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Midway
Como
North End

Monitor



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District Councils change positions on proposed boundary change

By JAN WILLMS

What a difference a meeting makes!

Prior to the Jan. 9 meeting to gain public input on the proposed boundary changes of Districts 6 and 10, both District Councils opposed the move.

Although Ward 5 Councilmember Amy Brendmoen said she had heard from numerous constituents in the South Como neighborhood of District 6 that they wished to be a part of District 10, it was not considered to be an overwhelming number who sought the change.

But when around 170 people showed up at the Jan. 9 meeting and the majority of them wanted to have the boundaries changed and have more input in-

to what they considered to be issues that dealt with their neighborhood, the District Councils listened.

"The turnout was high for a community meeting, but it did indeed reflect the strong interest I have heard by the neighborhood," Brendmoen said.

Following the meeting, on Jan. 24 the Planning and Economic Development (PED) Department made a recommendation that the neighborhood of South Como be moved from District 6 to District 10.

District 6 had sent a letter Jan. 11 to District 10, recommending that the entire South Como area be represented by District 10. Based on this letter, the recommendation of PED and

the overwhelming sentiments voiced at the Jan. 9 public meeting, District 10 also agreed to accept the proposed change in a resolution passed Jan. 15.

In a letter sent Feb. 5 to Councilmember Brendmoen's office and the PED, District 10 expressed its willingness to accept the boundary alterations, al-

though its board members requested those changes be made in a careful and prudent manner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Ted Natus dons King Boreas crown

By JAN WILLMS

Helping youth between the ages of 14 and 20 to succeed is the mission Ted Natus, recently crowned King Boreas LXXVII at the St. Paul Winter Carnival, hopes to work on during his year-long reign.

Natus, 74, president of Hamernick Decorating on Rice Street, will have a number of duties to add to his already full schedule, working six days a week at his store.

He said his plan for his time spent as king is to help people as much as he can, focusing on youth.

"Reuben Rosario said in a recent column he wrote that 15 young people in the 14-20 age group die every day, and they go unnoticed," Natus said. "I want to help those who need help and want to better themselves."

He said these are issues he wants to work on here in St. Paul and through his company. As King Boreas, he will also be traveling extensively, starting with a Feb. 14 trip to Canada. He will also be visiting Florida, Texas and Georgia with other members of the royal family.

"It's all volunteer work, and we all fund our trips and pay our own way," Natus said. "I



Helping youth between the ages of 14 and 20 to succeed is the mission Ted Natus, recently crowned King Boreas LXXVII at the St. Paul Winter Carnival, hopes to work on during his year-long reign. Above, Natus is pictured with Queen of the Snows Melissa Hoffbeck.

goodwill and being an ambassador for the city," he said.

Since taking over as king, he and other members of the Winter Carnival royal family have visited schools and hospitals and nursing homes throughout the city. He said that his work to assist youth will primarily happen in St. Paul and through his business.

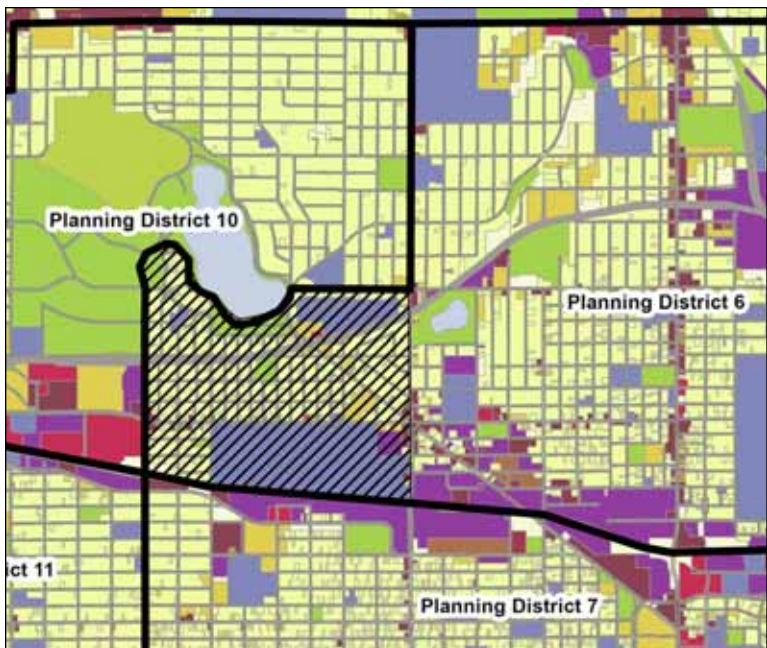
Admitting that he is not a run-of-the-mill King Boreas, Natus recalled that he left home at age 14, after his mom died. He hit the road, finding work as a firefighter and mining for copper.

At one point during his days in Montana, he helped daredevil Evel Knievel prepare for some of his stunts.

"A group of us hung around the same watering hole when we were in Butte, MT," Natus said. "Evel was a part of the group."

Natus was 29 when he ended up in St. Paul. He was enroute back to Montana when his car broke down here, and he had holes in his shoes and empty pockets and decided to look for a job in the saintly city.

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Monitor In A Minute



The Hamline Park Playground building will be rezoned to accommodate the pending move of Mosaic on a Stick there.

Hamline Park Playground Building to be rezoned

The Hamline Park Playground building will be rezoned to accommodate the pending move of Mosaic on a Stick there. The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended January 25 to rezone the property from residential to traditional neighborhoods use. That recommendation goes to the St. Paul City Council for approval.

The popular mosaic shop is moving from a storefront at

Snelling and Thomas. The move provides more space and off-street parking. Hamline Midway Coalition recommended approval of the rezoning. No one appeared at a Planning Commission Zoning Committee meeting to object to the rezoning request.

St. Paul Parks and Recreation, which owns the historic building, made the request. The building housed the district council offices and an Asian arts group for many years, but has been vacant since last year.

Transportation study of Snelling completed

A multi-modal transportation study of Snelling Avenue has been completed and is posted online. The study, which was conducted over the past year, includes many recommendations to improve the safety and mobility needs of Snelling between the Minnesota State Fairgrounds and Selby Avenue. The study's final report can be seen at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/snellingstudy>.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) led the study. It involved several district councils, business groups, residents and transit and trans-

portation advocacy groups. A community task force and a city-county-state staff technical advisory group worked on the study. Their work included community meetings and a walking tour of Snelling.

The final report includes dozens of block-by-block recommendations for Snelling, ranging from added sidewalks and bike accommodations to improved pedestrian crossings. Hamline Midway Coalition has submitted two 2014-2015 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) request tied to the study, for streetscape and crossing improvements. There are also request from the Department of Public Works for north-south bicycle routes on Chatsworth and Aldine. Providing bike connections through the area is one of the issues the study addressed.

