



Eureka Recycling helps people recycle better. Open house planned.

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Pickers support Hamline University's adjunct faculty union

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Residents seek to bridge divide between renters and homeowners at summit

PAGE 3

Midway Como

Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

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Midway resident Jacob McGill said, "No one ever gave the neighbors the chance to vote on whether we wanted the stadium here. I hope they'll at least consider helping us with the street maintenance we'll need now, due to increased traffic." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

OPENING DAY AT ALLIANZ FIELD

Growing sport appeals to families who bought every last season ticket -- with a wait list of 5,000



Is stadium a benefit to Hamline-Midway?

Residents have mixed views on effect of 20,000 soccer fans coming into neighborhood

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Neighbors who live with in a few blocks of Allianz Field are having to adjust to new levels of traffic on MNUFC game days. On the evening of Game II, April 24, people shared the following thoughts.

A neighbor at Sherburne and Simpson (who asked to remain anonymous) said, "My wife and I have lived here for 16 years. I love watching the people go by and seeing the action around the stadium on game days, but parking is a big problem for us. We don't have a garage, and both my wife and I are handicapped. We have to park in front of our house. If we can't get home in time to park in our parking spaces, we don't have a place to park."

Tina Sweesy, who lives three blocks away from Allianz Field, said, "The stadium hasn't presented a big deal for us. I'm just glad the Super Block is starting to feel safer. I feel like, for 18 times/year, why not have people come and visit our neighborhood?"

Continued on page 8

Photos and Article By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Despite a daytime high of only 39 degrees and lingering snowbanks on the field, the stands were packed for Opening Day at Allianz Stadium. Following a 12 p.m. opening party on April 13, 2019, the gates opened two and a half hours early for the 4 p.m. Minnesota United FC kick-off against New York.

Several hundred fans parked at the State Fair grounds, for a fee, and rode the complementary shuttle to the stadium. There are about 15 St. Paul businesses that allow parking in their lots and ramps, including Spruce Tree Centre and Fairview HealthEast. A full list of parking and transportation options can be found at www.mnufc.com/stadium. >> MORE SOCCER COVERAGE ON PAGES 7-10

Neighborhood responds to game-day traffic

Some rent out driveways, others ask for residential permit parking districts

By JANE MCCLURE

Allianz Field's first few Major League Soccer games have had a mixed impact on surrounding neighborhoods, in terms of parking and traffic.

Some neighbors are already seeking expanded or new residential permit parking districts, in response to people filling streets with parked vehicles. Others have decided

to make a profit, signing up to rent out their off-street driveways or parking pads to soccer fans.

Pre and post-game periods have brought heavy motor vehicle traf-

fic on arterial and neighborhood streets, with traffic tie-ups north and south of University Ave. But Minnesota United FC's admonition to fans to walk, bike or use trans-

port, shuttles, off-site paid parking lots for games apparently is being heeded. Buses and trains have carried full loads of passengers to and from games,

Continued on page 10

Graduation Notice

Hamline Commencement
Saturday, May 18, 2019

While we welcome friends and families of our graduates to the neighborhood, please note that Hewitt Avenue will be closed from Snelling Avenue to N. Pascal Street from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. due to crowds. Detours will be posted. For a map detailing further closures and parking, visit hamline.edu/gradparking.

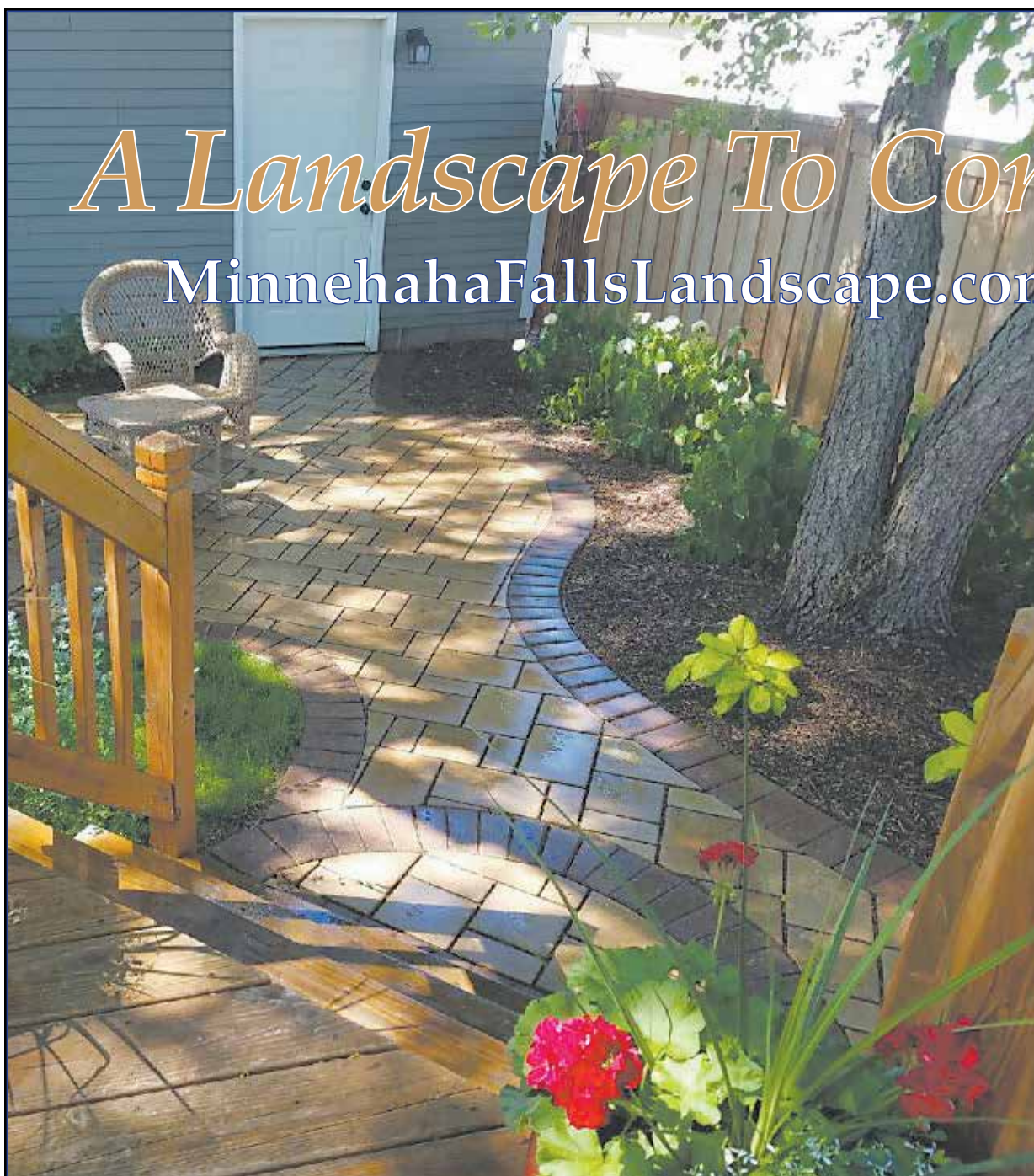
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Undergraduate Commencement
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Bridging divide between renters and homeowners

Renter's Voice Summit first step in giving voice to the half of city residents who rent

By TESHAM. CHRISTENEN
tesha@monitorsaintpaul.com

Bringing the voice of renters into city hall is a subject Ward 4 Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson is passionate about.

She is a renter who campaigned on a platform of renter's rights last summer before being elected to the seat vacated by Russ Stark. On Thursday, April 18, she held a Renter's Voice Summit in partnership with five district councils.

"Half of our community is renting and we have yet to see full representation [on the city council]," Nelson pointed out.

She added, "Tenants are the most diverse group of residents. What are our rights? What are ways to make our voices heard?"

Nelson pointed out that this is the first time an event of this kind for renters has been organized. "We are doing something new and different," she said. "I believe our government needs to work directly with folks to solve problems."

CONVERSATION BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND RENTERS

Renters, landlords and district council members attended the April 18 summit at Hamline University, and talked about the divide that exists between homeowners and tenants.

"There is the perception that homeowners are somewhat permanent and part of the city, and that renters are transient," observed District 10 Community Council Executive Director Michael Kuchta after his group had chatted together. "Yet there were renters at our table who have lived in the neighborhood longer than I've owned my home."

At the Hamline Midway Coalition table, landlords expressed concerns about how to manage challenging tenants, and asked to be part of the process in developing a single application. Tenants and landlords are concerned about requirements by the city department of safety and inspection and don't feel that they are clear.

Union Park residents are anxious about how the new stadium will affect rental prices.

They also want to see renters voices reflected in news articles.

Those at the Mac-Groveland table pointed out that there are good landlords who genuinely want to hear about issues so they can fix them and seek to have good relationships with those who are leasing from them. These small business owners may also live in the building they own or nearby.

District council members en-



Theresa St. Aoro is a renter in the Como neighborhood. She loves the duplex she rents and the neighborhood, and would only move if her rent increases too much. She wishes there was less volatility in rent prices. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Ward 4 Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson pointed out that half of the community rents yet she is the only voice representing that demographic on the city council. "I don't think my voice encompasses half the population," stated Nelson. "I'm trying to be that change." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

"There is the perception that homeowners are somewhat permanent and part of the city and that renters are transient. Yet there were renters at our table who have lived in the neighborhood longer than I've owned my home." ~ Michael Kuchta

couraged people to get involved in their organizations in order to make change happen and bring their voices to the table. "I encourage folks who are renting to be part of this work," said Hamline Midway Coalition Community Organizer Melissa Cortes Michener.

Nelson told those gathered that the night's meeting was only one of many steps.

"The conversation needs to continue," stated Nelson. "We need the relationships in this room to help us reach more people."

OTHER CITY INITIATIVES

At the council level, Nelson is working on a fair housing and tenant protection ordinance.

In December 2018, the Saint Paul City Council approved a one-time \$10 million and annual \$2 million investment into

a Housing Trust Fund, for total housing investments of over \$71 million. The aim of the Housing Trust Fund is to produce, preserve, and protect housing affordability for St. Paul residents and to address the current crisis of housing affordability.

In February, the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) approved using money from the Housing Trust Fund for the new 4(d) Affordable Housing Incentive Program. This will preserve existing affordable housing by providing landlords with a small property tax credit. Within the first two weeks, 104 applications for 721 units were received, including nearly 200 units serving households at or below 50 percent of area median income.

In the next year, the Housing Trust Fund will explore various programs, including a rent

supplement pilot in partnership with St. Paul Public Schools, targeted down-payment assistance programs, and investments in proven models of sustained affordability and wealth building such as the Rondo Community Land Trust.

The Rental Rehabilitation Loan Program seeks to preserve existing affordable rental housing options. Landlords of 1-4 unit properties who want to upgrade their current property classification by making property improvements that increase the safety and quality of rental units can apply for a loan of up to \$30,000 for 10 years at 0% interest to address eligible issues.

