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on game show

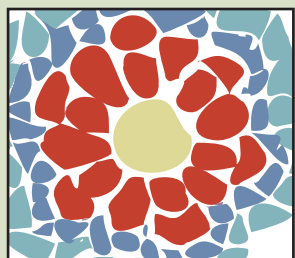
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Salute to our
Snelling Avenue

Board approves closure of Arlington High School; Washington Middle School to move into site

After more than a week of meetings with parents and school board members and hearing testimony from students, Supt. Valeria Silva decided to end the high school program at Arlington. Above, students Mai Kao Vang and Seng Vang sit outside the entrance to Arlington.

By JAN WILLMS

Calling it emotionally the hardest decision she has ever had to make professionally, St. Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) Supt. Valeria Silva nonetheless said it was the right decision to end the high school program at Arlington.

After more than a week of meetings with parents and school board members and hearing testimony from students, Silva's recommendation to change the school's population was approved by the SPPS board April 21.

"It's not a decision you want to make in your first three months as Superintendent," Silva said.

Juniors at Arlington will still be allowed to graduate from Arlington next spring as the final graduating class. However, that program will not be offered if fewer than 150 students have signed up for it by May 14. This fall, Washington Technology Middle School will move its operations into the Arlington building at 1495 Rice St.

Washington Middle School will continue the BioSMART program that was in place at Arlington, operating with a focus on technology. The building will house students in grades 7-10 as well as Arlington's last senior class. The BioSMART program will grow a grade level a year to become a 7-12 program.

"We wanted to replicate the program that was successful in Arlington," Silva said.

"If I had a kid starting 7th grade, I would put him in that

program in a second," Silva stated. "It is hands-on, modern technology; an opportunity to take college credits for free and a beautiful school in a nice part of town. As a parent, it would be my first choice."

The decision to transition Arlington came about in part because of the steady decline in student population. Arlington has been running at 35 per cent of its capacity, and Silva said that could

co-locations," she said. "A school that has had a nurse one day a week, by joining with another school at one location, may have the nurse three times a week."

"The schools can have music and physical education programs in rotation," Silva continued.

She said that science is hard to teach in elementary school, but that her goal is that every school have a science specialist in the future.

year we hope to have reading classes in all the high school and middle schools, reading teachers teaching reading."

She said that although students may know how to do math, if they can't read the problems they cannot succeed in that area.

"This is a national issue," Silva said, referring to reading difficulties. "We teach students how to break down a sentence and focus more on the language arts, but we don't teach reading."

Silva also stressed the importance of ELL education. She said St. Paul graduates more students who are second language learners than anywhere else in the state.

Regarding administrative cuts, Silva said that many of the instructors who worked with the Arlington BioSMART program may be rehired by Washington Middle School. However, new teachers in the district may have to be cut.

With a deficit caused by declining enrollment, rising food and fuel prices and wage and benefit increases, tough decisions are going to have to continue to be made, according to Silva. But by making use of empty or sparsely filled buildings, she sees hope for the future.

"I want schools to be the center of the community," she said. "I am open, for example, to putting a dental clinic in a part of a school. We need to utilize the buildings."

"It's not a decision you want to make in your first three months as Superintendent."

- St. Paul Superintendent Valeria Silva

not continue.

"Only 90 ninth-grade students had selected Arlington as their first choice for fall 2010," Silva said. "A freshman class of 90 cannot sustain a comprehensive high school program."

Silva said that the discontinuation of Arlington High School, relocating some schools and co-locating others is necessary to focus the school district's limited resources and provide for the success of its students.

"The whole idea of change improves the quality of education and offers more resources with

Silva said that because of budget cuts, the district may do fewer things but do them deeper and better. She said the schools need to standardize and articulate the programs better.

"The staff is working toward the best practice we can provide," Silva noted.

As an example, she said that once students reach the sixth grade, reading classes have not been provided.

"It has been assumed that middle school students could read," she said, although that has not always been the case. "Next

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Monitor in a Minute

Parks and rec plan needs public input

A proposed system-wide parks and recreation plan needs public input, St. Paul parks and Recreation has announced. The public can comment on the proposed plan at upcoming meetings. A consultant will work with city staff on the draft plan, which will be ready in October or November.

In a letter, Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hahm said, "As you know very well, we are in challenging economic times. This has no doubt affected your household budget, changed how you think about home improvements or vacations, and possibly even made you adjust your long-term plans. I am also sure you understand that city government must do the same reassessment of its practices and facilities."

Hahm went on to note that the city's parks and recreation system must change. "It is becoming increasingly difficult to pay for the facilities we have, and many of these facilities do not meet the needs of current park users. The system can either change in an incremental, piecemeal way, or the Parks and Recreation Department can plan the whole system for the future. The Department has chosen to plan, in order to better meet the needs of the whole city for decades to come."

Area neighborhoods have seen several recreation centers closed or farmed out to nonprofits in recent years. South St. Anthony, Orchard, Griggs, Desnoyer and Dunning are now occupied by non-profit groups, although there is still public use of outdoor facilities. Front and Sylvan are among the area's closed recreation centers. Plans there call for demolishing buildings and im-

proving outdoor facilities.

Any plan will have to go to the Parks Commission and City Council for approval.

All the meetings will be held from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. with a short presentation at 7:15 p.m. The dates and locations for the open houses are:

- May 19th - Oxford Community Center/Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, 270 Lexington Parkway North
- May 24th - Wellstone Community Center/El Rio Vista Recreation Center, 179 Robie Street East
- May 26th - Phalen Recreation Center, 1000 East Wheelock Parkway
- June 3rd - North Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans Street North
- June 9th - Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Parkway

The content and activities will be the same at each of the meetings so you can attend the one that best meets your schedule and location. Comments will also be sought on the city's Web site.

Sustainable St. Paul awards presented

Area groups and projects were among those honored April 28 when the St. Paul city Council and Mayor Chris Coleman presented the annual Sustainable St. Paul awards. "These ten recipients represent the best in sustainable initiatives for this past year," Coleman said. "Their dedication to making our environment better every day is an attitude I greatly admire. I am happy to be giving these awards to people and efforts that continue to make Saint Paul a national leader on environmental policy."