Anyone with questions about the study can contact Bill Goff, MnDOT Project Manager, william.goff@state.mn.us or at 651-234-7797.

More sports allowed at Lowertown Ball Park

Varsity baseball, softball and adaptive sports teams will be able to play one game per sea-

son at the planned Lowertown Ball Park. The St. Paul City Council voted unanimously last month on an ordinance setting the games.

No one appeared at a public hearing to speak to the ordinance, which was authored by Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert.

The ballpark was approved last year by the City Council, to replace the aging Midway Stadium. It will be used by the St. Paul Saints amateur baseball team as well as other teams.

"This is going to be a great ballpark and this ordinance will ensure that our kids have the opportunity to play on the beautiful field, as well," said Tolbert. One concern that has been raised is that while prep and adaptive sports teams have enjoyed use of Midway Stadium, that shouldn't change with the new ballpark.

The ordinance specifies that each of the nine public and thirteen private high schools in Saint Paul could play one varsity baseball, softball, and adaptive softball game at the ball park. There will be no charge to the St. Paul School District, the individual schools, or the city for the use of the facility.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

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This Is Where I Take My Car

Dad threatens daughter with AK-47 rifle over grade report

By JAN WILLMS

Kirill Bartashevitch is out of jail on \$20,000 bail with the condition that he stays away from his daughter and wife, unless authorized by Ramsey County Child Protection.

On Jan. 13, he allegedly pointed an AK-47 at his daughter when the two had an argument over grades. The daughter, a 15-year-old Central High School student, had received two Bs instead of all As. According to the filed complaint, during the argument she swore at her father and said she hated him. He then picked up an AK-47 rifle he had recently purchased and pointed it at her.

Her mother, Olga S. Rogovitskaya, intervened, and reported to police that she was thrown to the floor. Bartashevitch ordered the girl to go to her room.



On Jan. 13, Hamline-Midway resident Kirill Bartashevitch allegedly pointed an AK-47 at his daughter when the two had an argument over grades.

The event came to light when another parent, who had been monitoring her son's electronic communications, saw a message her son had received from the female student, telling him what had happened. The

parent reported the incident to the school social worker, who then contacted police.

In a warranted search of the Bartashevitch residence on Englewood Avenue in St. Paul on Jan. 24, police recovered 9 mm

ammunition and two receipts for the sale of an AK-47 style rifle and a newer AK-47 clone rifle, according to the complaint.

Police confirmed that the defendant sold a 7.62X54R firearm to Bill's Gun Shop Jan. 22 and a Cal-Zastava PAP 70 7.62X30 firearm to Frontiersman Sport, Inc., that same day.

Dennis Gerhardstein, a spokesman for the Ramsey County Attorney's office, said that state law proclaims that an individual cannot possess any firearms if he is convicted of a charge.

The charges pending against Bartashevitch are two felony counts of terroristic threats regarding the Jan. 13 incident, one pertaining to his daughter and the other to Rogovitskaya.

The child has been placed in a shelter.

"Mom admitted the petition, allowing the court to set conditions for when she can see her child," Gerhardstein said. "Dad did not admit to it, so he does not get to see his daughter."

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant did admit to being involved in a physical confrontation with his wife and daughter and pointing his AK-47 at them. He said that the gun was not loaded and that he checked the chamber before he pointed it at them.

Gerhardstein said that Bartashevitch has his next court appearance at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 22 in Ramsey District Court.

"There is also a Children in Need of Protection (CHIPS) petition filed against him in Ramsey District Court regarding contact with his daughter," Gerhardstein said.

Border battle

Continued from page 1

A part of the letter suggests that expanding District 10's boundaries will require fundamentally changing the organization and its membership.

"These fundamental changes include: determining board size, board composition and committee structure, as well as considering new sub-district borders and representation," the letter reads.

The letter also states that proposed changes to the bylaws must be heard at three public meetings before a vote on them can be taken.

District 10 board members also expressed concern in the letter that the way this issue was pushed forward has diminished the importance and the independence of the district councils and, thus, has undermined the principle of citizen participation for which they were created.

If the proposed change is approved by the City Council, District 6 will lose 3,500 residents and \$3,800 in funding. It currently has a population of about 25,000 and an annual budget of \$65,000.

However, District 10, with a population of about 11,000 and an annual budget of \$55,000, will not gain any additional funding even though it gains the South Co-

mo residents. That is because the population will not increase above the city's minimum funding threshold.

"From an engagement perspective, I am hopeful that we will see a more involved South Como community as a result of this recommended change," Brendmoen said. "The Ward 5 office will work with the district councils to help limit administrative challenges that will result from it."

She said her office is coordinating a team that will be determining steps and layers that need to be considered to enact the change. "Both district councils have agreed that they need time to fully transition and have set Jan. 1,

2014, as an ideal goal date for the recommended change," she added.

As far as when the City Council will make its decision, Brendmoen said that based on the cooperation and agreement level of the involved stakeholders, she suspects a resolution will move forward as early as this spring.

"I truly appreciate and admire the efforts of both of the district councils and the neighborhood members who worked together to find a solution in a largely uncharted process," Brendmoen noted.

Shawn Korby, who has been a resident of the South Como neighborhood for 17 years, said he lives

very close to Como Park.

"It just makes sense geographically to change the boundaries," he said. "The neighbors in this area are affected by the park. We would have a voice in issues that directly impact our neighborhood."

Korby said the support for the move is not a desire to be out of District 6, but more of a desire to be a part of District 10.

"It seems self-evident this change makes sense," Korby related. "I think District 10 will find a lot of people in the immediate neighborhood want to be involved, and in the end it will be good for all. It was heartening to see such involvement in the big meeting Jan. 9."



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Central Baptist Pastor Saari set to retire

The forty year pastoring ministry of the Reverend Dr. Ronald W. Saari will be recognized on Sunday, February 24th at Central Baptist Church, 420 Roy Street North. Pastor Saari is retiring from 23 years as Central's Senior Pastor. Other pastorates include ten years in Hampton, Iowa as a church planter and a seven year ministry in Chicago, Illinois.

Pastor Saari and his wife Priscilla are natives of Superior, Wisconsin and both are graduates of the University of Wisconsin, Superior. Pastor Saari also earned his graduate degrees from Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul.

In the summer of 1990 the Saari family, which included their

young children, Matthew and Katey, moved from Chicago to St. Paul when Ronald became Central's pastor. The family quickly acclimated to the Macalester-Groveland area where they purchased a home. Priscilla resumed her teaching career by becoming a substitute in the St. Paul school system.