Other ideas discussed at the Renter's Voice Summit include: Ban the box to help those with criminal records get rental housing, and just cause eviction. With a central application system, potential renters would just have to fill out one application form. Another idea would be to have a central list of available rental units.

If a right of first refusal was implemented, renters would get the option of buying the property first if it went up for sale.

Know Your Rights: Tenant Rights in Minnesota

At the start of the summit, speakers shared resources for renters. Free legal advice for rental problems is available at the Home Line, 612-728-5767 or email an attorney at www.homelinemn.org/email.

Rights for tenants fall under three main categories and make up the majority of calls the Home Line receives: security deposits, repairs and evictions.

- Landlords can charge a screening fee for applicants, but not if no rental units are available at the time of application or in the near future.

- At the end of tenancy, the landlord must return the deposit within 21 days with 1% interest, although they can keep any amount necessary with written explanation to make repairs to the damage done by the tenant.

- Rental agreements are either periodic (month-to-month) or for a definite amount of time. For periodic rental agreements, the landlord or the tenant can end the agreement at any time, but must give proper notice (either stated in the lease or one full rental period plus one day under state law).

- A landlord cannot raise the rent without written notice of one rental period plus one day for month-to-month leases, and unless the lease allows for increases for definite leases.

- Landlords cannot enter a unit without a reasonable business purpose (ex. showing the unit to other prospective tenants) and only after making a good faith effort to give you reasonable notice.

- Landlords are required to keep a unit in reasonable repair. You can file a complaint with St. Paul DSI by calling 651-266-8989 if they refuse to make repairs, or write the landlord and request repairs within 14 days. If management fails to make such repairs, you may file a rent escrow action.

- In order to legally evict a tenant, a landlord must first bring a formal court "Eviction Action," ("unlawful detainer") against the tenant, with a recognized legitimate reason under state law to do so. (These include nonpayment of rent, breach of the lease, holding over after a notice to vacate, or some specific illegal/criminal behaviors.) This is followed by a court proceeding that must then be carried out to completion.

- A landlord may not evict a tenant or end a tenancy in retaliation for the tenant's "good faith" attempt to enforce the tenant's rights (such as calling an inspector), nor can a landlord respond to such an attempt by raising the tenant's rent, cutting services, or otherwise adversely changing the rental terms. If, within 90 days of a tenant's action, the landlord starts an Eviction Action or gives the tenant a notice to vacate, the law presumes that the landlord is retaliating.

Information taken from a handout from the April 18 Renter's Voice Summit. A full hand-book with more detail and legal resources is available at bit.ly/MNTenantLandlordRights

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Print is dead, you say?

Nah. It's just evolving.

A few months ago I attended the Minnesota Newspapers Association (MNA) annual convention, and listened to a speaker talk about just that. I was particularly interested in the topic as I was negotiating to purchase the *Midway Como Monitor* and *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger* from longtime owners Calvin deRuyter and Tim Nelson. Was I taking a leap into a dying industry?

After listening to Bill Ostendorf of Creative Circle Media Solutions, I was reassured. He's spent his whole career in newspapers, and he doesn't believe print is dead.

After 20 years in the industry, I don't either.

Why am I convinced?

Well, they first started saying newspapers were going to die when radio got popular. But newspapers stuck around.

Then they said newspapers and radio couldn't last when the television came out. Yet newspapers stayed and even thrived.

When the Internet got big, they were sure it was the final death knoll of newspapers, radio and television. Yet radios are still in every car, most people have one or more televisions in their



Too Much Coffee

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN, Tessa@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Print is not dead – but we are changing

house, and newspapers continue to print.

The thing is, people are reading now more than ever before. So the question isn't whether people are reading, the question is are they going to read particular publications.

The questions those of us in the news industry need to be asking is why should people read our stuff instead of the myriad of information out there.

What makes us different?

What makes us worth reading?

What makes our editions important?

Those are the questions I'm committed to asking. I entered the field of journalism at the cusp of the Internet revolution. For those first few years, I called the local librarian to doublecheck my details. And then fact-checking things became much faster via Google. (Al-

though with its own new set of accuracy questions.) I even did a few editions of cut and paste before we switched over to electronic layout with QuarkExpress.

As I ask others what they love about neighborhood newspapers, I have been thinking about what I value. I want to know what's happening on my street, what development is going to change my neighborhood, and what fascinating things my neighbors are engaged in. I want to see photos of kids I know and congratulate them on their achievements, noting, "I saw you in the paper." I want to hear the various sides of issues and wrestle over what the best solution will be in the long run. I want to learn what sparked the coffee shop and hardware store and secondhand boutique owners to open up shop, and hear what tips they have for other entrepreneurs.

The daily stuff of my neighborhood can't be found anywhere but in the papers of my neighborhood newspaper.

That's what I love about community journalism. I stay in this industry because I love local, I love to see people engaged, and I love to watch community being built. I appreciate the slice of life the pages of the *Monitor* offer each month.

I'm also excited to see how newspapers are being innovative and creative. It's amazing to see the convergence of media – of print, TV, radio, audio, video, and more – coming together into something new.

What will community newspapers look like in 10 years? I'm looking forward to finding out. I think that the answer lies in asking our readers what they want.

Bill Ostendorf encouraged all the reporters in the room at the MNA Convention (and his

session was packed) to focus on being reader-centric. This starts with the basics of what we write in an article, how we shape it, and who we include in it. It also means focusing on writing really good headlines about people instead of things, and really interesting photo cutlines. Plus we need more break-out boxes and standout photos. Research has shown that people read headlines, cutlines and break-out boxes first – and they may or may not read the whole article.

Ostendorf advocated for content that is more engaging and more relevant. He encouraged designers to adopt modular layouts that are easier on the eyes. He encouraged sales staff to sell bigger ads that get attention and bring value to the readers.

Ostendorf reminded us that our print newspapers help people live better lives. The information within our pages informs and educates. It helps people make better decisions and be successful.

What do you want from the pages of the *Monitor*? I'd love to hear from you. Drop me a line at Tessa@MonitorSaintPaul.com.

The dream of Major League Soccer in the Midway, which only seemed like a fantasy four years ago, has become a reality. For those of us who have lived or worked in the neighborhood for years, Allianz Field looks like a spaceship descended upon our community. And a beautiful spaceship it is, especially when lit up. Whether in purple in Prince's memory, red and green for Christmas, or its standard blue, the light show adds to the aesthetic.

The Minnesota United have now played three home games in Allianz Field. I was fortunate enough to attend the April 24 game against the LA Galaxy, but not fortunate enough to take part in the tradition of singing the Oasis song, "Wonderwall" after a United win (they tied their first two games before winning 1-0 over DC United).

Are you unsure if you like soccer? I never got into the sport until the Minnesota United, and while I still don't know why a yellow card gets raised, the games are very fun. For low scoring affairs, the excitement is still off the charts, especially when your



Building a Stronger Midway

By CHAD KULAS, Midway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Light shows, scarves, Wonderwall: trip to Allianz Field

team scores a goal. The big soccer fans are unmatched in their enthusiasm, waving giant flags and banging drums in the fan section, but a first-time visitor will still have a great time. If you are skeptical, give it a try. The excitement is contagious.

Here are some observations if you decide to check it out.

There are things to do outside Allianz Field, so allow time to walk around the entire stadium, and then walk through the entire concourse. Walk into the Brew Hall, located north of the field. The Brew Hall is open Thursday-Sunday when there isn't an event at Allianz Field, with non-game prices. It also stays open 1.5 hours after home games, so a great way to avoid traffic.

Another way to avoid post-

game traffic is to stop by nearby restaurants and bars. If you can afford the time, a person is better off grabbing their last drink at the Black Hart or other bars before venturing to their vehicle or transit.

If you plan to come by car, the closest parking lots are \$25. You can also take a shuttle bus from the State Fair, which charges \$15 to park. I suspect more restaurants will use a shuttle service to get patrons to the game.

Transit may be the best way to get to the game. Cheaper than driving, Allianz Field is close to both the Green Line Light Rail Line and the A-Line Bus Rapid Transit – which ends up connecting to the Blue Line at Hiawatha and 46th St. So far, public transit is taking about 45 minutes to clear out after a game – typically

larger events are considered good if the time is less than one hour.

Over the past few years, there has been a lot of thought going into Allianz Field. Would it actually get built? If so, would it be the best option for the old bus barn site from a community standpoint? Once it was a foregone conclusion, the talk turned to the details. What would the rest of the "superblock" look like? Would public funds be used for the development? What impact would it have on the neighborhood, both on game days and always?

The biggest concerns the Midway Chamber heard from both members and residents was parking and traffic – both strictly gameday concerns. With the United playing 17 home games a year and a handful of other larger

events, traffic and parking are not regular problems occurring most days. Most games are also played on weekends, meaning games are rarely a concern for rush hour.

If you go, take notice of the neighborhood. Open Hands Midway, a nonprofit who can provide 28 meals for those in need with a \$50 donation, is housed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and will have hundreds if not thousands of fans walk by their door each game. Even organizations farther than walking distance will benefit from the thousands of fans coming from each direction as they drive by either by personal vehicle or transit.

I am thrilled the Midway will get to welcome 20,000 soccer fans 17 times at Allianz Field this year, college football fans for the Tommie-Johnnie game, and other events in the future. Our guests will support our local businesses and give many more added visibility and name recognition. Here's to hoping we sing "Wonderwall" a lot in the Midway this year. Scarves all the way up!

Correction

On page 11 of the April 2019 *Monitor*, we erroneously referred to Dissel Moo as a "she" instead of "he." We sincerely apologize for the error. Como High School student Dissel Moo received a 2019 Public Health Award for mentoring youth about healthy choices and active living. Award recipients were selected for their leadership, advocacy and collaboration in improving health by advancing health equity in the county.

Got an opinion?

Write to us about it! We want your letters to the editor and guest columns.

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Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Convenience store is fined

An area convenience store must pay a \$500 fine, as a result of St. Paul City Council action April 17. The council fined Midway Amoco BP, which is located at 1347 University Ave., and didn't request a hearing or challenge the fine.

The fine stems from an incident in fall 2018. The city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) received a notice of seized contraband letter from the Minnesota Department of Revenue dated Nov. 13, 2018. State officials seized products at the store in September 2018. Flavored Babbo products were found to be offered for sale or held as inventory at the store, without an invoice from a licensed seller, and were seized as contraband under state law.

The city's regulations allow for the city to take action of its own if such contraband is found. The city opted to assess a \$500 fine.

Midway Amoco BP had until March 22 to challenge the fine or seek a hearing, either before the City Council or a legislative hearing officer, but chose not to do so.

Liquor laws are changed

Two of St. Paul's remaining "blue laws" are no more, as a result of St. Paul City Council action April 17. Liquor can now be sold within 300 feet of religious institutions throughout the city. In the downtown area, liquor can be sold within 300 feet of a school. The sales apply to restaurants with on-sale liquor licenses and liquor stores.

