted variances for the parking lot in August. HMC filed an appeal, contending that St. Columba could meet its parking needs by restriping its existing parking and better utilizing on-street parking. The district council also contended that paving green space is inconsistent with the district plan and with the district council's transportation plan.

Stark said the changes to the plans, which the City Council finalized by resolution Sept. 23, are

a compromise to preserve at least some of the green space. Still, some neighbors said they were unhappy to see trees cut down to make way for pavement.

HMC Executive Director Michael Jon Olson said that St. Columba could better use its two existing parking lots, rather than expanding the lot along LaFond Avenue. "Our position is that paving over a green space will alter the character of the neighborhood," he said.

Neighbors Emmy Vadnais and Alexander Dixon agreed. Vadnais lives on Blair Avenue, where neighbors deal with church parishioners parking in the alley. Vadnais said she and other neighbors have asked the church to not allow alley parking, to no avail. Nor will St. Paul Police provide enforcement.

Dixon said the church could gain many parking spots in other ways, without having to seek a variance. Paving over the space between the church and the Franciscan Brothers would not only "devour" more green space, it would also generate more storm water runoff, he added.

But Father Hoang Nguyen of St. Columba, Brother Paul O'Donnell of the Franciscan Brothers and church supporters criticized the district council and neighbors for wanting to preserve green space on their private property. Some speakers said the opponents were not considering the property rights of those who own the area eyed for more parking.

Nguyen said he has hundreds of petition signatures in support of the variances. He said that the parking lot as planned would not only be a benefit to elderly and disabled parishioners, it would also alleviate the neighborhood complaints about parking.

"The green space is really our private property and is the church's private property," said O'Donnell. He said the parking is needed for the church, for the residents of the Franciscans' building and for the users of an emergency food shelf there.

When the Franciscans and the church have services at the same time, people sometimes have to walk two or three blocks to get there.



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## Hamline U Theatre presents 'Urinetown: The Musical'

Hamline University Theatre is proud to present the first mainstage show in its 79th season: "Urinetown: The Musical" November 6, 12, 13, 14 at 7:30 p.m. and November 7 at 8 p.m. This satirical musical comedy paints a dystopian future where water has become a precious commodity and public urinals are controlled by the Urine Good Company, a nefarious organization that forces people to pay to pee. Led by hero Bobby Strong, the oppressed citizens incite a revolution, but at what cost?

Directed by Hamline University Theatre Arts professor Jeff Turner, "Urinetown: The Musical" is guaranteed to leave the audience in hysterics. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$5 for students and seniors and \$2 for Hamline students. Advance reservations are suggested and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at [tickets@hamline.edu](mailto:tickets@hamline.edu).

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Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to [denisw@aplacetoremember.com](mailto:denisw@aplacetoremember.com). Want ads must be in the Monitor before November 2 for the November 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](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

## ADOPTION

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## CHURCH BAZAAR

Faith Lutheran Church Bazaar, 499 Charles Ave., 651-227-5299, Nov 7th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Come for our roast beef dinner, something for everyone. 10-09

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Next deadline: November 2

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## Classifieds

Continued from page 15

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## Hamline Library

Continued from page 7

Join us for stories, treats and more during Spooky Saturday on October 31st from 1-3 p.m.! The fun will begin with spooky stories told by the Mighty Midway Storytellers. Come in costume and take part in the costume contest with our celebrity judge.

Kids, teens, and adults are all welcome to participate!

Regular storytimes are offered every week. Storytimes are a wonderful way for children to experience the joys of reading. Bedtime Storytime is every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Toddler and Preschool Storytime is every Friday at 10:30 a.m.

The Hamline Midway Library is located at 1558 W Minnehaha Ave, and can be contacted at 651-642-0293. Library events are free and open to the public.



The newly formed Hamline Midway Library Association hosted a Community Celebration Day on Saturday, Sept. 26, to celebrate that the library remains open and thank neighbors for their efforts.



## HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND AT HAMLINE

Mark your calendars—

Hamline University's homecoming and reunion weekend will be here soon! Get ready for three days of reminiscing, celebrating, and cheering for your favorite Piper athletic teams! Weekend highlights include:

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Reunion Central and Hospitality Center  
Alumni House,  
749 Simpson Street  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Women's Volleyball Game vs.  
St. Thomas Tommies  
Hutton Arena  
7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Reunion Central and Hospitality Center  
Alumni House,  
749 Simpson Street  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Memorial Service  
Sundin Music Hall  
9:30-10:30 a.m.

Admissions Event for Prospective Students  
Undergraduate Admissions House,  
833 N. Snelling Avenue  
10:30 a.m.-noon

Fall Festival  
Klas Center Mall  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
All are invited for entertainment and outdoor activities.

Football Game vs. St. John's Johnnies  
Klas Field 1 p.m.

Trolley Tour: Charisma of Minneapolis and Saint Paul

Bishop Hamline Statue  
2:30-4 p.m.

Greeks and Societies Reunion  
Various locations on campus  
3:30-7 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Piper 5K and Children's Runs  
Como Lake, Saint Paul  
7:30-9:30 a.m.

Worship Service  
Hamline United Methodist Church  
9:30 a.m.

For more specific information on reunion weekend and homecoming events, visit [www.hamline.edu/reunion](http://www.hamline.edu/reunion).