In 1991 Priscilla accepted a job as a music teacher at Groveland Elementary School and taught there until 2004 when she transferred to Hancock Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. She will retire this June.

During Pastor Saari's ministry he led the church into a deeper understanding and commitment to urban ministry. "God's Love Alive in

the Midway" became the church's slogan. Making the slogan a reality resulted in a host of church and community ministries. The church's children and youth outreach were expanded. Co-operative ministries and projects with Central's across the street neighbor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, were embraced.

In 1995 the church's 45-year-old preschool program was expanded to a full fledged child care service which is available from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In the mid nineties an emergency food shelf was established, designed for individuals and families who "fall in the cracks" and are not immediately able to access other community food shelves.



The forty year pastoring ministry of the Reverend Dr. Ronald W. Saari will be recognized on Sunday, February 24th at Central Baptist Church. Pastor Saari is pictured above with his wife, Priscilla.

Hamline Midway Library plans host of activities for March

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

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

Kids Book Club: Saturday March 16th, 1:30-2:30 p.m. - Book lovers, unite!!! Come join us in discussing a Maud Hart Lovelace book. Our club will also vote for 2013 Maud Hart Lovelace nominees. Let's meet and eat treats while we discuss books. For ages 8-12. New members always welcome.

Paw Pals: Saturday March 16th, 1:30-3:00 p.m. - School Age Chil-

dren can choose a book of their selection to read with Toby, our Paw Pal. Each session is 15 minutes in length, please sign up at our service point in the Library.

Teen Book Club: Saturday March 16th 2:30-3:30 p.m. - Join us in discussing Happenstance Found (Book 1 of the Books of UMBER) by, P.W. Catanese. The Library will provide treats and fun activities for attendees. Open ages 11-18.

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

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

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This Valentine's Day, give your sweetheart the gift of flowers—by dining amongst them at candle-lit tables throughout the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. Can't find a sitter? We've got that covered too. Whether dining with us or not, Como Kids' Club will be available for parents looking for an entertaining and educational experience for their children on the three evenings of Como's double entrée, gourmet dining experience.

Dinner dates are Thursday, February 14, and Friday, February 15 with seatings at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. each night. The cost for the all-inclusive dinner is \$165 per couple, a portion of which is tax deductible. Seating is limited and advance reservations are required by calling 651-487-8250.

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Como Kids' Club is \$25 per

child for parents attending a Como Valentine's Dinner; otherwise it is \$30 per child. Pre-registration for each child is required by calling 651-487-8272.

For more information and menu details visit <http://www.comoconservatory.org/>

King Boreas

Continued from page 1

He started working for the paint store on Rice Street that he now owns, and he never looked back.

Reflecting on his role as King Boreas, Natus said he likes to think of a Finnish word, *Sisu*, as describing what he hopes to accomplish. Natus, who is full-

blooded Finnish, said the word means strength in time of adversity, or the power within.

"Too many of us forget we have power within," he said.

Natus, who has five children and nine grandchildren with his wife, Lynn, said he has his family at home, his family at work, and now a third family—the royal family of volunteers who will reign for 2013 and promote the city of St. Paul.

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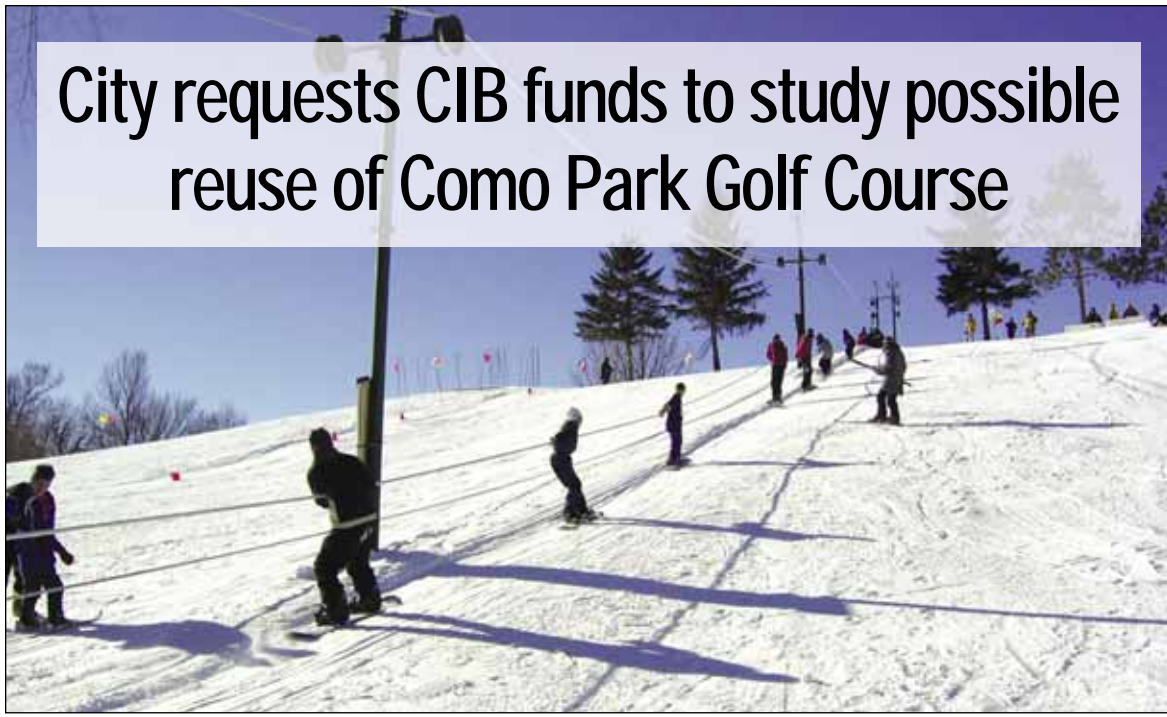
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By JANE MCCLURE

The possible closing and reuse of the Como Park golf course, a new Central District Police station in the North End and improvements to Snelling Avenue are among 122 projects vying for 2014-2015 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) dollars. Over the next few weeks city staff will start assigning cost estimates to the various projects. Citizen task force review of projects gets underway in March, with CIB Committee recommendations to the St. Paul City Council and Mayor Chris Coleman this summer.

The list of approved projects will be adopted as part of the 2014 city budget in December.

Projects are submitted by city departments, district planning councils, community development corporations, neighborhood groups and in a few cases, individuals. Most area district councils submitted at least one project. Projects were submitted to meet a January 18 deadline. The field of CIB candidates was about what city staff anticipated and is similar to the numbers seen in recent years, said John McCarthy of the city's Office of Financial Services. For 2014-2015, there will be 48



The Department of Parks and Recreation submitted more than half of the 48 community facilities requests, including funds for a study of reuse for the Como Golf Course.

community facilities, 56 streets and utilities, and 18 residential and economic development requests. It's not clear yet how much money will be available for projects.