The changes, which won unanimous City Council approval, strike down regulations that have been in place since the 1960s. Schools and places of worship have long had to the ability to veto on-sale liquor licenses or liquor stores that are within 300 feet of their locations.

Requests made for licenses within the 300-foot zone also needed at least five of seven City Council votes for approval.

The changes didn't draw public comment, and no one attended public hearings earlier in April to speak for or against the changes.

Ward Two Council Member Rebecca Noecker brought the changes forward. She said the changes and other regulatory issues she is working on will help make it easier for downtown businesses to operate.

Another change is one the city has to make. The liquor regulation centered on places of worship removes city legislative code language that has been found to be unconstitutional.

The changes came forward after a disagreement between the Gray Duck Tavern at Wabasha and Fourth St. and the St. Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts, a charter school at 16 W. Fifth St. The liquor license for

Gray Duck was approved in 2017 after an extensive building renovation. Charter school officials objected in December 2018, noting that they hadn't been asked to weigh in on the matter. School officials asked the city to suspend liquor sales at the restaurant. The city declined to do so.

The school has operated at its downtown location since 2013. It is in the same building as the Pazzaluna restaurant and is within a short distance of other restaurants with liquor licenses.

The new regulations indicated that schools within the downtown business district will still be notified if a liquor license holder is moving in. Schools still can raise concerns about a liquor license.

Peace Park wins grant

The Midway Peace Park in Lexington-Hamline neighborhood will receive an additional \$180,000 from Capitol Region

Watershed District. The St. Paul City Council accepted the funding April 17. That bumps project funding up to \$3.18 million.

The watershed district works with the city on issues including water runoff, drainage, rain gardens and other needs.

The park is located on the east side of Griggs St. between University and St. Anthony avenues. The park has been several years in the making and was originally proposed as a project by students at Gordon Parks High School. City officials have worked with the Trust for Public Land to purchase the property for transformation into a park. It was used as surplus parking space by Midway auto dealers for many years.

The park is near the Skyline Towers high-rise apartments, and near senior house owners and operated by Episcopal Homes. It is in an area that was eyed during Green Line light rail development for added green space.

MISCO awarded city funding

A Midway company will benefit from a \$49,500 forgivable Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) loan. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and redevelopment Authority, approved the loan to MISCO April 10.

Company leader Dan Digre told council members that the loan will assist with relocation to the new headquarters at 1771 Energy Park Drive. The company was founded 70 years ago by his father, Clifford, when the family lived in the Selby-Dale neighborhood. Dan Digre said it is fitting that the company is returning to its St. Paul roots.

MISCO designs, tests and manufactures loudspeakers and amplifiers. Its new headquarters facility will be the only speaker design, testing and manufacturing operation of its kind in North America.

MISCO has outgrown its location in Minneapolis and needs to locate somewhere with room to grow that is welcoming to their business and unique industrial needs. The loan will help with the purchase of furniture and equipment to support the transition. The company will bring 66 existing jobs here, and through their growth hire an additional 50 - 60 new employees over the next ten years.

No existing businesses will be displaced or relocated as a result of this project. The loan is forgivable if certain conditions are met.

Housing projects moving ahead

Multi-family and mixed-use projects near University Avenue keep moving ahead. Indiana-based Scannell Properties May 2 won St. Paul Planning Commission approval for its conditional use permit and floor area ratio variance allowing additional building height and density for a six-story mixed use development at 441-443 N. Snelling Ave. in April, Wellington Management's the Pitch won approvals for additional height, a floor area ratio variance and relocated drive-through lanes for its six-story development at 427 N. Snelling Ave.

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Mixed-use, multi-family projects are moving ahead

A third project, Raymond Station at 2250-2264 University Ave., was also granted a conditional use permit for additional height in April. The projects reflect a growing trend of mixed-use, market-rate housing planned on and near University.

The Pitch is to be built on the Bremer Bank site. The bank will relocate while its new home is built. It will also include 13,000 square feet of retail for a new Bremer Bank, and possibly a Walgreens.

Scannell is building on the former Furniture Barn site, and plans a restaurant on its first floor. Both buildings will have below-ground parking.

Both Snelling projects are in the traditional neighborhoods 3 zoning district, where a height of 55 feet is allowed. The conditional use permits allow each building's height to top 70 feet. Raymond Station will reach a height of seven feet in one section. Its University and Hampden avenues; site is also zoned for traditional neighborhoods 3 use.

All told, the three developments will bring about 250 new housing units to the area,

able housing, including apartments in New Hope and 63 new affordable single-family homes in North Minneapolis.

"This is a very interesting area," said Chris Osmundson, Alatus director of development. It is in Lexington-Hamline area of Union Park but borders Frog-town, Hamline-Midway and Summit-University. Area residents are a mix of ethnicities and economic backgrounds. It's also part of the old Rondo neighborhood, a predominantly African-American neighborhood that was partially destroyed when Interstate 94 was built in the 1960s.

The 2.05-acre site is just south of TCF Bank and White Castle. It is owned by Wilder Foundation, which has its headquarters west of the property. A new development would finish the southwest corner of Lexington and University Avenue. The site was one home to the St. Paul Saints ballpark, but was redeveloped as a strip mall more than 50 years ago. High-profile battles were waged over redevelopment in the 1990s. Neighbor-

hood groups called for a dense, mixed-use urban village. City officials saw the site as being ideal for big-box retail. It since has been redeveloped with an Aldi grocery store, TCF Bank, Wilder headquarters and an Episcopal Homes senior living building. One original retaining wall for the old ballpark is still in place.

Alatus is mulling the notion of a six-story mixed-use development, with first-floor commercial use and five stories of housing above. About 250 housing units in a mix of size options and an undetermined amount of structured parking spaces are planned. Prices haven't been determined.

The property is zoned for traditional neighborhoods four use, which could allow heights of up to 75 feet, with additional height allowed through a conditional use permit process.

About a dozen site neighbors attended the meeting, as did a representative of the Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation (ASANDC). ASANDC has expressed interest in buying the parcel. Neighbors

raised concerns about addition; a traffic and parking demand generated by the development. Those concerns will be discussed the month ahead.

City seeks grant funding

The St. Paul City Council April 24 approved a grant request for a Midway site that has long been eyed for redevelopment. Property at 1730 University Ave. and the former Ford Motor Company site in Highland were submitted to the Metropolitan Council, for consideration for possible Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) pre-development grants.

Then city has used various Livable Communities Development Grants for several years, and for projects all along Green Line light rail. Projects funded through the grant program have to meet certain criteria. The city has to apply for the grants on behalf of developers. In this case a developer hasn't been named.

1730 University is a commercial building. It's on a block with another small commercial property and two homes. The properties have been marketed as a group and are zoned for traditional neighborhoods 3 mixed-use redevelopment. The rezoning occurred several years ago as part of a larger rezoning project all along Green Line light rail.

A total of six parcels, comprising .46 acres, make up the site.



The Inter-Faculty Organization (IFO) is an organization that represents the interests of faculty at the seven Minnesota state universities. They held an informational picket at Hamline University on Thursday, May 2, 2019, to support the Hamline adjunct faculty union. Adjunct anthropology professor Marcia Regan said, "We are here because we believe in Hamline University. In inflation adjusted dollars, we are asking to get back to where we were in 2005. We haven't had a raise in more than a decade. Adjunct professors are hired course by course. There are 91 adjunct professors teaching 128 courses at Hamline University this year. We represent 33% of the faculty faces that students see on campus." More at www.hamlinetakeslead.com. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Eureka Recycling helps people recycle better

Facility designed for food and beverage containers – not extra stuff like hoses, plastic toys and fencing

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Eureka Recycling is one of only a handful of non-profit recycling facilities across the country, and they're a zero waste organization, too.

They process an average of 400 tons of recyclable materials from the Twin Cities metro area daily. Katrina Lund, director of community engagement, emphasized, "That's 400 tons that aren't being burned in incinerators every day."

Their mission is to demonstrate that waste is preventable. This impacts the way they run their recycling program – everything from how they market their recyclables to how they pay their employees.

Located in Northeast Minneapolis, Eureka's programs are designed to help individuals, organizations, and communities understand the significance of zero waste, and to provide the resources and education needed to achieve zero waste goals.

On Saturday, June 1, Eureka will host its first ever open house for St. Paul and Minneapolis residents from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Facility tours will be offered on the half hour during these times. Taking a tour helps people reckon with how huge quantities of recyclable material are collected, separated, and bundled – all at very high speeds.

In this time of change in the recycling industry, it's important to understand what can and can't be recycled in a MRF (materials recovery facility) like Eureka.

Co-president Lynn Hoffman said, "It's pretty simple. We're de-



The June 1 open house at Eureka Recycling will help St. Paul and Minneapolis residents better understand the process of zero waste recycling. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Community engagement director Katrina Lund said, "It's important to remember to reduce, re-use AND recycle." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

signed to handle food and beverage containers, though we end up with all kinds of things like garden hoses, plastic toys, chain link fencing, and propane tanks."

When St. Paul switched to single stream recycling a few years ago, the quantity of recyclables collected went up, but the quality went down.

Hoffman and Lund made the following suggestions for people who want to recycle better:

- Do not put recyclables into plastic bags. Dump them directly into the blue cart.
- Make sure that containers being recycled are empty. Get them reasonably clean, too.
- Just because something is recyclable, doesn't mean it's recyclable in the blue cart. For ex-

ample, plastic bags are recyclable – but not through Eureka. Search www.plasticfilmrecycling.org by zip code to learn where to bring them. CUB, Target and Walmart on University Ave. in the Midway are all drop-off spots for plastics such as product wrap, newspaper and bread bags, and more. The bins are located near the entrance of each store.

- Lithium batteries are now frequently embedded in greeting cards. The batteries are hazardous and should not be put in with recycling.
- Batteries, propane tanks, and electronics should be taken to a hazardous waste site.
- If there's a choice between products packaged in plastic or glass, choose glass. Glass can be recycled infinitely; a plastic bottle

will likely be turned into decking, and from there it can't be recycled into anything else; plastic bottles can only be recycled once.

Lund explained that most of the trash collected in the Twin Cities ends up being burned in an incinerator in downtown Minneapolis. She said, "One of the myths in this industry is that incineration is cheaper than recycling. The real costs of incineration go well beyond a dollar amount. You have to figure in the invisible (and unknown) costs of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, carcinogens released into the air, and the effect on climate change."

Hoffman concluded, "We have a consumption problem in this country. Forty-two percent of the CO2 emissions in the US

come from the production, consumption, and disposal of consumer products. What can we do about that? Use less, be content with what you have, choose durable options. People get overwhelmed and think that their individual actions don't add up – but they do."

Eureka Recycling is located at 2828 Kennedy Street NE, Minneapolis 55413. There's no need to RSVP for the open house, but you can reserve a spot for a specific tour time at www.eurekarecycling.org. Enjoy snacks and coffee (in compostable cups), and photo opportunities with bales of aluminum cans and mixed plastics. Public tours are also available each Wednesday at 9 a.m. by reservation.