The winners include the Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee,

which won the Green Spaces Award—honoring community groups and residents who replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment into opportunities for the social and physical renewal. The committee is committed to transform nearly eighteen acres of degraded parkland within Como Regional Park into the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom. As advisory committee members worked tirelessly to clean up the Como Woodlands, they recognized the ever-decreasing rate of environmental literacy among Saint Paul schoolchildren, and realized that the addition of an outdoor classroom in Saint Paul could play a significant role in reversing this trend. The committee works with Saint Paul students to restore parkland and to provide recreational and educational opportunities for local residents.

Two projects advance in North End

Two North End redevelopment projects are moving ahead, with approval of zoning changes by the St. Paul City Council. On April 21 the council gave final approval to a request from New Harmony Assisted Living to rezone property at 130 Rose Av. from single-family to multi-family residents. The rezoning will allow for the New Harmony nursing home to build assisted living units and parking facilities next door.

No one objected to the rezoning at a public hearing earlier this spring. The St. Paul Planning Commission and District 6 Planning Council recommended approval of the rezoning.

The second request was the topic of a public hearing April 21. Ted and Lynn LLC won a preliminary City Council nod to rezone property on Hawley Street from residential to traditional neighborhoods or TN use. The

company owns Hamernick's, a longtime Rice Street decorating, paint and floor covering store. Hamernick's plans to build a large new showroom and retail store on a former rental business property.

No one appeared at the City Council public hearing to oppose the zoning change. It will now go through a series of readings to be finalized. Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen is working with city officials to see if building permits for the project can proceed quickly.

The St. Paul Planning Commission and District 6 Planning Council recommended approval of the rezoning.

University Avenue project underway

Photos in windows and on the sides of buildings all along University Avenue are just part of photographer Wing Yung Huie's University Avenue project. Huie's photos are also part of an exhibit with music every night through Oct. 31.

St. Paul City Council approved a sound variance for the music April 21; at 1433 University Av. Huie's images will be projected onto a screen there most evenings starting at twilight, for two hours each night. Images are also shown on a stack of freight containers at the front of the property. The property is vacant. It was a motor vehicle sales lot for many years.

The sound level variance issued by the city calls for the music to end no later than 11:30 p.m. Music will begin at 7 p.m. May 29, June 26, July 31, Aug. 28, Sept. 25 and Oct. 30 and end no later than 11:30 p.m. The variance was sought by Public Art St. Paul. Neighbors of the property were contacted.

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Jehovah Lutheran Pastor Bob Benke to appear on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire'

By ELIZABETH MCLISTER

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? I'll give you a few hints: he's an animated minister with a passion for trivia and a penchant for argyle sweaters – and he may be your neighbor. On May 24th and 25th, Jehovah Lutheran Church's own Pastor Bob Benke will appear in the hot seat on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire with Meredith Viera. Between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on May 25th Jehovah Lutheran will host a special viewing of the show at their Snelling and Thomas location. Partygoers are encouraged to pay \$8.00 for admission and refreshments.

Benke brims with enthusiasm when asked about this unique experience. "It has been our prayer that something as serendipitous as an appearance on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire will give the ministries we foster greater visibility and invite people to come and join our family of faith!"

"Pastor Bob" may appreciate a good game show but he takes his faith seriously. Over the years this Milwaukee, WI native has worn many hats in service to his Lutheran values, from grade school teacher to choir director to mentor. Benke and his family moved to the Midway in 1999 when he was installed as Campus Pastor at Concordia University. He currently serves as Jehovah Lutheran Church's fifth full-time pastor, a post he's held since 2003.

Jehovah Lutheran Church has exerted a strong influence on the Midway Community since 1923. The "big box" of a church on the corner of Snelling and Thomas is home to many groups aside from its traditional congregation, among them the Mykane Jesus Ethiopian Church, Rainbow Childhood Development Center, and the Lutheran Counseling Center.

What compelled Pastor Benke to enter the running for Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Twenty-one months ago Prior Lake's Mystic Lake Casino advertised open testing for the show. At the insistence of his wife and children, Benke applied. He rose at 5:00 a.m. on his day off, stood in line for two hours alongside 1600 other hopefuls, and dutifully took the two required tests (one on movie trivia, the other general knowledge).

Benke failed the movie portion but passed the general knowledge segment without trouble. Upon learning that his foot was in the door, he submitted two brief interviews and headed home again. Two weeks later a postcard arrived with news that Benke had made it into the contestant pool, where he could expect to remain for about two years.

Benke went wild cramming facts, signing up for online trivia

quizzes, and practicing daily crossword puzzles but he cut back on these activities after about six months had passed. He was surprised when the show contacted him again in November of last year. A whirlwind of preparations ensued and taping commenced two weeks after that fateful phone call.

Selection for the contestant pool is a major achievement relative to the number of people who attempt it. Of the 20,000 individuals who take the tests every year 1,000 pass and only 300 appear on the show.

Those who know Benke regard him as something of a trivia hound but he certainly had his insecurities. "I have always loved trivia but I had no expectation of actually being a contestant on this famous and challenging game show . . . I was terrified I'd freeze up and walk away with nothing!"