Here is how the requests break down by category:

Community Facilities

The largest area request is to replace Central District Police Station, which closed about a decade ago. The district offices were put in the downtown headquarters, which lacks space. One idea would be to use the current Sylvan Park site. But that would require replacing the park, under the city charter. North End residents have asked to replace the station for several years.

Several new building requests were submitted by the St. Paul Fire Department. During his 2013 budget presentation to the City Council, Fire Chief Tim Butler indicated that several fire stations need major renovation or replacement. One of those stations is Station 20 at the Cretin-Vandalia-University intersection, are proposed for replacement. Station 20 is more than 90 years old. Access to the station has been affected by Central Corridor light rail con-

struction. A larger station would also allow for the addition of a second emergency medical services/fire crew there.

The Department of Parks and Recreation submitted more than half of the 48 community facilities requests, including funds for a study of reuse for the Como Golf Course. Golf course use is dropping and the city can no longer operate four courses, so a community study of reuse is needed. Other area projects include improvements to McMurray Field softball fields and parking, a new sign for the Hamline Midway Branch Library, a Merriam Park community needs study, North Dale ice rink systems work, Scheffer Recreation Center replacement and play area replacement, and improvements to Dickerman, Hampden and May parks.

Streets and Utilities

Funds to start a community re-

view process and select a solution for the north end of Ayd Mill Road is probably the most high-profile area request. But several area street and bicycle projects are also proposed, most by the Department of Public Works. Some projects tie into Central Corridor-related bicycle and pedestrian improvements, including Public Works request to turn Aldine Street and Chatsworth Avenue into bicycle boulevards, and more funding for the Charles Avenue Bike Boulevard.

Another major project making a return is the eastern extension of Pierce Butler Route to I-35E and Phalen Boulevard. Other projects include Snelling Avenue pedestrian safety and traffic calming improvements, lighting on Como from Dale to Maywood, Lexington Parkway bike improvements, and replacement of the Jackson Street, Maryland Avenue and Wheelock Parkway bridges.

Residential and economic development

Most of these submissions are city projects, for acquisition of demolition of blighted properties, home improvement loans, funds for commercial corridor development and renovation of multi-family buildings. One project tied to light rail is to purchase property and extend Fuller Avenue in the area of the Central Corridor light rail's Lexington station. Fuller is an east-west street that ends at Lexington. Some light rail land use plans suggested extending it to the west. Also, Model Cities Development Corporation is seeking funding for the development of nine townhouses on the former Old Home Dairy site at Western and University, and for other projects planned near the Victoria light rail station.



Other area projects include improvements to Dickerman, Hampden and May Parks.

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City moves to remove affected EAB trees

By JANE MCCLURE

It's that time of year. Trees at risk of emerald ash borer infestation are coming down, including 79 trees in Ward 5. Area residents were among those at St. Paul Parks and Recreation's Forestry staff meetings in January. Residents who live in areas where trees will be removed should have received postcards from the city, informing them about the meetings.

In area neighborhoods, trees will be removed along Iowa Avenue between Oxford and Victoria, and on Maywood Place. The scourge of the beetles is more serious. In late January the Minnesota Department of Agriculture announced that an infestation was found at Lexington Parkway and Jessamine Avenue.

St. Paul uses tree removal as its main means of dealing with emerald ash borers. Some pesticide use will be tried this year in areas where there are currently borer infestations. This will be limited to healthy ash trees in those areas.

The emerald ash borer is a tiny, invasive beetle with iridescent green wings. Its larvae burrow beneath tree bark and feed on ash trees' connective tissue, cutting off the tree water and nutrient supply. The borers threaten all species of ash: green, white, blue and black.

One reason ash tree health is monitored carefully is because ash trees become brittle when



Trees at risk of emerald ash borer infestation are coming down, including 79 trees in Ward 5. Area residents were among those at St. Paul Parks and Recreation's Forestry staff meetings in January. Residents who live in areas where trees will be removed should have received postcards from the city, informing them about the meetings.

stressed or diseased, and branches can break off. That creates a safety hazard.

Originally from Asia, the borers were first found in the United States in 2002. It's believed the insects first arrived there in the early 1990s. The original St. Paul emerald ash borer infestation in South St. Anthony neighborhood continues to grow. Recently borers were found at Edmund and Aldine in Hamline-Midway neighborhood and at Mississippi River Boulevard and Eustis Street in Desnoyer Park. The city is also

monitoring an infestation discovered in fall 2011 in the Summit Avenue-Dale Street area.

The city removes trees through a structured removal program, where trees showing signs of stress come down in an area of a few blocks, and through targeted removals that can cover a larger area, said City Arborist Rachel Coyle. The city has five large areas it is watching, where any of the trees are hollow and lose large limbs, which can cause property damage.

Trees removed this winter

will be replaced in the April-June time period. The city is using a \$150,000 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant to help cover tree replacement costs. When trees are replaced, a variety of species are used to diversify the tree. Two or more different species of trees are planted per block.

St. Paul has about 25,000 boulevard ash trees, with many planted after Dutch Elm Disease began killing elm trees in the 1970s. City staff notes that many of the remaining boulevard ash

are showing signs of severe decline.

Between 2009-2012 St. Paul has removed 3,827 ash trees. There have been 1,826 trees removed through structured removal, with 270 infested trees removed. Others have been removed for sampling, construction or other purposes.

One concern city forestry staff is raising is that of more infested trees showing up on private property. Between 2009 and last year, 211 infested private trees have been found. More have been found in the past few weeks, including a number in the Westgate/West Midway area.

That number is expected to increase if property owners do nothing to inspect or treat trees. The worry is that property owners will be apathetic about emerald ash borers until the infestation reaches catastrophic levels.

Other forms of management will be outlined. In Minneapolis the Parks and Recreation Board opts to start treating trees as well as cut them down. The Park Board also plans to start marking Minneapolis private trees found to be infested and do removals on request.

At the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, the plan is to treat all remaining ash trees. Nearby at the University of Minnesota a combination of tree treatment and removal is being used. Last week, infested trees at the Fort Snelling Golf Course began coming down.



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Hamline Elementary to house new Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program this fall

Starting this fall, Hamline Elementary School will begin sharing their building with Saint Paul Public Schools' Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program. Immersion parents are excited about the move and are eager to form partnerships with their site neighbors and Hamline University.