Complaints slow, but people still refusing to pay trash bills

Rate of residents not paying bills still at about 11%

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul residents have had organized trash collection for six months. While complaints have slowed down, there are still people refusing to pay their bills. That was a key takeaway in a report delivered April 24, 2019 to the St. Paul City Council.

St. Paul Department of Public Works solid waste program supervisor Christopher Swanson reviewed the data from the program progress thus far. While council members are pleased about some aspects of the program, other areas were targeted for improvement. Questions remain on other issues, as to whether or not organized collection has resulted in fewer instances of illegal dumping.

The City Council is due for another report on organized collection in September. While the

council is monitoring the trash issues closely, there is a five-year contract in place between the city and haulers. The ability to make changes is limited.

In the meantime, the St. Paul Trash group is pushing ahead with its lawsuit against the city. They return to Ramsey County District Court May 9. One goal is to put the question of organized trash collection on an election ballot.

Since October 2018 St. Paul has required single-family, duplex, triplex and fourplex properties to have city-supplied trash carts and haulers assigned by district. While that pleases people who complained about illegal dumping and too many trash trucks in an alley or on a street, other decried the loss of choice of hauler and the ability to comparison-shop. Another complaint

is no longer being able to share a cart with a neighbor.

A fourth issues foes raise is that about half of the firms that were initially involved in organized collection have sold out to other firms. The most recent sale, which affects parts of Hamline-Midway and Merriam Park, is last month's sale of Advanced Disposal to Waste Management.

Complaints about the program have dropped, said Swanson. But the number of people not paying their trash bills is still hovering around 11 percent. That's not changed in recent months. Unpaid bills eventually are added to property tax assessments.

Council members told Public Works staff that while the complaints have dropped, they're still concerned about incidents of poor customer service. Ward 7 Council Member Jane Prince

described a situation in which a customer had to quickly leave town to help an ill family member, and yet couldn't get hold of trash collection. The company told the customer that a minimum two weeks' notice is required for such holds.

Prince also said she continues to be concerned about people on fixed incomes, who struggle to afford even the smallest trash cart and every-other-week service. She said the haulers consortium needs to show "common sense" in dealing with customers.

Other council members said they, too, continue to hear complaints about poor customer service and missed collections. There have been almost 1,400 complaints, with most focused on billing, late fees, missed pickups and other issues. Legislative hearings on unpaid bills began

in April, with many hearings focusing on misdirected or incorrect charges. The first challenges to bills go to the St. Paul City Council for final action in May.

The missed pickups number of 1,676, or .7% seemed low to some council members. But Swanson said that doesn't include weather-related issues. One related issue the council is looking at is whether the city should take over alley plowing, which would be one way to address the problems on snow-clogged alleys.

Another question council members had was how to measure the success of organization collection, which could be seen as reducing illegal dumping and wear and tear on streets. Swanson said that while the dumping figures can be easily collected, looking at impacts on streets is something that could take years.

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The Black Hart combines soccer, LGBTQ+ and neighborhood hangout

Town House Bar revamped by Midway resident and soccer fan as Minnesota United move into Allianz Stadium nearby

By TESHA M. CHRISTENEN
tesha@monitorsaintpaul.com

Wes Burdine felt like something was missing when he moved into the Midway area three years ago. It needed a neighborhood gathering place.

With Allianz Stadium going up, Burdine also believed that the Midway needed a soccer bar.

So one day he called up Holly Monnett, owner of St. Paul's oldest LGBTQ+ bar, the Town House Bar (1415 University Ave. W.) four blocks from his house, and shared his idea with her.

"I want to take what exists in this bar and add soccer to it," Burdine said.

She told him, "This is the phone call I've been waiting for," Burdine recalled.

CULTURE YOU CAN'T RECREATE

The Town House began as a fine dining restaurant in the 1940s and stayed that way through the 1960s. In 1969, it was rebranded as a gay bar, albeit subtly. Monnett began working there in 1974, became manager in 1980, and bought the place in 1987.

The bar has been well-known for its burlesque and drag shows, as well as weekly karaoke and piano lounge.

"It has a culture that you can't recreate from scratch," observed Burdine.

And he didn't want to. Rather, he wanted to build upon it and bring more people, both gay and straight, soccer fans and neighbors, through the door. "It is important to me to keep something that is really vibrant and interesting here," said Burdine. "This is a great space where a lot of things have happened."

TRIBAL SOCCER WORLD

His goal is to continue to serve the queer community and to offer a soccer bar that serves a distinct fan culture, one he knows through his work as a soccer writer, blogger, and podcaster.

Burdine is part of team that launched FiftyFiveOne, an online magazine focused on soccer and its culture, that grew out of Northern Pitch in 2016. Its name comes from the average high temperature of Minnesota, and the site seeks to be the singular



Wes Burdine purchased St. Paul's oldest LGBTQ+ bar, the Town House Bar (1415 University Avenue West), four blocks from his house last year. He's rebranded it by adding a soccer component as the Minnesota United FC move into the recently completed Allianz Field nearby. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

source for regular coverage of professional soccer in Minnesota.

"The soccer world is mostly ignored by the media. People like me took it upon ourselves to write about it the way we wanted to," explained Burdine.

Through that work, Burdine is familiar with the Minnesota United, its owner and players, and its fans.

Located a thousand feet from the new Allianz Field, the Black Hart aims to be the new spiritual home for soccer in the Twin Cities, and a place to catch matches from around the world of soccer.

"Soccer culture is very niche and DIY," remarked Burdine. "It's a little bit tribal."

Part of that means that soccer fans enjoy watching games together, and if a game isn't on at Black Hart patrons are encouraged to just ask.

NOT GENTRIFYING BUT FIXING IT UP

A year and a half ago, Burdine started asking people what

"Soccer is very niche and DIY."

~Wes Burdine, Blackhart owner

they loved most about the bar and what else they might want to see there. Burdine didn't make any quick changes as he got to know the regulars, and he hung onto the existing staff members. He knew as a cis-gender straight male buying a queer bar that he needed to listen first and use those ideas to shape what came next.

The Town House hadn't been the only place he had considered purchasing in the Midway. At one point, a property owner had encouraged him to raise the prices and push people out in order to get the right kind of clientele.

That advice didn't sit well with Burdine, who has no intention of gentrifying his neighborhood.

He appreciated The Town

House and didn't want anyone to feel uncomfortable there, although he had also identified some things that needed to be fixed and updated.

"This is a working class bar," said Burdine.

Burdine officially took over on Aug. 31, 2018 and held a grand re-opening of The Black Hart, named for an iconic black-tailed deer at the heart of the Minnesota wilderness, on March 2, 2019.

With the help of a \$100,000 Neighborhood Star matching grant, Burdine spruced up the place. He painted the outdoor of the building and the ceiling, installed new vinyl flooring, added some wallpaper, and put up new signage. There was also a great deal done that isn't noticeable, such as electrical work.

He tried to buy the empty lot next door to build a patio, but the current owners seem to be hanging onto it until they can get \$500,000 for it, Burdine remarked. All of the empty store-



Watch a soccer game on the 143-inch screen. (Photo courtesy of Black Hart)

fronts along University Ave. that have been purchased by out-of-state investors set on hanging onto them until the prices reach exorbitant amounts frustrates the neighborhood resident, and he's working with local officials to do something about it.

Burdine also converted the former dart area into a seating space, and added a large window to bring in light. He added more craft beer and liquor options in response to patron suggestions.

A giant 143-inch screen and projector went in on the stage. It allows patrons to view soccer games and rolls away during drag shows.

Catch the longtime Pumps and Pearls show on Tuesdays, and other burlesque and drag shows on the weekends after 9:30 p.m.

There's karaoke every Tuesday night beginning at 8:30 p.m. and again on Fridays in the lounge at 9 p.m. Sunday is Cheapie Night with free pool and darts after 8 p.m. Monday night is Trivia Night with Trivia Mafia.

Check the online calendar for which soccer games will be shown (www.blackhartstp.com).

Hours are Monday to Thursday, 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday 3 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday noon to 2 a.m. and Sunday noon to 1 a.m. Black Hart opens at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays August through May for European soccer games.

"The idea is to get to be the place of choice for Midway residents," said Burdine. "It's not just the drag shows or the soccer. It's their space, as well."

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Major league soccer is a growing sport in the US. Most of the season tickets were purchased by families, many with very small children in tow. All 14,500 season tickets have been sold out for the season, with a waiting list of 5,000. The stadium capacity is 19,500. There are single seats still available for some games. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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May 6, May 13, May 30, June 4



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Is stadium a benefit?

From page 1

Her 16-year-old daughter Emily added, "I just hope the development brings some nice restaurants into the neighborhood. When I want to hang out with my friends, we always go to Grand Ave. or Highland Park. It would be great to have better alternatives here in our neighborhood."

Rebekah Rexius and her family are also near neighbors. She said, "We're not happy with so many people parking in our neighborhood. It feels disrespectful, as we're the ones who pay for street and sidewalk maintenance. We wonder if the team could offer an incentive for people taking public transportation, like a few bucks off concessions for showing an LRT or bus ticket?"

Jacob McGill and his family live just west of Snelling Avenue. He said, "I go to Central Baptist Church. We're concerned about the 12:30 p.m. games on Sundays, and how people leaving church will get out of the neighborhood. We cancelled our choir practice tonight because there was a 7 p.m. kickoff, and

we didn't want choir members to get stuck in traffic. I'm not really complaining, but I am concerned. Our taxes are skyrocketing in this neighborhood, and I don't see the benefit to the community yet of having the stadium here. All this extra traffic sure won't help the condition of our streets either."

A spokesperson for the MNUFC said fans were discouraged from parking in the neighborhood, but it was clear that many were anyhow. From a paragraph near the end of the MNUFC Transportation Plan, which can be found online: "Allianz Field is located just off Interstate 94 on a Minnesota commuter pipeline that connects Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Fans from across the state will be able to hop on the interstate and drive directly to Allianz Field. However, given the amount of pedestrian, bicycle and transit traffic around the stadium on game days, it is recommended that fans do their best to avoid driving directly to Allianz Field."

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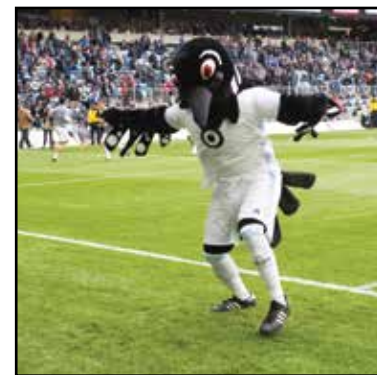
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The supporters section on the south end of the stadium has space for 2,900 fans to stand on risers. This is where the most passionate (and vocal) fans are grouped. Called the Wonder Wall, most of these fans are season ticket holders. Partnering with the MNUFC, they launch colored smoke grenades pre-game and after every home goal. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



The lone loon mascot's true identity is a tightly-held club secret. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



The natural turf is warmed from below by a plumbing system that keeps the soil at a constant temperature, no matter what the air temperature is. The grass is mowed every other day by the head groundskeeper with a hand mower. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Loons open Allianz Field era with draws and a win

Minnesota United FC kept an unbeaten mark for the first month in its new home.