We'll have to wait to learn

how much (if anything) the pastor walked away with – he's vowed to keep mum about the results until after the program airs. However, Benke is candid about how he may spend his winnings. "My wife and I have always given a tithe to the congregations or university where I've served in ministry. It is really fun to think of the difference such a blessing might bring." Benke may also contribute to other ministries and the international group Lutheran World Relief. With a son at Concordia Academy, a daughter fresh

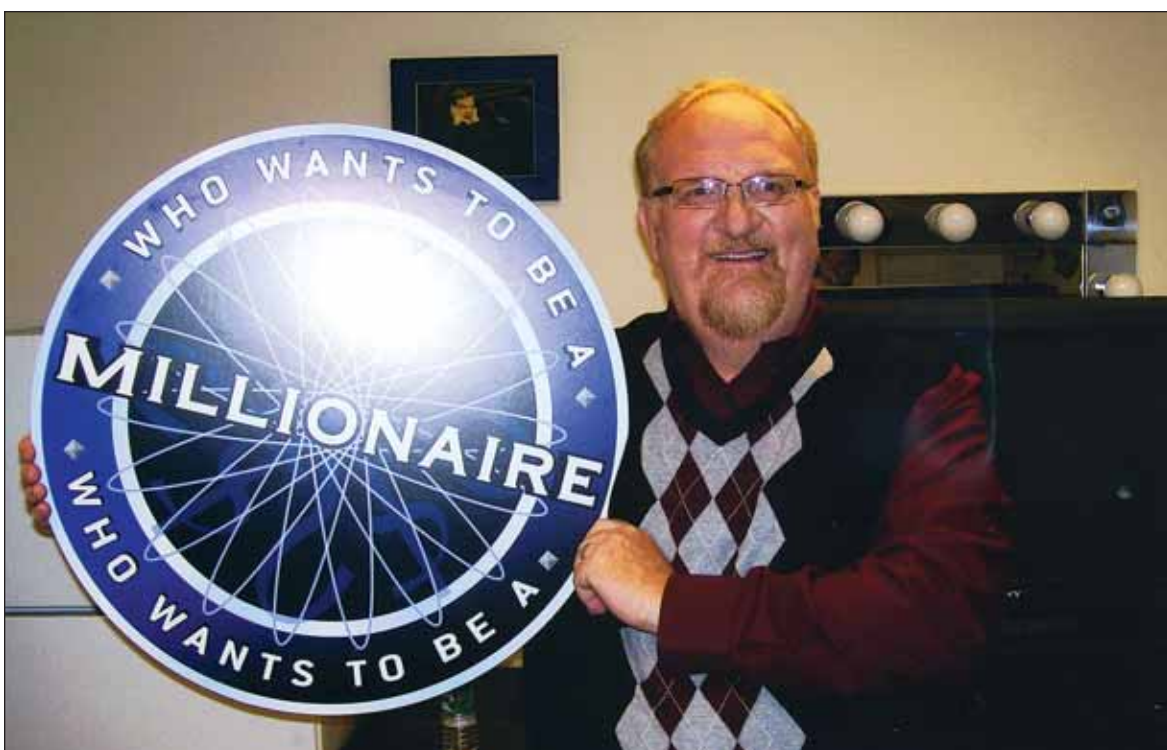
out of Concordia University, and another son in graduate school, Benke says if he wins he'll be obliged to pay back personal debts too.

Regardless of the show's outcome, Pastor Bob raves about participating on Who Wants to be a Millionaire. "It really was life-affirming and rather unexpected at age 56."

In addition to the May 25th Jehovah Lutheran event, many other viewing parties are in the works. Pockets of Benke's friends, family, and former colleagues

plan to convene in Marshall, MI, Melrose Park, IL, New York City and elsewhere. Because Benke's mother has been critically ill of late, he and his family may view the first screening (which will fall on her 98th birthday) with her in Milwaukee.

Be sure to tune in on May 24th and May 25th to find out if one of our own has become a millionaire! For information on Jehovah Lutheran Church and Pastor Bob Benke, call the church office at 651-644-1421 or visit www.jehovahlutheran.org.



On May 24th and 25th, Jehovah Lutheran Church's own Pastor Bob Benke will appear in the hot seat on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" with Meredith Viera. (Photo by Katie Benke)

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Rezoning request for Minnehaha Lanes rolls toward City Council

A request to rezone the former Minnehaha Lanes site is rolling toward the St. Paul City Council, with a recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission May 7. The ell-shaped site is bounded by Pierce Butler Route, Milton Street, the northern boundary of Minnehaha Business Center and Chatsworth Street. (Photos by Andrew Fossbinder)

By JANE MCCLURE

A request to rezone the former Minnehaha Lanes site is rolling toward the St. Paul City Council, with a recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission May 7. The request to rezone the old bowling alley property from commercial to light industrial use is seen as creating jobs for Frogtown and surrounding neighborhoods. The redevelopment effort is led by the St. Paul Port Authority, which will redevelop and sell the 4.1 acre parcel to a new owner or owners.

The ell-shaped site is bounded by Pierce Butler Route, Milton Street, the northern boundary of Minnehaha Business Center and Chatsworth Street. Addresses along Seminary, Milton and Hub-

bard would be rezoned and Seminary and Hubbard vacated on the site. The property has been cleared and is vacant. It is fenced and has been seeded with grass as an interim measure.

However, the owners of Minnehaha Business Center, the strip mall south of the site, oppose the rezoning. They question how adjacent industrial use, even light industrial use, will affect their attempts to revitalize the strip mall. They are already affected by site changes that impact access to parking and the businesses.

At the April 29 Planning Commission Zoning Committee meeting, Minnehaha Center attorney Tim Keane said the business center has filed a claim in Ramsey County District Court to challenge

the process used to develop the site and the street vacation request. He said it is premature to rezone the property when the legal dispute hasn't been resolved and asked the Planning Commission to postpone rezoning.

Keane said his clients weren't consulted by the Port to discuss the intended zoning change and vacation of streets, which will have an impact on the center. He said the business center and its tenants have been "severely burdened" by the redevelopment to the north. There are also questions about an easement agreement allowing shared parking.

Keane said his clients are also worried about compatibility of their center with any future industrial use to the north.

But Kelly Warden of the Port said the development agency is working with the business center owners to resolve their concerns. The parking area that is covered by the easement agreement is owned by the Port and will continue to be available for the center as well.

Because of the legal dispute, Warden said she couldn't go into too much detail about some issues raised by Keane. But she said the intent is to create jobs and a new development that will be compatible with the surrounding area.

Planning Commission members agreed with Warden that the only issue they are to decide is the rezoning request and that the legal issues need to play out on their own.

City staff recommended approval of the rezoning, noting that there is industrial zoning north of the property along Pierce Butler. City Planner Luis Pereira said the site has been zoned for commercial use for more than 50 years. Prior to 1957 parts of the site served as a city dump. Some longtime Frogtown residents said part of the property was swamp before that.