In keeping with Hamline Elementary's philosophy that college starts in preschool, the immersion program is exploring the possibility of a Mandarin language immersion preschool in the fall. For information about any of the SPPS Mandarin Immersion initiatives, please contact Program Director, Bobbie Johnson at bobbie.johnson@spps.org.



Starting this fall, Hamline Elementary School will begin sharing their building with Saint Paul Public Schools' Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program.

St. Paul City Council considers wide-ranging changes to industrial zoning regulations

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul's desire to preserve industrial land and its jobs base must be balanced with the desire for schools, places of worship, arts groups and even residents to be in industrially-zoned areas. That's the challenge the St. Paul City Council faces as it considers wide-ranging changes to the city's industrial zoning regulations. The St. Paul Planning Commission voted unanimously January 25 to recommend approval of the changes, after more than a year's study.

The City Council will schedule a public hearing on the changes before they are adopted.

"It's really about striking a balance and finding a way to accommodate different uses without taking away from the industrial land we have," said Planning Commissioner Paula Merrigan. She chaired a commission committee that looked at zoning code changes. The study was done to update the code and be in line with the city's Comprehensive Plan, which calls for St. Paul to build its jobs base.

Dozens of groups have weighed in on possible zoning changes, ranging from the St. Paul Port Authority and St. Paul and Midway Chambers of Commerce to artists, ministers and school administrators. About 30 people crowded a public hearing last summer to debate the proposed changes. While there is a desire to

create jobs, there are also calls to make zoning flexible, to allow artists, web designers and those in business incubators to be able to live near where they work.

"Industrial zoning land is becoming scarcer in the city," said Port Authority Vice President Kelly Jameson. The Port wants to see continued efforts to preserve such property for jobs creation. She noted that the average industrial job in St. Paul pays \$47,600 per year. Creating more jobs helps fight unemployment and poverty rates.

The Midway Chamber of Commerce agrees. "The city needs to look for every way possible to attract develop to its limited industrial land," said Paul McGinley of the Chamber. He and others said the city needs to avoid putting too many restrictions on industrial land, such as new building design standards, that would deter development.

St. Paul currently has four types of industrial districts, meant to accommodate a variety of industrial uses. The least intensive uses are allowed in a light industrial restricted district, with the most intense uses in a restricted industrial district. There are only a few areas in the city with restricted industrial zoning, which allows uses such as fuel tank farms and concrete crushing.

The city staff had recommended eliminating the restricted indus-

trial zone but this met with opposition from neighborhoods where residents live near heavy industries that generate noise, dust and odors. The recommendation sent to the City Council keeps the types of industrial districts but does suggest changes to regulations for all.

Much debate has centered on restricting places of worship, schools, theaters, assembly halls and residential uses in industrial districts. One concern is that by allowing such uses in industrial areas, there would be conflicts over the noise and traffic issues some industries can create. At one point the Planning Commission considered deleting places of worship and schools as permitted uses. The commission finally determined that such uses could be compatible with other industrial uses and should be allowed.

Ministers and attorneys for churches in or wishing to locate in industrial areas said that keeping them out of those areas would be a violation of the federal Religious

Land Use and Institutional Persons Act. They note that industrial areas provide the large buildings and parking lots their congregation need.

Pastor A.Z. Jones Jr. is senior pastor at Piercing Faith Church, which wants to build on Pierce Butler Route. The church currently uses a 127-year-old facility in the West End, with no off-street parking. "Industrial areas would allow us the space for parking and expansion," he said.

There was also much debate over residential uses in industrial areas. Since 1975 St. Paul's zoning code has limited this to mixed commercial-residential buildings and to congregate living. But in the South St. Anthony Park neighborhood, where a creative enterprise zone is being proposed, residents and business owners want to see more flexibility in where people can live. St. Anthony Park Community Council and creative enterprise zone residents have made the case for people to be

able to live at or near where they work. Catherine Reid Day, who is working on the creative zone, said people who choose to live in mixed-use areas with industry know what they will have as neighbors and attracted to the vitality of such neighborhoods.

The Planning Commission is recommending that there be a conditional use permit for buildings with six or more units in the general industrial district. Another recommendation is to allow residential uses on upper floors of a building, while maintaining main floor space for commercial or industrial use.

The commission is also making a number of recommendations on building design, with more specific requirements in light or transitional industrial districts and fewer design standards for heavy industry. One concern the Port and Chambers raised is that design standards that are too onerous would discourage industries from locating in St. Paul.



Bold Jumper
(*Phidippus audax*)
Body Length - 6 to 8mm

'Night Creatures' come to Como

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is excited to present 'Night Creatures - Insects After Dark', a stunning photo exhibit by Minneapolis artist Bill Johnson on display in Como's Exhibit Gallery through April 28. Over 30 extreme close-up images will highlight the amazing colors, shapes, and diversity of the insect world rarely seen during the day.

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What's Cookin'...

By COLETTE MULLENMASTER

Ron Johnson and Staffers at Lloyd's Pharmacy

CM: How and where did Lloyd's Pharmacy get its start and how did it come to this location on Snelling Ave?

RJ: Before 1918 the present location was a ladies' millinery. In 1918 it became Florian's Pharmacy until 1949 when Lloyd Jensen bought the store and renamed it Lloyd's Pharmacy. In 1974 Ron Johnson bought the store. He kept the name as Lloyd's Pharmacy honoring Lloyd Jensen who had given Ron his start.

CM: What is it that Lloyd's Pharmacy considers as the best thing about doing business in this community?

RJ: The best thing about this community has always been the great customers we have had and continue to have over the years. We have always wanted Lloyd's to feel like a corner pharmacy.

CM: Is there a special memory or time over the years that comes to mind to share with the Monitor readership?

RJ: The thing that we remember the most is when people say, "I really want to thank you for helping me out when I was having a problem". We also enjoy seeing the second generation of our customers come into the store and remind us about what they remember from when they were children.



Ron Johnson and the staff at Lloyd's Pharmacy



TIP!

Keep all your medication in a dry place and out of the reach of all children. Do not keep them in the bathroom or above the kitchen sink. The moisture level is high and causes the medication to go bad much faster than the expiration date.

Always read the labels on the medication and take it according to the directions. If you have a question calls the pharmacy. Don't stop taking the medication until your Doctor tells you to.

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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.

Square dancing for the family at church

Join us for a night of square dancing for the whole family, with band and a caller. No experience necessary. Saturdays, Feb. 16 and March 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Hamline United Methodist Church basement (entrance in alley) at 1514 Englewood St., St. Paul, MN 55104. A pay-what-you-will dinner will be held from 6 to 6:30 p.m. at the same spot. \$5 per person or \$15 family.

Co-ed Drum Circle February 22

Announcing a Co-ed Drum Circle on Friday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. \$10.00 at the door. Drums provided. Info and registration at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Art of Breastfeeding discussed March 12

The Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, March 12. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Come drink for the PINK!