By MATTHEW DAVIS

The Minnesota United FC Loons Major League Soccer team (4-3-2) capped its first month playing at Allianz Field in St. Paul with a win April 28. The Loons won for the first time in the new stadium as 19,620 watched. The Loons edged a win 1-0 over D.C. United (5-3-2), which came into the game at the top of the Eastern Conference standings.

"I thought we deserved it with our second half performance," Loons coach Adrian Heath said in the postgame press conference. "We got the crowd in the game."

Loons forward Angelo Rodriguez had the crowd roaring with the game winner in the 82nd minute. He collected his

fourth goal of the season, which matched his total from 2018.

Goalkeeper Vito Mannone earned the win in net as he faced one shot on goal in 90 minutes of action. Mannone improved to 4-3-2 overall, which included starts in the first two games of Allianz Field's brief history.

"It feels great. Hopefully more to come," Mannone said in the press conference. "It's a great base for us to go and win games."

FIRST GAME APRIL 13

He allowed three goals in that first game when the Loons had a 3-3 draw with New York City FC (2-1-6) April 13 in front of 19,796 fans. The first-year goalkeeper faced six shots on goal and made three saves.

Loons midfielder Osvaldo

Alonso scored the first-ever goal at Allianz Field in the 13th minute of the game, which shot off the offensive fireworks for the stadium's premiere.

"It means a lot! I never thought I would score the first goal in the new stadium," Alonso said in the postgame press conference. "I'm very happy for the goal but disappointed in the result, but we have to keep going."

New York City FC forward Valentin Castellanos became the first visiting player to score with a goal in the 16th minute. He added another two minutes later for a 2-1 New York City FC lead.

Rodriguez tied the game 2-2 in the 20th minute. The Loons took a 3-2 lead on a gift from New York City FC goalkeeper

Sean Johnson when he let a loose ball slip by his foot in the 32nd minute for an own goal, when a player causes a goal in his own team's net. New York City FC forward Ismael Tajouri-Shradi saved his team from defeat with a game-tying goal in the 64th minute.

"I'm glad that we didn't lose," Heath said in the postgame press conference. "I thought our supporters were magnificent. I thought the noise in the stadium was incredible. And it bows for better times ahead I think."

APRIL 24 GAME

The Loons also reached a scoreless draw with the Western Conference-leading Los Angeles Galaxy (7-1-2) April 24 in the second-ever game at Allianz Field.

Mannone stopped four shots in that game to preserve the draw. His LA Galaxy counterpart, David Bingham, only saw one shot on goal by the Loons.

"This game, we were in control of the game," Mannone said in the postgame press conference. "We managed the game in the right moments in the right time against a good team."

UP AHEAD

Minnesota United FC has four home games in May, which includes a friendly with German league squad Hertha Berlin May 22. The Loons wrap up the month's home schedule with the Houston Dynamo (5-1-1) May 25.

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One of the first things fans see as they approach the stadium from Snelling Avenue is the 12-foot-high letters spelling out the word "U-N-I-T-E-D." The sculpture recognizes the contributions of the club's Itasca Society members. Limited to 11,842 fans — one for every lake in Minnesota — the society is made up of season ticket holders who supported the club during its first major league season. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Four thousand individuals, families and business names are etched into the sculpture. South Minneapolis residents Omar Elias and his father, Dan Elias, found their family name together. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

"The overall consensus was that the first game went well, considering it was the first time anyone had ever tried to move so many people into and out of the area at one time."
 ~ Steve Linders, St. Paul



According to Allianz Field field general manager Justin Borrell, traffic flowed relatively smoothly on opening day. Similar to when an event is held at the Excelsior Energy Center, there were 40+ St. Paul police helping to manage traffic. Borrell said, "The number of police, fire, and emergency medical services employees did not affect the ability of these departments to respond to emergencies in other parts of the city." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Neighborhood responds to game-day traffic

with fans clearing out after games in about an hour.

Steve Linders, spokesperson for the St. Paul Police Department, said the first game went smoothly. Police, other city and team officials met to see what changes could be made before

the second game April 24, 2019, and subsequent games

"The overall consensus was that the first game went well, considering it was the first time anyone had ever tried to move so many people into and out of the area at one time," said Linders.

Parts of the traffic plan were changed after the experience April 13. A U-turn at Snelling and Shields avenues will be closed before and after games. Barricades for a HealthEast lot that is rented to game-goers were changed to deter traffic from en-

tertaining the adjacent neighborhood onto Shields. St. Anthony was opened without restrictions east of Pascals Street to aid local business traffic.

For pedestrians, the police department will park a squad car with lights on before the Simpson-University crossing to help pedestrians cross the street. Pedestrian barricades were added along Spruce Tree Dr. and Fry St. to improve pedestrian safety.

Linders said the city and soccer team would continue to make adjustments as the season goes on.

The spillover parking has vexed some neighbors. Snelling-Hamline and Merriam Park residents south of the stadium have started the process to create or expand residential permit parking districts. Those requests will eventually wind up before the St. Paul City Council for a vote.

Snelling-Hamline residents wish to expand Area 8, which currently includes Iglehart and Carroll avenues between the Asbury Street-Snelling Ave. alley, and Asbury from Iglehart to Carroll. The change calls for permit parking on Concordia, Carroll and Iglehart from Asbury to Pascal St. This is one of the city's oldest residential permit parking districts and was created in response to bus commuter park and rider spillover parking.

A second area would be a new residential permit parking district, calling for permit parking on Concordia Ave. from Pierce St. to Snelling, the north side of Carroll from Pierce St. to Fry St., Carroll from Fry to Snelling, east side of Pierce from Concordia to Carroll, and Fry

From page 1

from Concordia to Carroll.

More than 50 residents seeking permit parking attended a community meeting in April to seek the changes. One idea they liked is that of limiting permit parking to April through October, when soccer games are played.

"Everyone here is terrified that we're going to get swamped with parking," said Don Brabek. He and his family live near Aldine Park. Neighbors are also hoping the park doesn't become a pregame party spot.

Doni Hamann lives in the area where residents want a new residential permit parking district. She and other neighbors said their streets filled quickly with spillover parking during the ticketholders' open house.

A check on parking and traffic before and after the first three games indicated that streets as far south as Ashland Ave. and up toward Thomas Ave. experienced game-day parking. Most area commercial parking lots were signed for no event parking or paid parking, with several businesses selling lot spaces.

New Midway Marketplace owners Kraus-Anderson sold spaces in the eastern part of their lot. Midway Super Target posted parking restrictions. The Health-East lots didn't appear to fill up, but there was strong demand for park and ride at the Minnesota State fairgrounds.

One problem seen was that of motorists stopping in the middle of Snelling Ave. to quickly let people out, causing traffic to back up. Those drivers got warnings from police to use designated drop-offs in Concordia Ave. instead.

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St. Paul to add youth jobs near Allianz Field

The city of Saint Paul announces a \$50,000 investment into adding youth jobs to the Midway Area surrounding the stadium. Thirty-two youth will be hired and placed at more than a dozen organizations and businesses this summer as part of the city's Right Track youth employment program. The one-time investment is designed to help support the businesses and organizations surrounding the new stadium, and will provide access as part of the Right Track program to the next generation of our city's workforce.

"Right Track is a tremendous program that provides our youth with an opportunity to gain valuable career and leadership skills in a variety of different roles," said Ward 1 Councilmember Dai Thao.

Right Track is the city's Youth Employment program that focuses on a pipeline of opportunities for youth ages 14-24. The first phase of the program, referred to as YJ01, places about 450 youth annually in their first job experience. The program subsidizes the wages, and the sites are focused on non-profit and public or government locations over a 9-week period in the summer. The second phase of the program, referred to as YJ02, is typically the second or third job experience for most participants, and is focused on providing internships that pair youth with organizations and businesses willing to pay their wages and connect them with real life job experience that the youth are interested in. The program will place 225 interns this summer at places like Wells Fargo, Hiway Credit Union, US Bank, and Xcel Energy, among many others.

"This investment from the city will help the Midway area support the new stadium and provide our businesses with access to a whole new generation of employees entering the workforce," said Chad Kulas, Executive Director of the Midway Chamber of Commerce. "We're eager to see the impacts and investment from the new stadium, and with this investment the city is certainly taking the lead and showcasing how they can support the need for jobs in this area."

Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director, district10@district10comopark.org

Clean up, sell at garage sales, and get rid of junk

Drop-off at fairgrounds June 8

The annual Citywide Drop-Off at the State Fairgrounds is Saturday June 8 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The Drop-Off, organized by Saint Paul and District 10, is a great chance for Saint Paul and Falcon Heights residents to get rid of the junk they can't throw in the trash (and to get rid of it for a reasonable price).

Volunteers get a free bonus: If you volunteer to staff the event, you can get rid of one load of your junk for free. We'll also keep volunteers well-fed and hydrated. Volunteers work a 3.5-hour shift; you can register at www.district10comopark.org/volunteer_form.html.

If you are a senior: District 10 will attempt to pick up items in advance for senior citizens in the neighborhood. You pay for what you are disposing, but the pick-up itself is free. Call District 10 at 651-644-3889 so we can get you on the schedule. Please call no later than Friday May 31.

Future Drop-Offs in other parts of the city (all are Saturdays from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.):

- June 22: Washington Technology Magnet High School (Rice at Nebraska)
- Sept. 14: East Side (exact location to be determined)
- Sept. 28: Shepard Road (between Davern and Alton)

There's still 1 seat available

The District 10 Como Community Council board has a vacancy for one At-Large position, with one year of service remaining (until April 2020). A special election to fill the vacancy will be during the May board meeting.

Any renter, homeowner, or other resident age 16 or older who lives in District 10 is eligible to run - and to vote in the special election. So are authorized representatives from a business or nonprofit organization located in District 10.

To get on the ballot: Fill out the online application no later than Tuesday May 14: www.district10comopark.org/d10_application.html. After that, any interested community members will be write-in candidates.

To vote: The special election is Tuesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Garage sales May 17

The 2019 Como Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for the weekend of May 17. Typically, dozens of neighborhood residents hold garage, yard, and rummage sales that weekend, making it easier for bargain hunters to hit a lot of sales in a small area in a short amount of time. Shoppers can find a map online a few days ahead of time; check District 10's website: www.district10comopark.org.

To register your sale: The deadline to register your sale is Thursday May 9; after that, we can't guarantee your sale will be included on the map. Fill out the form at www.district10comopark.org/2019_garage_sale.html. The registration fee is \$15.