The site has been part of the shopping center area for many years but the center has struggled over the past two decades. A supermarket, drugstore and other businesses have moved out in recent years. Currently the largest tenant is Family Dollar.

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Longfellow Humanities Magnet celebrates 127 years

On June 4, students, staff, friends and community members will gather at Longfellow Humanities Magnet school to celebrate 127 years of continuous service to the Merriam Park neighborhood and the City of Saint Paul. Take part in the festivities, Thursday, June 4, 2010, 6-8:30 p.m. at Longfellow Humanities Magnet, 318 Moore Street in Saint Paul.

Longfellow Humanities Magnet, one of Saint Paul Public Schools, will close its doors on June 11, 2010, as a result of declining enrollment and budget.

"Amidst the fond memories and the bitter sweet feelings of seeing a long education tradition

come to a close, members of the Longfellow community can feel a real sense of accomplishment," said Principal Mark Vandersteen, who has led the school for the past five years. "Longfellow has enjoyed a great and long history of preparing young children for their futures. It is with great pride and joy that we can look back together, celebrate our accomplishments and pay tribute to this beloved school."

Events begin at 6 p.m. with a short program at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and exhibits documenting the school's history will be on display. In addition, a brief history

of the school is included on the following page.

For those planning to attend, please RSVP by May 14 by calling Longfellow Humanities Magnet at 651-293-8725, RoseMary Campos at 651-455-3935 or online at www.facebook.com - go to "Longfellow School St. Paul - Celebrating 127 Years."

For more information on the June 4 events, please call RoseMary at 651-455-3935.

For more information on the school history, please call Mark Vandersteen at 651-293-8725.

Longfellow History

The name Longfellow honors the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1808-1882).

The first school bearing the Longfellow name, a three room brick school at the corner of Prior and Iglehart Avenues in the village of Merriam Park, opened for classes in 1883. In those days, Merriam Park was a separate village just west of the capital City of Saint Paul, a budding railroad hub and future gateway to the Northwest. The school became part of the Saint Paul Public School system in 1885 when the village of Merriam Park was annexed by the City of Saint Paul.

In 1887, a larger school was



The first school bearing the Longfellow name, a three room brick school at the corner of Prior and Iglehart Avenues in the village of Merriam Park, opened for classes in 1883. In those days, Merriam Park was a separate village just west of the capital City of Saint Paul, a budding railroad hub and future gateway to the Northwest.

completed on the corner of Iglehart and Prior Avenues. The original three-room school had been moved to the corner of Iglehart and Cleveland to make way for the new school.

The 1887 structure served until 1974 when a new Longfellow school opened its doors at 318 Moore Street, immediately north of the old building. The 1887 building was demolished later that year.

In 1921, the nation's first school patrol was created at Longfellow, following an incident several years earlier when a student ran in front of a car because he was afraid to cross the

street with an adult policeman.

In the summer of 1985, Longfellow was remodeled and reopened in the fall as Longfellow Humanities Magnet school serving kindergarten through eighth grade. Grades seven and eight were later discontinued.

A 1999, an addition added three rooms to the southeast corner of the building, with a kindergarten addition added to the northwest corner a few years later.

Due to declining enrollment and tight district budgets, the Saint Paul Board of Education voted to close the school in July 2009.



On June 4, students, staff, friends and community members will gather at Longfellow Humanities Magnet school to celebrate 127 years of continuous service to the Merriam Park neighborhood and the City of Saint Paul.

Minnehaha Lanes rezoning

Continued from page 4

The bowling alley was hit hard when the citywide smoking ban was implemented a few years ago.

Ways to redevelop the site, as well as the surrounding area, have been discussed for many years. At one point a church wanted to buy and redevelop the entire block. Other industrial and even recreational uses have also been suggested.

Since 2008 District 7 Planning Council and neighbors have met with the Port Authority to discuss the current plans and have been in support of redevelopment that would create new jobs. The site has room for a light industrial or warehouse building of about 67,000 square feet. Depending on the use there, between 50 to 100 jobs could be created.

"We have had a positive response from the community," said Warden. Before the property is sold to a new owner, the Port would work to make sure an environmentally sustainable, attractive and well-landscaped building is erected. Uses would be restricted for compatibility with the neighborhood. For example, no outside storage would be allowed. Nor would industries with auto-related uses be allowed. The conditions, called restrictive covenants, would be conditioned as part of the land sale and would not be part of the zoning change as the city legally cannot place conditions on property when it is rezoned.

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Como Park neighborhood group receives Sustainable Saint Paul Award

A local volunteer group, the Como Woodland Advisory Committee (CWAC), received a 2010 Sustainable Saint Paul Award in the Green Spaces category on April 28. The members of the CWAC have been developing and steering the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) project and working on the project site since 2006.

The CWAC were one of ten groups to be presented an award by Mayor Chris Coleman at a ceremony in Saint Paul City Council

Chambers. Ward 4 Councilman, Russ Stark, introduced the four committee members who accepted the award: Ann Heyer, CWAC chair; Alison Bunge, project advisor; Deb Robinson, project founder; and Ann WhiteEagle, project advisor. The CWAC is honored to have their grassroots, community-based project recognized by the City of Saint Paul.

The Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom project site is a 17.75-acre woodland located in



From left to right: Councilman Russ Stark, Ann Heyer, Alison Bunge, Deb Robinson, Ann WhiteEagle, and Mayor Chris Coleman. (Photo by Matt Schmitt)

the southwest corner of Como Park. The site was the last large woodland left in Como Park and a group of local residents wanted it to remain woodland.

CWAC, Como Park Sr. HS students and teachers, District 10 Environment Committee members,

City of Saint Paul Park & Recreation's Natural Resources Department, and hundreds of community volunteers, all pitched in to help clean up the site, remove invasive species – now the site is being used for field studies by local students. CWAC members secured

funds for a master plan, environmental field study equipment, a biological survey, and restoration of an on-site historical memorial. However, the work of woodland restoration has just begun. For more information about the CWAC: www.comowoodland.org

Arlington closure

Continued from page 1

Silva said the school board had been very gracious in working with her on the issue of the changes at Arlington.