On Saturday February 23rd, our team Micki's Memory Keepers will be hosting a beer bust at Tin Cups in Saint Paul on 1220 Rice Street to honor Michelle "Micki" Madland and raise funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

The event will kickoff at 6 p.m. til 9 p.m. with karaoke with the Pink Panther to follow. During the event you can purchase a \$10 wristband for unlimited beer. We will be doing raffles throughout the night. There will also be a cash cooler raffle at the end of the event which will give a cash prize with the amount being determined by the amount of participants. Kids are welcome, but will have to leave at 10 p.m. when the kitchen closes.

Come in have a drink, eat some delicious food, help us honor our Micki and fight breast cancer.

We also would like to invite everyone in to Tin Cups and buy a pink ribbon for \$1 and help turn the windows at Tin Cups pink. You can drive by on Rice Street to see the progress we've made.

History of the Human Experience offered

Educational Resources, Inc. a non-profit educational agency in St. Paul, is offering a new and exciting educational initiative in March. A 4 part series on the History of the Human Experience, focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean, will be offered at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Blvd.

It will be taught by Dr. Steven Derfler, on Wednesday evenings March 6, 13, 20, 27 from 6:30-8:15 p.m. Cost is \$90.

For more information, contact Educational Resources Inc at info@eduresources.org or call 651-592-3688.

Election law changes discussed

League of Women Voters St. Paul Meeting Wed. Feb. 20 - Discussion of Proposed Election Law Changes Speakers: Claire Wilson, Voter Outreach Dir., Sec'y of State's Office and Sherri Knuth, Policy & Outreach Mgr., LWVMN 6-7:30 p.m. Kings Crossing Residence, 500 No. Dale St.

Enter from parking lot behind the residence. Info: shack194849@gmail.com

Rethinking heaven

N. T. Wright's bestseller "Surprised by Hope" is the topic for Jehovah Lutheran Church's Bible study starting Feb. 17 and running for six sessions. The study rethinks heaven, the resurrection and the mission of the church, based on DVD presentations, study questions and discussion. Sessions begin with coffee, conversation and prayer at 9:30 a.m. at Jehovah Lutheran, 1566 Thomas at Snelling. All are welcome.

Programs available at Keystone Services

Through Keystone Community Services Program at Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Avenue, (651-645-7424) the following programs are available:

AARP Free Tax Assistance will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning on Wednesday, February 6th and Monday, February 11th. Must call for an appointment.

Health Insurance Counseling, co-sponsored by Senior Linkage Line and Keystone Senior Program, is offered the third Thursday of each month. Call to schedule a free one hour appointment.

A trip to Plymouth Playhouse for the show The Music of Johnny Cash "Ring of Fire" on Thursday, March 7th from 12 noon-4 p.m. \$35.50. Call immediately to sign

up at 651-645-7424.

Walking in the Gym available Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.-12 noon until the end of May. Free.

Call 651-645-7424 for a copy of our Keystone Senior Hi-Lites.

Feast of the Golden Fork Mar. 16

Church of the Holy Childhood presents the FEAST OF THE GOLDEN FORK. A Polish gourmet four-course gourmet dinner on Saturday, March 16, at 6:33 p.m. in Buchanan Hall, 1435 Midway Parkway. Tickets are \$60 for one ticket, and \$100 for two tickets. Call Holy Childhood Parish Office for information and tickets before March 13. 651-644-9911. Proceeds will assist in off-setting the cost of the Orchestra Masses.

Concordia University presents an evening with best selling authors

New York Times best-selling authors Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton will be speaking at Concordia University, St. Paul about their book Picking Cotton on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m., in the Buetow Music Center Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

In 1984, college student Thompson-Cannino was raped at knifepoint by a man who broke into her apartment. After working with the police, she identified Cotton, who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. After 11 years he was able to take a DNA test that proved his innocence and he was released. Two years later, they met a formed a friendship that changed both of their lives.

Today, Thompson-Cannino and Cotton travel the country, speaking out in favor of DNA testing and working to protect the wrongfully convicted by sharing their personal stories of hope and redemption.

Como Council sponsors Sunday Series

Join us for an afternoon of trolley talk at Como Community Council's second Sunday Series event. "All About Old-time Trolleys" will be held on Sunday, March 24, from 2-3:30 p.m., at the Historic Streetcar Station in Como Park, 1224 Lexington Pkwy. N. It is free and open to the public.

Pat Bjorklund, member, Minnesota Streetcar Museum, and John Diers, historian and an author of Twin Cities by Trolley,

the Streetcar Era in Minneapolis and St. Paul, will present the history of trolleys in the Twin Cities. In addition, St. Paul city staff will update us on modern trolleys and their potential future in St. Paul, and the renovation of the Historic Como Pedestrian Bridge, scheduled to begin in summer 2013.

The final Sunday Series event, "Creative Gardening for Urban Spaces," will take place on April 14.

Anxiety Support Group meets in Midway

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for persons with anxiety disorders. The groups help individuals develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. An Open Door Anxiety and Panic support group meets in St. Paul from 6:30 to 8 p.m., on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, at Goodwill-Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., in Room 123. For information call NAMI at 651-645-2948, or go to www.namihelps.org.

St. Cecilia's to host annual parish dinner

The Church of St. Cecilia invites friends and neighbors to its annual dinner on Sunday, Feb. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church basement.

The dinner features roast beef and all the trimmings. Tickets for the dinner cost \$9; children age 8 and under eat for free.

The ever-popular raffle is back.

This year's Silent Auction will include theme baskets, various services and gift certificates for many local businesses and fine restaurants.

The Church of Cecilia is located east of Highway 280 at 2357 Bayless Place, just north of the intersection of University and Cromwell Avenues.

Soup and Lent on Wednesdays

Jehovah Lutheran Church at 1566 Thomas hosts soup luncheons and suppers Wednesdays during Lent, through March 20. Midday devotion is at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon following. Soup supper is at 5:30 p.m. with worship at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. It's free. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children.

Women's Bible Study starts February 20

A women's Bible study continues alternate Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas. Based on the biblical character of Samuel — "He Speaks to Me: Preparing to Hear from God" — is led on video by author Priscilla Shirer, with facilitated group discussion ensuing. Sessions will be Feb. 20, March 6 and 20, April 3 and 17 and May 1. Cost for a workbook is \$13. Contact Dawn at the church office for more information at 651-644-1421 or e-mail jlc_dawn@msn.com.