Do your part for clean water

Bring your canoe or kayak on Saturday morning June 1 (or rent one) and team up with other neighbors to pull trash from Como Lake. If you don't want to be on the water, join us by walking the shoreline and cleaning up litter there.

We'll supply snacks, beverages, and equipment. Join us anytime you can between 9 a.m. and noon. The event is organized by the District 10 Como Community Council and supported by a grant from the Capital Region Watershed District.

To sign up: Fill out the online form at www.district10comopark.org/lake_cleanup.html.

Community yoga on June 9

District 10's next Community Yoga is Sunday June 9 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station. The session will be suitable for all levels of skill and experience. Bring a yoga mat or blanket and wear comfortable clothes. Registration is \$5, which benefits the Como Community Council.

The class is limited to 25 participants; register in advance at www.district10comopark.org/communityyoga.html.

10 elected to board

More than 120 community members turned out April 16 to elect new board members to the Como Community Council. Elected to two-year terms, which expire in 2021:

Chair: Melissa Liu
Secretary: Marika Staloch
Sub-District 1: Sarah Reuter
Sub-District 2: Amanda Rohrer
Sub-District 3: Sara Benzkofer
Sub-District 4: Alexis Baker
At-Large: Debra Verber, Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Maggie Zimmerman

In a special election, Mike Ireland was elected Treasurer, filling the one year remaining in that term.

Put it on your calendar

- Como Community Seed Library's "Seed Your Dreams." Saturday, May 18.
- District 10 Ice Cream Social. Friday, July 12.
- Como Neighborhood Pollinator Garden Tour. Saturday, July 13.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

- Como Community Council Board: Tuesday, May 21.
- Environment Committee: Wednesday, May 29.
- Neighborhood Relations Committee: Tuesday June 4.
- Land Use Committee: Wednesday, June 5.

All meetings typically begin at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station. Renters, homeowners, and other community members are always welcome to attend and participate.

Streetcar Station begins summer hours

From May through September, the Como Park Streetcar Station is open every Sunday from noon-4 p.m. The Historic Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Galtier Community School

By SAMANTHA HENNINGSON

The Galtier Gator third graders have had an exciting late winter! Of more than 250 schools statewide, Galtier students placed third in the "Read to the Final Four" program as part of the Final Four basketball tournament hosted in Minneapolis. The students' hard work and dedication resulted in reading 3,618 books or more than 45,000 minutes of reading! Mayor Melvin Carter visited Galtier to cheer them on in the final weeks, and representatives of the third grade attended a ceremony with Governor Tim Walz at the State Capitol. They were honored on the court along with the other three schools at the Final Four Fan Fest, and just had a blast. Special thanks to teachers Anna Clickenger and

Jon Van Wyk for inspiring excitement about reading.

Neighbors can view Earth Day-inspired art by Galtier students at Groundswell. As part of the art installation, third graders were able to go and see their art on the walls, and have cookies and lemonade. Groundswell is a terrific partner to our community school.

May will bring more COM-PAS arts residencies to work with all students pre-k through fifth grade, including dance and performance, story telling, photography and animation. Field trip season is in full swing, with outings planned to the Dodge Nature Center, University of MN arboretum, MN Zoo, Bell Museum, American Swedish Institute, and Base Camp.



Governor Tim Walz (left) and Galtier students who placed third in the "Read to the Final Four" program.

Hamline Midway Elders

By LAUREL COLLINS, laurel@hmelders.org or 651-209-6542

Cards & Games Group - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. (ongoing) -- This new group will meet at Hamline Church United Methodist. Join us for cards, games and puzzles. Coffee and cookies provided.

Gentle Exercise Class with Joni - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30p.m., March 19-May 9: Specially designed for people with arthritis, but open to all seniors, this exercise class is gentle and fun.

Tai Chi with Kathy - Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., March 18-May 6: Everyone is welcome to give tai chi a try! Tai chi is a slow and gentle form of movement, that can help to increase overall strength and balance.

Knitting & Crochet Group - Mondays from 1-3 p.m. (ongoing) at Hamline Church United Methodist: Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. The group meets weekly throughout the year to work on projects, such as making shawls to be donated to a local hospice or blankets for a child care center. New participants are always welcome.

Reading Buddies - 1st & 3rd

Wednesdays from 10:45-11:30 a.m. (ongoing through May) at Hamline Elementary School: Our partnership with Hamline Elementary School is now in its 3rd school year. Third grade students from Ms. Lawson's class enjoy reading to neighborhood elders so we're hoping to recruit even more older adults to participate. No experience is necessary to becoming a Reading Buddy - just a desire to interact with children. And you don't have to attend every session, just come when your schedule permits.

Monthly Luncheons - Second Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 La-fond Ave. May 14: Michael Skillrud from Thrivent Financial will present on Financial Issues for Older Adults. Chef Erik Hendrickson will prepare a wonderful meal, blood pressure checks will be provided, and new attendees are always welcome at our "Second Tuesday" free-will donation luncheon events. June 11: Patricia Bauer and David Geister will entertain us with music, poetry, paintings and humor to chronicle the American Civil War.

In Our Community

Monitor

Send us your news! When you submit your press release, news@monitorsaintpaul.com, it will be considered for the next print edition of the Monitor. You can also go to our website, MonitorSaintPaul.com and enter your information in the online Event Calendar.

Lunch, Learn and Laugh on May 28

Lunch, learn and laugh with Episcopal Homes on Tuesday, May 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Seabury Senior Housing (1830 University Ave.). RSVP to Kire Meyer-Quist, kmeyer@episcopalhomes.org or 651-379-5102. Cost is \$8. Kielyn Simonson of Organice will be speaking on "Making your Living Space Work for you: Minimizing Clutter, Maximizing Joy."

Sensory-Friendly at The Bakken

The Autism Society of Minnesota (2380 Wycliff St. #102) is partnering with The Bakken Museum on Saturday, May 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a special sensory-friendly event with lowered volume on interactive exhibits, dimmed lights throughout the museum, additional sensory friendly signage, therapy animals, and music. More at <http://thebakken.org/accessibility/>.

Trees & Shrubs Nature Walk

Meet on Thursday June 13, 5 p.m. at the Kilmer Fireplace, 1221 Wynne Ave (SW Como Park) St. Paul to join a 1.5-hour Trees and Shrubs Nature Survey Walk - documenting species in Como Woodland. Leading the walk is Tim Morgan, an ISA certified arborist and owner of Morgan's Tree Service for 16 years. Como Woodland is a rare little patch of Como Park that is being restored to native plants and maintained as a natural area. Como Woodland Advisory Committee hosts this event: comowoodlandoutdoor-

St. Mark's Parish Fest May 17-18

St. Mark's Catholic Church will present its 20th annual Parish Festival on May 17 and 18. The neighborhood celebration will run from 5-10 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday on the grounds of the school and church at 2001 Dayton Ave.

Four large inflatables will beckon the adventurous - a giant double-lane slide, a 75-foot obstacle course, the Batter Up batting challenge and four-person Wrecking Ball competition. Or scale the 25-foot-high Climbing Wall.

Friday evening's fun will also include a Medallion Hunt, a reptile exhibit by the Minnesota Herpetological Society, hair and henna painting, live music by the Irish band Tipper Road from 6-7:30 p.m. and a Street Dance from 8-10 p.m. The festival's grills will be turning out hamburgers, cheeseburgers, veggie burgers, bratwursts and hot dogs. Tacos, egg rolls and French fries will also be available along with homemade pies, frozen yogurt, soft drinks, craft beer and wine.

The reptile exhibit and hair and henna painting will return on Saturday along with a host of children's games with prizes, Zumba in the street at 11:15 a.m., a Comedy Sportz improvisational comedy show at noon, a performance by the North Star Barbershop Chorus from 1:15-2:15 p.m., the St. Mark's Third-Grade Play at 2:30 p.m., a St. Mark's School Band concert at 3:30 p.m., and kitchen fire demonstrations by the St. Paul Fire Department from 2-4 p.m. The festival will close with the celebration of an outdoor Mass from 5-6 p.m. Everyone is invited back at 6:30 p.m. for the St. Mark's Grade School Gala and its live and silent auctions, raffles, appetizers and cash bar in the Parish Hall and School Gym. Dinner will be served at 8 p.m. followed by dancing to the live music of the Northstar Big Band.

Admission to the festival is free of charge. Gala tickets are available in advance for \$30, \$20 for seniors and first-time guests, \$40 at the door. For Gala reservations or to bid on silent auction items, visit stmark.xyz/gala.net.

For more information on the parish festival, visit onestrong-family.org/festival.

classroom.org. RSVP with committee chairperson: teri.heyer@gmail.com Future survey walks in the Como Woodland Nature Survey Walk series are: Mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians on June 22 at 8:30 a.m.; Butterflies & other Insects on July 18, 6 p.m.; Dragonflies on August 10, 9 a.m.

Music in the Parks kicks off May 16

The 2019 Music in the Parks season officially kicks off on Thursday, May 16 at Como Lakeside Pavilion's Spring Cafe. Music in the Parks events at Mears Park will begin May 21 and events at the redesigned, soon-to-reopen Rice Park will begin June 10. Movies in the Parks events

start Thursday, June 13 and are free and open to all. Most movies have family-friendly activities before the show. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. All movies are weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

Free movie on angels

The Theosophical Society will meet 7 p.m. Monday, May 20 in the Griggs-Midway Bldg., 1821 University Ave. for a free public showing of the movie "The Witnessing of Angels" with actos Lee Majors and Patrick McNee. (2006 DVD, 60 min.) The movie explains how divine encounters with messengers could assure us that God is at work in our lives. As a force of light, according to the documentary, angels are

God's ministering spirits, messengers who protect and comfort, created for the purpose of carrying out the will of God. Serving as an intermediary between heaven and earth, angels pass through the invisible windows between the worlds, according to the movie. The documentary also includes never-before-told stories of ordinary personal encounters with God's messenger. Free parking in back or in lot across street. Refreshments. Requested donation. 612-747-9851.

'Broken Hill' play

Applause Community Theatre is proud to present "Broken Hill" by local playwright Jim Lundy. The search for gold proves elusive for three explorers in Northern Minnesota and a woman left behind in this compelling drama. Performances June 13 - June 15 at 7 p.m. at Dreamland Arts in St. Paul. More at <http://dreamlandarts.com/broken-hill/>.

MMSA Flea Market

Need to purge toys, clothes, household items, tools or sporting equipment to make room for the new items? Save your gently used items for the seventh annual Maternity of Mary/St. Andrew (MMSA) School Flea Market on May 16-18. Donation drop-off days begin May 11. Visit the MMSA website at www.mmsaschool.org/flea-market for more details.

Free Youth Mental Health First Aid

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold a free Youth Mental Health First Aid training course on May 22, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave., Suite 400 in St. Paul. The course is designed to teach participants the risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, build understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teach individuals how to help a youth in crisis or experi-

encing a mental health or substance use challenge. Participants will also learn a five-step action plan to support an adolescent developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or emotional crisis. To register (required) or get more detailed information, contact NAMI Minnesota at 651-645-2948 or see "classes" at namimn.org.