"The reality is that this was long due," she said.

Silva added that she feels really blessed that Mayor Chris

Coleman is working so closely with public education.

"The City Council and the County have also been helpful," she said, "in finding resources. It already feels invigorating."

Silva is also pleased with the strong connection the new police chief, Tom Smith, has to the school system.

"He has been a mentor at Humboldt for three years," she said. She said the hope is for the school and community and agencies to promote prevention rather than intervention of problems.

Silva stressed the importance of listening to parents and students and focusing on how to do more with less. She said the current changes, difficult though they may be, will lead the way to providing a world class education.

Next year Washington Middle School will be housed on the Arlington Senior High site. (Photo by Andrew Fossbinder)



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In a minute

Continued from page 2

Bill Gunther of the city's licensing staff said that sound levels will be monitored and that the city will investigate if there are any complaints. No one appeared at the public hearing to object to the variance, although some neighbors attended to learn more. Representatives of the project were on hand to explain their work and answer questions.

Rice-Maryland work continues

Work to rebuild the Maryland-Rice intersection continues. The St. Paul City council voted unanimously April 28 on agreements to secure permanent and temporary easements for two properties, at 90 W. Maryland and 99-121 W. Maryland.

The council agreed to compensation levels for the property owners, who will lose small pieces of frontage along Maryland and at the corner. The compensation also covers slightly larger temporary construction easements. The council action pays the property owners a total of \$13,600. One property is a home and the other is the shopping center at the northeast corner of Rice and Maryland.

Properties west of Rice Street have already been acquired and demolished in recent years, including a former bar and a barber shop. But any work east of Rice involves existing property owners.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

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St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals approves signage for Midway Center parcel

By JANE MCCLURE

Redevelopment of a long-vacant 4.5 acre parcel south of Midway Center hinges on placement of a free-standing business sign near the corner of Pascal and St. Anthony avenues. On a 4-3 vote May 3 the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approved a 22.5-foot height variance to allow a 60-foot tall business sign there.

The sign variance is granted to Midway Center owner RK Midway with the condition that the sign only be for a new business that is negotiating for the long-vacant lot at the northwest corner of Pascal and St. Anthony avenues. The main sign face and two smaller "tag" signs below it would be for that business only.

Negotiations are underway with a potential new business for the vacant lot, said RK Midway representative Paula Maccabee. But one pre-condition of a lease is that the business has a sign visible from the Interstate 94 trench. Recently adopted city sign regulations restrict the maximum height there to 37.5 feet.

The variance can be appealed to the St. Paul City Council within 10 days. Scenic St. Paul activist and Merriam Park resident Jeanne Weigum, who testified against the sign at a previous BZA hearing, has offered to pay for an appeal by Union Park District Council (UPDC). UPDC voted May 5 to file an appeal of the BZA decision. Last month the UPDC Land Use Committee recommended denial of the variance request.

Several emails opposing the variance were received by the BZA.

After the BZA vote, Weigum stuck her face within inches of architect James Cox's face and said, "See you in court" as she left the room. She later confronted Cox and Maccabee outside of the meeting.

The site eyed for redevelopment had to be cleaned up in the 1990s after it was polluted by an adjacent dry cleaning business. "My client has been trying to redevelop this site for more than 15 years," said Maccabee.

Redevelopment ideas for the property, which have ranged from a movie theater and restaurant to stand-alone retail buildings, have stalled over the years. A city-approved site plan is in place to put a large home improvement store there but a tough economy has slowed those plans.

Maccabee said she cannot name the prospective tenant and that RK Midway officials haven't even told her who the tenant is. But if the variance isn't granted and the larger sign isn't allowed, RK Midway will lose the prospective tenant.

A 60-foot sign would be similar in height or even lower than existing signs along I-94, said Maccabee and Cox. Maccabee said if the sign is built within the current regulations, it could be seen from neighborhood streets and the frontage road, "but it would definitely have less visibility from the freeway." They showed computer-generated images of how a 60-foot sign could be seen from I-94.



Redevelopment of a long-vacant 4.5 acre parcel south of Midway Center hinges on placement of a free-standing business sign near the corner of Pascal and St. Anthony avenues.

The freeway is about 25 feet below the frontage road and shopping center, said John Hardwick of the BZA staff. He recommended approval of the variance, noting that the shopping center has no other business signs on that part of the property. There is a large monument sign on the University Avenue side of the shopping center.

Cox said one challenge for Midway Center to market itself, even with a new sign, is the large billboards in the area. Two bill-

boards near Midway Center are on property owned by Metropolitan Council on a former bus garage site. A large billboard is south of the freeway, atop a building.

The BZA laid over the RK Midway request in April. At that time the sign request was presented as possibly being for tenants in the shopping center, such as a new Walgreens planned along Snelling Avenue. Midway Center is working with Walgreens and Big Top Liquors to build two new

freestanding store buildings along Snelling Avenue. The center is also actively marketing several vacant spaces. And Jo-Ann Fabrics store moved out of the center earlier this year. A driver's license bureau moved out last year.

But the negotiations for the Pascal-St. Anthony site, and the possibility of a major new tenant there, prompt the need for a sign for that tenant, said Maccabee.

UPDC Executive Director Roger Bromander said the district council committee believes that

the tall sign won't fit into the surrounding neighborhood. A number of residents south of the freeway, in Snelling Park neighborhood, are opposed to the sign as it would be in their line of sight.

The design of the sign was also criticized by those at the neighborhood meeting. Maccabee and Cox said the design could be changed with input from neighbors.

BZA members and city staff debated the visual impacts of the sign variance, as well as whether or not it would set precedent. BZA Chairperson Joyce Maddox said variances shouldn't be viewed as setting precedent, as different sets of standards are written for each variance request.

Some board members said the sign should be allowed, citing the taller and larger business signs along I-94. BZA Member Daniel Ward noted the large sign recently erected at Concordia University's new Seafoam Stadium. But that sign is allowed under a conditional use permit for the university and doesn't fall under the same regulations as a business sign.

Other board members said the taller sign isn't needed and that a lower sign could be seen from the freeway. "I don't see the hardship here," said BZA Member Gloria Bogen. "I don't think they need that large of a variance."