Love Doctor loses appeal, says it will sue the city

By JANE MCCLURE

It's war, not love, between the city of St. Paul and Love Doctor owner Troy DeCorsey. DeCorsey plans to sue the city after the City Council voted 6-0 January 16 to uphold an appeal and deny his sign variance.

"Now we go to court," said DeCorsey after the public hearing. The vote overturns a December Board of Appeals (BZA) decision granting the adult gift shop at 1607 University Av. a variance for a projecting sign.

The Hamline Midway Coalition appealed that decision, claiming the variance would set a precedent at Central Corridor light rail station sites. The district council also said granting the variance is contrary to efforts to reduce sign clutter.

Those arguments persuaded Ward Four Council Member

Russ Stark to call for upholding the appeal and overturning a December decision by the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The BZA had granted the Love Doctor a smaller sign variance than the one DeCorsey requested.

DeCorsey's business, which opened eight years ago, has already been hit hard by light rail construction. At a recent hearing on rail construction business impacts, DeCorsey said his business has been down substantially. The Love Doctor lost on-street parking due to light rail construction.

Placement of a Snelling station platform in front of the business makes it more difficult for eastbound University motorists to see the store, DeCorsey said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

At the Board of Director's meeting on February 4, 2013 the Directors decided to postpone 2013 elections. The Director's expressed concern over having elections in April not knowing when a resolution will go to City Council regarding the change in service lines between District 6 Planning Council and District 10 Como Community Council as well as citing the confusion over length of terms that could be caused if new members were seated.

Even though elections are postponed the Annual Meeting will be held on April 1, 2013 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at North

News from District 6

News from District 6 Planning Council: Elections postponed

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch Avenue. District 6 has not as yet set an agenda for the Annual Meeting but the theme will be "Celebrating our Community." District 6 could not accomplish what we have without the hard-

working and committed volunteers working collectively. Whether you are a Board, Land Use Task Force member, volunteer at events, attend our meetings, call the office, pick up litter, shop local or simply peruse our

website, you have chosen to be involved and for that you deserve our thanks.

If the resolution moves forward District 6 will have to update and redo many organizational items, including our

precinct lines and Board membership. If that happens before the Annual meeting we plan to have maps there to redefine our own voting precincts and the community is welcome to participate, if the timing allows, otherwise look for other meeting notifications. District 6 also wants to recognize our 2012 Neighborhood Honor Roll honorees, Darel Meggitt, Paul Kamp and McDonough Recreation Center. Each honoree has worked tirelessly to make our community a great place to live, work, shop or relax. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Ayd Mill Road possible subject of traffic study for north end of city

By JANE MCCLURE

One of the most high-profile requests for funding in St. Paul's 2014-2015 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) is for a study of north end solutions for Ayd Mill Road. Supporters hope that the request, submitted by Union Park District Council, could bring an end to decades of debate over the roadway's ultimate fate.

The request would provide funding for a study, a roadway planning consultant and a community engagement process. It would include an update of the final environmental impact statement on Ayd Mill Road, which was prepared during Mayor Randy Kelly's administration. That update would include new traffic counts and studies of current and future traffic patterns. That would lead to a decision on a preferred alternative for the north end, which would lead to a supplemental environmental impact statement.

Any request to fund construction would have to be made in a future CIB cycle.

But the district council isn't waiting for the study funding to be approved. Recently UPDC reconvened its Ayd Mill Road Task Force

to discuss options for the street's north end. Ayd Mill Road has a Hamline Avenue exit and an exit onto westbound Selby Avenue. Residents of the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood, who bear the brunt of cut-through traffic, say they have had enough.

Ward One Council Member Melvin Carter III agrees that a solution needs to be found. Last

month he encouraged the Snelling-Selby Area Business Association (SSABA) to get involved in the discussions. "You need to have a say in what happens," Carter said.

Businesses made it clear that they need any solution to retain access to and from Selby Avenue. "We can't lose our Selby access," said O'Gara's Bar and Grill owner Dan O'Gara.

Other business owners agreed, saying that the need to deal with Ayd Mill Road is espe-

cially critical given the pending redevelopment of the Selby and Snelling intersection. Apartment units, a new bank and grocery store are planned there.

A group of neighborhood residents, led by Selby Avenue resident Dave Munson, has already started circulating a petition asking that the north end be connected. "I'm sick of hearing "we don't

have a freeway connection running through our neighborhood," he said. "Those who say that ignore the fact that the freeway connection IS running through our neighborhood via Selby Avenue." He already has more than 500 signatures.

Snelling-Hamline resident and UPDC Member Teri Breton worked on the CIB proposal. She said the intent is to involve neighborhoods along Ayd Mill Road that are affected but to avoid a replay of the "long, painful, ineffec-

tive and divisive public processes that have marked the Ayd Mill Road debate to date." That meant pitched battles over two lanes versus four lane roadways, and taking out the road and creating a linear park.

To avoid that the CIB proposal recommends that the city hire a consultant who would work with the Federal Highway Administration's "Context Sensitive Solutions" approach. That would be with the approach that city streets are "places" that take up approximately a third of land in cities and should be designed for community enjoyment as well as for transportation.

The CIB proposal asked that any solution reduce accidents, noise, congestion and air pollution at the north end, especially at major local intersections including Snelling-Selby, Hamline-Selby, Hamline-Marshall, and Hamline-Ashland, on Hamline from I-94 to Ashland, near the Selby terminus, and near the I-94 ramps on Snelling. It should also reduce and slow cut-through traffic on neighborhood residential streets; and provide a protected bicycle and pedestrian trail along Ayd Mill

Road for both commuting and recreation, including safe crossing(s) of I-94, access to the Green Line LRT, and a future connection to the Midtown Greenway. Green space for neighborhood use is also sought.

Ayd Mill Road has generated controversy for decades. In 1993 city officials appointed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Task Force. In 1999, the group released a draft report identifying six alternatives. The task force selected a linear park, the Planning Commission called for a four-lane road and the City Council recommended a two-lane compromise.

Eleven years ago then-Mayor Randy Kelly ordered tests of three Ayd Mill Road alternatives. He ordered Ayd Mill Road connected to I-35E at the south end and the road repaved. That has brought relief to south end neighborhoods but has increased traffic problems at the north end.

The City Council approved funding in 2004 for a final EIS that would study the two-lane alternative. That included a connection to St. Anthony Avenue. That was completed in 2005 but nothing was ever built.

"We can't lose our Selby access."

- O'Gara's Bar and Grill owner Dan O'Gara

month he encouraged the Snelling-Selby Area Business Association (SSABA) to get involved in the discussions. "You need to have a say in what happens," Carter said.

Businesses made it clear that they need any solution to retain access to and from Selby Avenue. "We can't lose our Selby access," said O'Gara's Bar and Grill owner Dan O'Gara.