Art, Food, and Farming

Frogtown Farm's Community Celebration brings together affordable fresh produce, local entertainment, and farm activities on the second Thursday of each month. Some of the things you'll find at a Community Celebration will include hands-on activities in the outdoor classroom, food and farming stories from neighbors, live music, and local businesses and organizations. Community Celebration will take place on June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10. Frogtown neighborhood are eligible for a workshare program. Participating workshare members will receive a free portion of weekly harvests. More at www.frogtownfarm.org.

'Cost of Living'

The next event in the Lex-Ham Community Theater's play reading series is 'Cost of Living' by Martyna Majok - which won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2018 - on Friday, May 24 at 1184 Portland Ave., Saint Paul. 'Cost of Living' focuses on two pairs of people: a former trucker and his recently paralyzed ex-wife, and a young man with cerebral palsy and his new caregiver. The potluck supper starts at 6:30 p.m. with the play reading to follow. First timers are always welcome. More at LexHamArts.org.

Drums for beginners

Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave., will offer a class in hand drums for beginners on May 14, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Drums are provided. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

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In Our Community

Continued from page 12

Tap school gets \$

Metro Regional Arts Council (MRAC) awarded \$275,839 to 28 organizations/projects in the first round of its FY 2019 Arts Learning grant program, including \$10,000 for Keane Sense of Rhythm (836 Prior Ave. St. Paul). Funding will provide free tap classes for students in grades 6-12 in two Freedom School programs held at public schools in Saint Paul in the summer of 2019. The Arts Learning grant program is a direct result of the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Legacy Amendment.

Jewish Community Council oral history

The Jewish Community Action (2375 University Ave. W. # 150, St. Paul) has received a \$9,270 grant through the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Small Grants program. The organization will be working on documenting the institutional history of Jewish Community Action in oral history interviews.

United Way grants

Greater Twin Cities United Way (United Way) is awarding \$14 million in grants to fund holistic solutions and innovative ideas from 95 local nonprofit organizations in the Twin Cities region. Among those are: Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy. N.; Casa de Esperanza 540 Fairview Ave.; Frogtown Neighborhood Association, 501 Dale St N #300; Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota, 553 Fairview Ave. N.; International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave.; Keystone Community Services, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood, 451 Lexington Pkwy N.; Twin Cities RISE!, 1600 University Ave. W. #8; and Ujamaa Place, 1821 University Ave. W. #257.

Making a global impact at Como

The public is invited to a new program titled "Como: Making A Global Impact." This free lecture series will take place Sundays in May at 10:30 a.m. in Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's Visitor Center Exhibit Gallery. From



Named as one of Minnesota Monthly's "10 Artists to Watch" in 2012, Helen Hatch is an independent dancer and choreographer based in St. Paul. She is the founder and director of Hatch Dance.

St. Paul Ballet presents 'ThreeFold'

St. Paul Ballet Presents: ThreeFold on May 23, 24, at 7:30 p.m., and May 25 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at The Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55454.

ThreeFold brings together seasoned dance makers Penelope Free, Helen Hatch, and Sally Rousse, united by mutual admiration and inspiration of legendary dancer and teacher Bonnie Mathis. The new works will feature some of the Twin Cities' most acclaimed dancers with live and recorded music from Poolboy, Beethoven, Gorecki, and Weill.

Simple Folk, a quartet first created in 2009 by Penelope Freeh, is reimagined for ThreeFold. Featuring Freeh, Da'Rius Malone, and original cast members Chris Hannon and Sally Rousse, the work uses folk songs transcribed by Beethoven to support various characters, enabling the dancers to embody experiences from the sublime to the ridiculous. With subtle humor and wistful melancholy, Simple Folk waxes nostalgic about profundities large and small. Simple Folk's strongly drawn characterizations align with Bonnie Mathis's famed performances of the psychological ballets of Antony Tudor.

For tickets, call 612-326-1811 or visit www.boxoffice@southerntheater.org Tickets \$13-\$28 with a "Pay As Able" option on Saturday May 25 at 2 p.m.

preserving the genetic health of endangered orangutans in southeast Asia, to protecting Black-footed penguins in South Africa, to tracking footprints of snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan, several members of Como's talented team of zookeepers and horticulturists have been globetrotting recently sharing their expertise with partner conservation groups and bringing home new insights as "Conservation Champions," a new initiative funded by Como Friends. Each week a different Conservation Champion will share stories, photos, and videos.

NAMI: Create Caring Communities

Speakers from NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will present "Creating Caring Communities" in St. Paul on May 29 from 11 a.m.-Noon.

Learn about mental illnesses, the impact of negative attitudes and five things each of us can do to make Minnesota a better place for people who experience a mental illness. These free programs are open to the public and will be held at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave. W., in St. Paul. For more information, contact the Workshop Coordinator at 651-645-2948 or workshopreg@namimn.org.

WAMM Walk at Como

Be a part of the 12th annual Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) Walk Against Weapons, at a new location for 2019. Join other dedicated peacemakers for a vibrant, visible, 1.75 mile stroll around Lake Como in St. Paul on Saturday, June 1. Rain or shine. Check-in is 10:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 11 a.m. There will be a short rally at 11:45 a.m. More

Head to Merriam Park Library in May

Family Storytimes, Fridays 10:30-11:00 a.m. Spend time sharing stories, songs, and rhymes with your child while building a foundation for reading success. Preschoolers, toddlers, and babies welcome!

Paw Pals with Katie and Kerry, May 2, 6-7 p.m. Read to a friendly dog who loves to sit and listen to stories. For young readers ages 6-12. Please register by calling 651-642-0385 or stopping by the library's service desk.

Board at the Library, Wednesdays, 2-4:30 p.m. Join us for board games such as: Apples to Apples Jr., Clue, Chess, Checkers, and more. Or, bring your own board games.

You Can Make It! Mondays, 3-5 p.m. Hands-on crafts and activities for kids ages 7 to 11.

Urban Birding Festival and the National Park Service, Thursday May 16 -Sunday May 19. The Fish and Wildlife Service will have a table with hands-on activities for family fun including bird crafts, "birds on a stick", items to touch and feel, and learn how to use binoculars. Outdoor bird watching and activities are possible, weather permitting.

Club Book with Charles C. Mann, Tuesday, May 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Join us for a presentation by historian Charles C. Mann, with audience Q&A and book signing to follow. New York Times best-selling historian Charles C. Mann is perhaps best known for his ground-breaking "1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus." As the name suggests, 1491 challenges and corrects long-held assumptions about the indigenous peoples who populated the New World before European colonization. It won the prestigious National Academies Best Book Award. Mann's meticulously researched follow-up, "1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created," "ranges across continents and centuries to explain how the world we inhabit came to be," according to The Washington Post). His newest project, "The Wizard and the Prophet," tells the remarkable story of two influential yet little-known twentieth century scientists who laid the groundwork for the modern environmentalism movement. Mann is also a prolific correspondent and columnist for publications ranging from Smithsonian, to Fortune, to Vanity Fair.

Open Lab for Writers, Thursdays, 10:30-noon. No instructor. This is an opportunity to meet, discuss, or work on whatever you're writing. All styles welcome.

Tech Help Clinic, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fridays, noon-2 p.m. Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tech Help Clinics are for ALL tablets, smartphones, and laptops. Bring your questions, problems and concerns. No registration required.

Merriam Park Book Club, Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. May 20, "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel

The Merriam Park Library is at 1831 Marshall Ave, St. Paul. Call 651-642-0385.

at 612-827-5364 or WAMM@mtn.org.

for information on membership criteria and requirements, visit www.stpaul.gov/boards.

Serve on city groups

Mayor Melvin Carter invites community members to serve on Saint Paul committees, boards, and commissions. Saint Paul has 31 committees, boards and commissions focused on policy and programs that shape the city. "Our committees, boards, and commissions directly impact our quality of life on a daily basis," said Mayor Melvin Carter. "I encourage community members to apply for these public service opportunities to help lead Saint Paul forward." There are currently 33 vacancies across the 14 boards. For a complete list of committees, boards and commissions, and

State yoyo contest

The annual Minnesota State Yoyo Contest on Sunday, May 19, noon to 5 p.m. at Can Can Wonderland (755 Prior Ave N.) will determine the Minnesota State Yoyo Champion. Players from all around the Midwest show up to compete, support their friends or just hang out and have fun. There will be divisions for all ages, skill levels, and styles of play. Cost is \$2 for those 12 and older. All ages are welcome.

Continued on page 14



People still trust information printed in their local newspaper far more than information found online or on TV.

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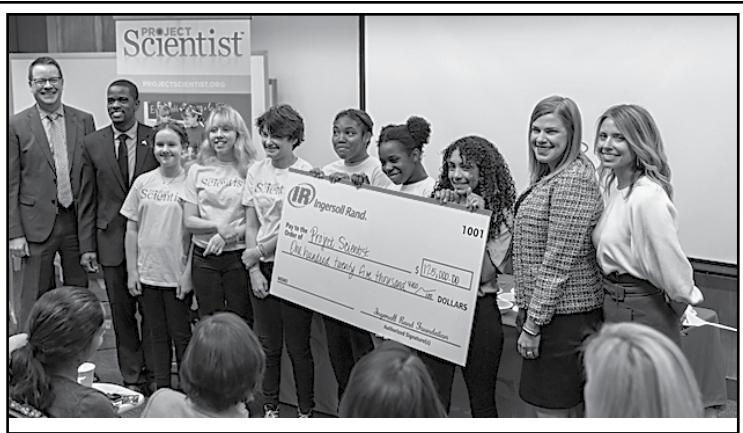
Continued from page 13

School of Rock live

Attend School of Rock live at Can Can Wonderland on Sunday, May 12, 3-5 p.m. All ages welcome. The St. Paul School is rolling out the big guns with two of its best groups: House Band and Youth Gone Wild. Cost is \$2 Wonderfund for those 12 and older; all Wonderfund proceeds go directly back to the artists and programming. More at www.can-canwonderland.com.

Honeywine concert

Honeywine, a pure, sweet trio with a real Americana sound, will be at Celtic Junction Arts Center (836 Prior Ave.) on May 17 and 19, 7:30 p.m. Hear vocalists Dennis Curley, Dorian Chalmers and Becky Schlegel, joined by band members Marc Bohn on drums, Andy Carroll on bass, Eric Christopher on fiddle and mandolin, Michael Pearce Donley on piano, Gary Rue on guitar, and Mark Stillman on accordion. Advance tickets \$20; \$25 at the door; 18 and under FREE at the door. More at www.celticjunction.org.



STEM academy for girls opens this summer

Women make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce, but hold less than a quarter of the country's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs, according to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Project Scientist, a nonprofit committed to exposing a diverse population of young girls to a high-quality STEM academy, seeks to close this gender gap.