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By JAN WILLMS

If you ask Wing Young Huie about his work, he simply says "I photograph everyday life."

From May through October 31, his depiction of everyday life will line University Avenue in Saint Paul on a six-mile stretch from the Minneapolis border to the Minnesota State Capitol.

Over 250 photos will be displayed in storefronts and as giant murals, with a nightly projection of 450 images beginning at twilight and running for two hours on movie-sized screens at a vacant lot at 1433 University Avenue. This nightly show will be accompanied by a sound track featuring 50 local musicians.

The University Avenue Project, created by Huie and presented by Public Arts Saint Paul, is the largest public art exhibition in the United States this year.

According to Huie, the exhibition took nearly four years to complete, and he is still working on it.

"It is meant to be taken as a little bit now, a little bit later," he said. "We will think about what we are going to add to it as we go along."

With light rail coming to University Avenue, Huie said this was a good time to do this project. He had first been approached about it by Christine Podas-Larson, president of Public Art Saint Paul, when the two were working on a design for St. Paul's Dickerman Park.

"No one knows the eventual impact of light rail," Huie said. "This may be the last record."

And the record will show the residents of University Avenue, at their work or in class, visiting a neighbor, or expressing their faith.

"Reality is so interesting,"



Wing Young Huie photographs everyday life with University Avenue Project

From May through October 31, Wing Young Huie's depiction of everyday life will line University Avenue in Saint Paul on a six-mile stretch from the Minneapolis border to the Minnesota State Capitol. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

Huie said. "University Avenue is vast. It's a kaleidoscope of humanity. It's the future and the present."

Huie, a self-taught photogra-

pher with a degree in journalism, has spent much of his career reflecting the images of everyday life. In his first solo exhibition he focused on the Frogtown commu-

nity and its growing Southeast Asian population. He later documented Lake Street in Minneapolis through 700 black and white photographs.

"You drive or walk down University Avenue and you don't get a sense of it in the same way you do on Lake Street," Huie said. "Lake Street is more dense and narrow, with mom and pop businesses. You see people on the street."

He said that on University Avenue, you have to go inside and seek people out. He cited the Hubbs Center, one of several schools where he photographed students.

"There are a thousand students, with nearly 50 countries represented," he said. "It's mind-boggling."

Huie said there is a big gap between the reality of the area and the perception of who we are as Minnesotans.

He said the reality is not reflected in the media or popular culture or entertainment.

"The first Hollywood movie that included a Hmong person was Gran Torino, a couple years ago," he said. "That was it. You're Hmong, you live in America, and you have that one movie."

Huie said that individuals live in a polarized society, today more than ever.

"The word immigrant is a loaded term now," he reflected. "What I am doing is really just trying to show who we are."

Huie, the only member of his family who was not born in China, said he was formed by the myths of the icons of the state: the Vikings, Paul Bunyan and Mary Tyler Moore.

"Everyone in my family is an immigrant," he noted. "Growing

up (in Duluth), there was nothing in the culture that reflected the realities of my family. Just Kung Fu stars and Connie Chung."

"The realities of who I am and the realities of my family and the realities of hundreds of thousands of hyphenated Minnesotans buy into those cultural myths on a continued and regular basis," Huie continued. "I am trying to create a new iconography that reflects who we are."

Huie said the University Project is not just about diversity. It is also about photography. Using black and white and color film, and not digital cameras, Huie said he shot what the world around him looks like.

In some of his photos, his subjects are holding blackboards with a chalked answer to questions he posed. "Who are you? What advice would you give others? How has race affected you?" were some of the questions he asked.

"I like real," Huie said, "which is a curious concept in this age of Photoshop."

He said that on one hand, the Internet democratizes. On the other, photographs form us.

"They tell us what to buy, what kind of attitude we should have and how to think of others and ourselves," he said. "But with all the photos that are out and that you have access to, how many are real?"

Huie said the current generation has seen more photos than any other generation in the history of the world. But he questions what they see.

"When I was growing up, we believed that what a photo depicted really happened, whether it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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Business owner volunteers needed to help plant Snelling Avenue planters

Business and property owners and friends are needed to help plant our neighborhood's mosaic-adorned Snelling Avenue planters on Thursday, May 20th.

We are hoping that for each planter, we will have a business owner who is able to help with bringing the plants to the planter, planting them, and/or giving them some initial water before the City crews start coming around to water them regularly.

Plants, donated by Hamline University, are scheduled to arrive around 11 a.m. on May 20 at the Hamline Park building at Lafond and Snelling. Neighborhood residents will organize the plants and help show you what to do.

If you can help, please call Allison Sharkey Simpkins at 651-488-6309.



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In Our Community

Free money managing seminars at the Library

Saint Paul Public Library is offering free money-managing seminars at four library locations on Wednesday evenings in May.

Geoff Bullock will present "Developing a Stellar Credit Rating" on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 at Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 Dale Street N. This event will clarify how credit reporting and scoring work, how to read credit scores and how to fix errors.

Participants will learn what their FCRA rights are and how to increase their credit scores.

Additional programs in this series include: "Survival Budgeting: Living on Reduced Spending" presented by Jim Davnie on Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Arlington Hills Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street, St. Paul; and "Home Ownership: Tips for Buying and Keeping a House" presented by Jim Davnie on Wednesday, May 26 at 6:30 at Hayden Heights Library, 1456 White Bear Ave., St. Paul.

These programs are co-sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. For more information, please visit www.sppl.org or call 651-266-7000.

Dead Sea Scrolls Lecture on Sunday, May 16

Dr. Suzanne Hequet, professor at St. John's University, will set the stage for understanding the Dead Sea Scrolls during the Adult Bible Class (ABC) of Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., Sunday, May 16 starting at 9 a.m. with coffee in the lounge. All are welcome to this introduction to the context and debates surrounding the Dead Sea Scrolls and the nearby archeological site of Qumran. This hour will prepare one well for seeing the current exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Science Museum. Call 651-644-1421 with questions or check www.jehovahlutheran.org.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church hosts 'Lawn Party'

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in-the-Midway will host a Neighborhood Lawn Party "Reaching Out with God's Love" on Saturday, June 26, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be live music, free hot dogs, chips and ice cream, free giveaway items and crafts and activities for kids. The church is located at 436 North Roy Street, across from the Spruce Tree Center, one block south of the Snelling and University Avenues intersection. Please call 651-646-6549 for additional information. All are welcome!!