Other business owners agreed, saying that the need to deal with Ayd Mill Road is espe-

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Love Doctor

Continued from page 9

"We lost our parking, we lost a lot of business, period," he said. "I'm not a hard guy to work with. I just want my store to be seen."

"This is a tough case," said Stark. While admitting that the placement of the rail station platform does create a visual block, Stark said he is concerned that granting a variance for one business affected by a station creates precedent for other businesses along the rail line. He said current sign and zoning codes, and the potential for precedent, prompted him to grant the appeal.

DeCorsey said the district council and some area residents just don't like his store. "If we were a coffee shop we would not be hearing from the Hamline Midway Coalition," DeCorsey said. He said that in the eight years the business has operated, it has evolved into an adult women's boutique. The proposed new sign would be part of a new marketing and branding effort.

But Hamline Midway Coalition Executive Director MichaelJon Olson said the issue isn't the type of business the Love Doctor is. "We're not opposed to the variance due to the nature of the business." The district council

hasn't had any complaints about the business. "We value the Love Doctor as part of the mix of businesses along this stretch of the Central Corridor."

What the Coalition is concerned about is precedent. While the variance request could be seen as reasonable, Olson said there were flaws in the BZA decision to grant the request. The city requires that variances only be granted for unusual or extenuating circumstances and the district council doesn't believe that is the case for the Love Doctor. Olson said granting a variance for one business near a rail station opens the door to granting sign variances for other businesses in the future.

The city's sign regulations are meant to reduce sign clutter, Olson said. "Then property in question exists in an area that is already visually cluttered." The Love Doctor's block has six other projecting signs. City staff noted some of those signs would block the new sign from view.

"If the city follows circular reasoning to grant variances when do we ever get to the intent of the (sign) code?"

In December 2012 the BZA voted 4-1 to grant a modified variance for the Love Doctor. DeCorsey sought a projecting sign of 25 square feet; the BZA approved a variance for a sign of

20.5 square feet.

DeCorsey said eastbound University Avenue motorists can only see the business thanks to a rooftop sign. Otherwise, the Snelling station blocks the storefront from view.

The sign request is also part of an effort to change the store's image. The original sign over the door would be removed.

City zoning staff recommended denial of the variances, saying the variances requested aren't consistent with the city's comprehensive plan, and that there are no unusual or mitigating circumstances that warrant variances. City sign regulations limit the size of projecting signs to 16 square feet in a traditional neighborhoods zoning district, which is where the Love Doctor is located. Signs can project no more than three feet over the sidewalk.

Had the business retained its previous commercial zoning, the sign as requested would be allowed. But the zoning was changed in 2011 from commercial to traditional neighborhoods use as part of a Central Corridor zoning study that affected the entire length of University Avenue. Traditional neighborhoods zoning is more restrictive of signage than commercial zoning is. A majority of BZA members agreed that the store lost its right to a larger sign as a result of rezoning.

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Northwest Como schedules winter programming

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

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

March 25-28, ages 7-12 from 1-4 p.m., fee \$69. Ballet/Creative Movement: April 1, ages 3-5 from 3-3:45 p.m., fee \$25.



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Awards for Minnesota Conservation Leadership announced

The Trust for Public Land announced recently the winners of its fifth annual Conservation Leadership Awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievements in supporting the conservation of Minnesota special places from city parks to wilderness areas.

The 2013 TPL Conservation Leadership Award winners are

Senator Rod Skoe, DFL - Clearbrook; Representative Leon Lillie, DFL - North St. Paul; Council member Melvin Carter, St. Paul Ward 1; Jenny Smith, Cycle Path & Paddle, Crosby; Peggy Booth, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Scientific and Natural Area program supervisor, St. Paul.

St. Paul City Council

member Melvin Carter was recognized for his outstanding leadership in and commitment to the creation of Frogtown Park

& Farm, St. Paul. The proposed park in a park poor neighborhood of St. Paul will include an active play area, a nature pre-

serve, and an urban demonstration farm where neighbors will be able to learn about different farming traditions.



St. Paul City Council member Melvin Carter was recognized for his outstanding leadership in and commitment to the creation of Frogtown Park & Farm, St. Paul. The proposed park in a park poor neighborhood of St. Paul will include an active play area, a nature preserve, and an urban demonstration farm where neighbors will be able to learn about different farming traditions. Pictured above: The Trust for Public Land Minnesota Advisory Board Member Glen Skovholt; The Trust for Public Land Minnesota Advisory Board Member Steve Christenson; Seitu Jones; Soyini Guyton; Council Member Melvin Carter; Mike Hamm (St. Paul Parks and Rec); Legislative Aide Noel Nix; and The Trust for Public Land State Director Susan Schmidt.

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Black History Month Events at Hamline University

This is My Story: Men of the Pan-African Diaspora

11:20 a.m. Thursday, February
100E Giddens Learning Center

Brown bag lunch and discussion. African and African American men share their thoughts and experiences on identity, race, justice, and other issues affecting the black community.

Re-Imaging Blackness: Boldly Engaging Cultural Difference in Black Twin Cities

11:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 12
Anderson Center, Room 112

Zensele Isoke, professor of gender, women, and sexuality studies at the University of Minnesota, and author of *Urban Black Women and the Politics of Resistance*, will discuss demographic realities that black people face in the Twin Cities.

Saakumu West African Drum and Dance Troupe Performance

7 p.m. Thursday, February 14
Sundin Music Hall

Hamline welcomes back the Saakumu Drum and Dance Troupe of Ghana, West Africa. Performance to include spiritual, ceremonial, and contemporary African dance forms.

A Tribute to Black Cultural Icons

7 p.m. Friday, February 15
Sundin Music Hall

A night of musical, poetic, and theatrical performances honoring black Americans who achieved success before age 50.

A Question of Color

6 p.m. Wednesday, February 20
Anderson Center, Room 111

Watch the documentary "A Question of Color," which addresses "color consciousness," a caste system based on how closely skin color, hair texture, and facial features conform to a European ideal. Refreshments provided.



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MARCH 6, 5:00-7:00 PM

Highland Park Library, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., Saint Paul

MARCH 11, 5:00-7:00 PM

St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., Saint Paul

MARCH 14, 5:00-7:00 PM

CoCo, 400 S. 4th St., Suite 4, Minneapolis

MARCH 16, 1:00-3:00 PM

Gordon Parks High School, 1212 University Ave. W., Saint Paul

MARCH 19, 5:00-7:00 PM

James J. Hill Library, 80 4th St. W., Saint Paul

MARCH 21, 5:00-7:00 PM

El Burrito Mercado, 175 Cesar Chavez St., Suite 2, Saint Paul

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