Ingersoll Rand, a global diversified manufacturing company that employs thousands in STEM fields, demonstrated its support for Project Scientist with a check presentation and ribbon cutting at Macalester College on April 17. Guests included Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, students from STEM-focused girls charter school Laura Jeffrey Academy, and Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce leaders. Kevin Bollom, Vice President of North America Building Services for Trane®, a brand of Ingersoll Rand, presented Project Scientist Founder and CEO Sandy Marshall with the \$125,000 first-year installment of a \$375,000 donation on behalf of the Ingersoll Rand Foundation. The donation, spread over two years, will fund a summer STEM academy at Macalester College, as well as support summer STEM academies in California and North Carolina, all operated by Project Scientist.

The Project Scientist Summer STEM Academy at Macalester College will take place July 22 to Aug. 9, with a different theme-based curriculum for each of the three weeks. An off-site expedition to a local business caps off each week to provide students the opportunity to meet women in STEM careers and participate in hands-on STEM projects. Space available for girls ages 4-12; parents can learn more at projectscientist.org/programs/st-paul.



In the back row, left to right: Mitchell Lallier, Steve Kufus and Leslie Oskey. Front row: Ayan Hassan and Eliot Schnieder.

Steve Kufus handball tourney 2019

Every year the Minnesota Youth Handball recognize a person that has given a lot to promote handball in Minnesota by naming the tournament after them. This year outstanding person is Steve Kufus who has given time to help teach, moral support and financial support to the Minnesota Youth Handball Community.

This year the Midway YMCA had a program called Court Sports where handball, racquetball and wolleyball is taught. The players entered the Minnesota State Handball 2019 tournament that was held at the University of Minnesota. Ayan Hassan a 11-year-old from Friends School won the 2 bounce Youth Handball Tournament.

The Youth Handball Program has been growing every year. This year the group taught 40 to 50 young adults (from eight different countries) to play the game. Phil Gebben Green, along with the University of Minnesota students, worked with the older players to teach not only handball but leadership, responsibility, honesty, friendship, and sportsmanship. Mitchell Lallier, along with the older players, worked with the younger players (5-12) to learn the value of playing handball at the Midway YMCA

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Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by June 3 for the June 13 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@monitor-saintpaul.com. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

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Academy of Finance award

Como Park High School's Academy of Finance (AOF) earned a national award for its innovative work-based learning opportunities. The AOF was selected as the 2019 Excellence in Action award winner for the Business Management & Administration Category. The award recognizes and honors high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE) programs of study from across the nation.

According to the Excellence in Action criteria, programs such as the Academy of Finance demonstrate a true progression from secondary to postsecondary education, provide meaningful work-based learning opportunities, and have a substantial and evidence-based impact on student achievement and success.

An award ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 9 in Washington D.C. at the Advance CTE State Directors Spring Conference. Como's AOF Coordinator Kris Somerville was able to represent Como at the ceremony. Como is the first school from Minnesota to ever be recognized with this award. Below is a description of the Academy of Finance: *The Academy of Finance at Como Park Senior High School in St. Paul, MN was launched in 2014 in close collaboration with multiple educational and employer partners to prepare learners for careers in the field of finance. A robust advisory committee provides input on the skills and competencies learners need to succeed in today's and tomorrow's workforce and identify work-based learning opportunities to connect classroom learning to the workplace. A strong partnership with Saint Paul College is a key contrib-*



News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

National award, global cultures showcase, free Bikes for Kidz



Academy of Finance seniors can earn a business certificate. (Photo submitted)

utor to the design and implementation of the program. Learners can obtain up to 16 college credits and graduate high school with a business certification from St. Paul, helping them make a seamless transition to both postsecondary education and careers.

Sandwich Project

Twenty-six students in the Big Brothers & Big Sisters (BBBS) program at Como Park High School and Como Park Elementary School completed a service learning project during the April snow storm. They made over 300 sandwiches for the Sandwich Project, which is a grassroots organization with a mission to feed those in need. The com-

pleted sandwiches were delivered to shelters and food shelves throughout St Paul.

"Bigs" and "Littles" form "Matches" which are consistent partners and pairings within the program. The Matches started with a discussion reflecting on the significance of serving our communities with the Sandwich Project and other opportunities they can participate in throughout their lives. Then, the teams worked together, efficiently building and bagging the tasty turkey and cheese sandwiches. The Matches who were not able to participate in sandwich making helped by creating instructional posters and motivating

messages to help support the Matches as they made the sandwiches.

It was an impactful experience that demonstrated how a single person or a small group can make a big impact in simple ways. Como Park High School's BBBS advisor is Health teacher Mary Clare Bade. The Como Park Booster Club was the generous financial supporter through a grant written for the Sandwich Project.

Global Cultures showcase

Como's Global Cultures Showcase featured dance, song and poetry from students representing several of the many home cultures students proudly possess. An evening performance on Thursday, April 25 was followed by an additional show for participating classes at the end of the school day on Friday.

Somali, Ethiopian, West African, Hmong, Karenni and LatinX dancing troupes brought energy to the auditorium. A Karen group of 40 students performed a traditional song. Poetry readings and vocal soloists from a broad range of perspectives were inspiring. The show was organized by Como junior Nimo Mohamud and English Learning teacher Jane Sevald, with generous support from the Como Park Booster Club.

French students

French College in the Schools (CIS) students attended the Field Day at the University of Minnesota in mid-April. They met other French students from the greater metro area, attended French classes, and learned about the engaging work of Mme Estelle Arnaud-Battandier, Consular Affairs Officer for the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis.

For four advanced Como Park French students, spring break was a great adventure across the Atlantic in Paris and Orléans, France with French teacher Mme Teefy. In Paris, the group visited the iconic monuments the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral de Paris (before the fire), the Louvre, and Orsay museums. In Orléans (liberated by Joan of Arc), students stayed with French families, attended school with their host sisters, and visited famous chateaux in the surrounding area.

Free Bikes 4 Kidz

On Saturday, April 13, the Como Gymnasium was a busy place with an exciting buzz as over 300 gently-used bicycles were distributed to Como families. Free Bikes 4 Kidz, in partnership with Allina and the Como Wellness Committee gave out the bikes, along with brand new helmets. Students came with their families to get measured, learn about bike safety, and practice riding their bikes. Families lined up two hours ahead of time to get bikes for their whole families!

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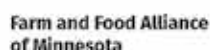


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Lamarion Carter pledges to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth during the mock trial on April 26, 2019. The learning experience is all part of a collaboration between the elementary school and the university that started 125 years ago. (Photo by Jan Willms)



Students express mixed reactions after a verdict of guilty was reached at the mock trial held at Hamline University in April on April 26, 2019. "This experience allows the students to see themselves in the real world," said Jodie Wilson, a teacher and alumnae of Hamline elementary who serves as a liaison for the collaboration. "They can see how school is like real life, with rules and consequences." (Photo by Jan Willms)

What is it like to be in a courtroom? *Hamline Elementary students find out.*

By JAN WILLMS

What is it like to be in a courtroom? Serve as a prosecutor or defense lawyer? Preside as a judge? Be part of a jury?

Fifth graders at Hamline Elementary, 1599 Englewood Ave., were able to walk across the street on April 26, 2019, and find the answers as they participated in a mock trial that took place in the moot courtroom of West Hall at Hamline University.

The learning experience is all part of a collaboration between the elementary school and the university that started 125 years ago. The mock trials have been going on for at least the past 12 years.

"Each grade level has a departmental/academic pairing with the university," said Kristin Reilly, principal of Hamline Elementary. "As teachers build units around standards, we try to make the connection with the university that is aligned to learning outcomes. Fifth grade is a grade in which social justice issues come up often in the curriculum.

"Having university students and professors work with our teachers and students to enrich and expand learning is a win/win for everyone involved," continued Reilly.

"This collaborative learning community brings one of a kind opportunities for elementary students, college students, teachers and professors that enriches learning through shared campuses, resources and experiences. We are two campuses but one community in the heart of the neighborhood."

~ Kristin Reilly, principal

She said the fifth graders work with Hamline University students and professors to dive into a specific case. The case that was tried in April was the State of Minnesota vs Mike Jacobs. Reilly said Jacobs was being charged with spray painting a racist statement on a locker of another student, Chris Burke. It was damage of property in the third and fourth degree.

"It is up to the students to dig into the case and dependent on their role bring this process to life," Reilly added.

According to Jodie Wilson, a teacher and alumnae of Hamline elementary who serves as a liaison for the collaboration, university students come over a

couple of weeks in advance of the mock trial and help the elementary students prepare.

"This experience allows the students to see themselves in the real world," Wilson said. "They can see how school is like real life, with rules and consequences."

Reilly explained that the roles students play in the trial process are determined by the interest level of the students. "Depending on their comfort level, the students decide what role they will take, but the expectation is that everyone participates. What is always wonderful to see is that students who may struggle in other areas of learning can really shine when learning is authentic and



(Photo by Jan Willms)

builds upon strengths."

The fifth grade students themselves were positive about the experience. One student who played the role of a prosecutor said he was excited about it and practiced a lot. "It is possibly something I could do," he said. Another student who played a police officer giving testimony said, "It's fun, because you can say whether they are guilty or not guilty. You can learn more if you want to be a lawyer when you grow up."

Reilly said that when students see themselves as part of a larger part of society, the impact is immense. "The opportunity for our fifth graders not only to understand how our legal system works, but also

to have a real life experience and take an active role builds thinking skills, develops speaking and presentation skills, and taps into who they are and what they believe."

Stacy Agha, a parent in attendance at the mock trial, said her son had told her he was a witness but had not said much more about it, so she came to observe. "He has a Hamline University buddy, so he comes over here a lot. He tells me this is where he is going to college," she said.

Scholarships are available at Hamline University for Hamline elementary students when they are ready to enter college.

The mock trial experience is only one of four programs that are a part of the pairing of the schools, according to Kevin Yang, coordinator of civic engagement for the Hamline to Hamline Collaboration. "We also have the tutoring program, where university students get paid work-study to work directly with the elementary teachers," he said. "Another is called Hand in Hand, which is a program where university students called buddies get to volunteer with elementary buddies for 45 minutes a week, reading together and getting a chance to build an authentic relationship."

Yang said there is also a project called Snelling Connection, which is a newspaper operated by fourth and fifth graders, with two editors and teachers from Hamline University. "They develop reading and writing skills, and confidence," he said. He added that the mock trial, which is part of an academic program shared between the two schools, is a powerful learning experience for students from Hamline University and Hamline Elementary.

Reilly concurred. "Currently this valuable and cherished partnership, the Hamline to Hamline Collaboration, includes over 70 classroom tutors per week, academic and activity pairings at all grade levels, classes, gifted and talented programming and many other meaningful connections," she said. "This collaborative learning community brings one of a kind opportunities for elementary students, college students, teachers and professors that enriches learning through shared campuses, resources and experiences. We are two campuses but one community in the heart of the neighborhood."

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