Rummage sale donations at Bethel Lutheran

Bethel Lutheran Church will hold its 9th Annual Rummage Sale benefiting the Children's Christian Education Fund on Wednesday, June 16th through Saturday June 19th. Bethel is located in St. Paul's Como Park neighborhood at 670 W. Wheelock Parkway.

We are looking for a wide range of items including books, furniture, tools, houseware items, dishes, glassware, stemware, crystal, collectibles of all kinds, arts & crafts, jewelry, office supplies, working electronics, sporting goods, gently used toys & clothing for the whole family. The church is open to receive 'almost new' donations from those with an interest in supporting this fundraiser from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the following Saturdays: May 29th, June 5th and 12th.

For more information about Bethel Lutheran Church, its programs and ministries visit www.bethelstpaul.com or call 651-488-6681.

Register now for St. Paul Urban Tennis

St. Paul Urban Tennis (SPUT) provides 6 weeks of hourly tennis along with life skills at 34 outdoor sites across St. Paul for youth ages 5 through 13 & older, from June 14th through July 23, 2010. On-line registration is encouraged as some sites are filling rapidly. Mail-In registration forms are available at your local Park & Rec. Centers. No child is turned away because of an inability to pay. You can request a scholarship when you register on-line, or ask for a form at your Rec Center. Please visit our website at www.sput.us.

If you would like more information or to schedule an interview please contact Pat Theriault or Lois Charboneau.

All Corridor Energy Workshop May 25

The energy efficiency workshop hosted by the Green Institute will highlight low and no-cost ways to reduce energy usage in the home. Homeowners and renters alike are encouraged to come. Reducing energy usage can save homeowners and renters money as well as reduce carbon emissions. The workshop is open to all St. Paul residents.

It will take place at Central High School, May 25th, 7pm in the Auditorium. All attendees are eligible for an energy squad home visit. At the home visit, the squad will install Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL's), a program-

mable thermostat, and many other energy saving improvements.

For further details or information, contact Carl Samuelson at csamuelson@greeninstitute.org or 612-278-7123.

St. Mark's Parish Festival May 21

Please join us for the 11th annual Grand Olde Saint Mark's Days Parish Festival Carnival Rides, Kid's Games, Bingo, Entertainment, Food, Raffle, and FUN! Friday, May 21, 5:00pm - 10 p.m.; Saturday, May 22, 12:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Church of Saint Mark, 2001 Dayton Avenue, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in-the-Midway will host a Neighborhood Lawn Party "Reaching Out with God's Love" on Saturday, June 26, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be live music, free hot dogs, chips and ice cream, free giveaway items and crafts and activities for kids. The church is located at 436 North Roy Street, across from the Spruce Tree Center, one block south of the Snelling and University Avenues intersection. Please call 651-646-6549 for additional information. All are welcome!!

Storytime at Hamline Midway Library June 5

Monkey Business Storytime - Saturday, June 5 at 11:15am at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. St. Paul, MN 55104.

Ooh-ooh, aah-aah! Come go bananas with the Mighty Midway Storytellers! We'll read favorites like Goodnight Gorilla, Hug, and Caps for Sale, play with action rhymes and songs, and make a monkey craft. Swing on over for some serious monkeying around.

The Mighty Midway Storytellers are your neighbors leading monthly interactive storytimes for children.

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TOPS meets every Wednesday at Zion

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) has been helping people obtain personal weight loss success for over 60 years. Give yourself the gift of support, inspiration, and a healthier lifestyle. Enjoy positive changes with TOPS. We meet in the basement of Zion Lutheran Church on Aldine and Lafond on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m.

Membership is inexpensive. Please come and join us or just come to observe. Call Margee at 651-227-2076 from more information or with questions.

Parkway Garden Club Plant Sale May 15

Parkway Garden Club Annual Perennial Plant Sale. Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1407 Arundel St., MN. Proven plants from members' gardens. For more information call Nanette at 651-353-4284 or email parkway-gardenclub@comcast.net

All-Church Rummage Sale May 14-15

Hamline Church All-Church Spring Rummage Sale will be held at 1514 Englewood Ave. May 14 to May 15, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is a huge sale with great items for sale. Appliances, small electronics, in working order; a great selection of books, toys, games; furniture for home and office use. Don't miss this event.

Spring Rhapsody will benefit Conservatory

Spring Rhapsody: a benefit to support the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music and its mission to bring high quality music education to everyone will be held Friday May 28 7 p.m. at Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University. Tickets are \$15 adult, \$10 student/seniors.

Including performances by the Saint Paul Children's Chorus, the Baroque Ensemble, Clarinet Choir, Gamba Kids Consort, Suzuki Strings, Ivan Konev, Oleg Levin, Marita Link, Peter Arnstein, Ed Wharton, David Birrow, Kim Craig, Patty McPherson, Teresa Richardson, Ora Itkin, Orieta Dado, Sophia Kor, Olivia Sohlen, James Brockhurst and Megan Ruan performing works by Brahms, Shostakovich, Telemann, Granados, Dvorak and more.

Come support your local community music school and enjoy an evening of beautiful music.

In-Home Nursing Services discussed at luncheon

"In-Home Nursing Services Available from Hamline Midway Elders (HME)," will be the topic on June 8 at a luncheon for seniors at 11:30 at 1415 Englewood Avenue (Hamline Church). HME has signed a contract with Recover Health to provide home health care and the presentation will address the nursing, home health aide and physical therapy

services now available. A free will donation is asked for the meal. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations, or request free transportation for the event or grocery shopping or medical appointments.

Hamline Midway Elders provides support for caregivers as well as application assistance for Lifeline monitoring, energy assistance, food support, amplified phones, grocery delivery and more. Contact Hamline Midway Elders to receive helpful information. Call 651-209-6542 for more information.

Family and the Breastfed Baby topic for June 8

The Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, June 8. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

"Millionaire" Evening at Jehovah on May 25

Join the fun starting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas, where the community is invited to celebrate Pastor Bob's participation in Who Wants to be a Millionaire? hosted by Meredith Viera. How did Pastor Bob do? Come and find out! Food, fun, showing of the program; fundraiser to match an anonymous \$5,000 gift; suggested donation of \$8 at the door. Enter at the Thomas Street entrance.

Free community breakfast May 23

FREE Community Breakfast will be served 8-9 a.m. Sunday, May 23 at North Emanuel Lutheran Church. Come one come all to our fellowship hall.

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Good Shepherd, Hamline United Methodist Churches to merge

By TOM CONLON

Pastor Patricia Hinker knows that anxiety is natural when there is a change in any system, and congregants of her Hamline United Methodist Church along with the Church of the Good Shepherd UMC will explore new traditions when the two congregations merge on May 23rd.

The soon-to-be-renamed church will be based at today's Hamline United Methodist Church and promises to challenge some traditional Mainline church practices while preserving traditional liturgy and music. Sermon style, multi-generational appeals and new ministerial outreach are possible examples.

Church of the Good Shepherd UMC, at 1849 Marshall Avenue, and Hamline UMC, 1514 Englewood Ave., voted last October to merge their congregations in light of flat growth patterns, costs of doing structural repairs and the opportunity to try vibrant new ministries with enhanced membership numbers.

After each congregation holds its final services May 16th, the true test of the merger's success begins, said Hinker, Hamline's current interim pastor who will remain as assistant pastor for one year in a phased-retirement.

"In churches, anxiety and change may be greater than one would face in one's workplace or any other system," she said.



The Rev. Pat Hinker, current interim pastor at Hamline UMC, and the Rev. Peter Boehlke, Good Shepherd UMC's pastor, will lead the newly merged church on May 23rd. Shown here is a memorial window in the foyer at Hamline UMC.

"Church is where people share their life's most precious memories and decisions – baptism, marriages, counseling, personal support – and it is important that we acknowledge that."

Rev. Peter Boehlke, currently Good Shepherd's pastor, will become senior pastor at the new congregation. "We're dealing with the reality – like it or not – that fewer people are churching and rather than competing with other denominations, we are competing with yoga, bicycling, Facebook or other activities on Sunday mornings," he said. "We may be seeing the end of the neighborhood church as we know it."

Boehlke added that Good

Shepherd, averaging 120-130 Sunday congregants, could have continued independently as a neighborhood but tapping into endowment funds for growing building maintenance negatively impacts church programming. "The merger will give us greater numbers of worshippers and resources with which to build our ministerial outreach to our community and explore new ministries we could not do before."

Hinker said Hamline faced similar challenges with a somewhat older demographic group than Good Shepherd and bringing in more young families would be a boon to a larger, merged congregation. Her church voted overwhelm-

ingly for the merger (90%), while Good Shepherd's vote was closer (60%) and more emotional, Boehlke said.

Evelyn Anderson, a Good Shepherd member since grade school, met and married her childhood friend Ted, now in their 70s. Good Shepherd played a lifelong role in their confirmations, wedding, 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries, baptisms of their 3 children, and funeral services for their four parents.

"My first reaction to the merger vote was shock, which later turned to sadness and bitterness," she said. "I could not imagine why people would support this merger and had so little faith we could continue to be a vibrant congregation. "Our numbers were fairly stable and we had a lot of young families. We had a top notch music program and organist, a beautiful building, and a good preacher. Sure, we would have had work to do over time, but I think we would have been up to the challenge."

Boehlke acknowledged the merger created sadness for some members, especially those with long histories at the church. "I am proud of the work we did there and of the members who made it happen," he said. "When I came in 1997, Sunday attendance was 20 to 30 people and primarily seniors. We talked about smaller communities that could be sustainable, tried some eclectic things while preserv-

ing the traditions people loved, and aimed at just being a good little church.

"But we topped out at 140-150 attendance in 2005 and faced major repairs on the horizon," he added.

Boehlke said he struggled with how we could compete with those realities and get people interested in the message God has for them. "We simply did not have the long term resources or ministries to do that, but the merger would give us new opportunities to do that," he said. "The Mainline churches have been losing members everywhere and must work wiser, smarter and become more relevant to our communities. In the end, I knew this was the ultimate call of the church, and that recommending a merger would be beneficial to the long-term interests of both congregations."

And Boehlke promised change will continue. Pending approval of the new congregation's administrative council later this month, the merged church will be renamed "Hamline Church" with "United Methodist" and "A New Christian Community" taglines to follow. The congregation will remain in Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

"We believe the name change speaks to more people beyond our traditional Methodist roots, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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Como Park hears national expert's ideas on traffic calming

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Como Park is a neighborhood that keeps drawing more and more visitors to the Zoo and Conservatory. But, the price of this for families living near the facilities has resulted in additional traffic, no place to park in front of their house, and visitors trash left behind.

Outraged that so many people are coming to Como Park, turning it from a city park into a regional one, neighbors have been working on solutions to traffic, parking, and trash problems for years. Recently, they had a chance to hear some new innovative ideas.

David Engwicht, of Creative Communities International, who is Australian, gave a workshop called "It's a Zoo Out There! Taming Traffic Around Como Park," on April 21. The workshop, which was geared especially for residents, applied the principles of creativity to taming traffic in and around Como Park. It was part of the North American tour of Creative Communities International and was offered by Bike Walk Twin Cities, a full-out program to promote walking and biking in the Twin Cities and reduce unnecessary driving.

Living in Brisbane, Australia, Engwicht made an accidental discovery in 1996 that turned everything he believed about streets and calming traffic upside down. Brisbane City Council agreed to trial an idea he called the Traffic Reduction Treaty, in which neighborhoods would exchange a treaty with each other. It read: "We will drive slower and act like a guest in your neighborhood if you do the

same for us." He suggested to the city that no neighborhood should get traffic calming unless they first signed this treaty.

"I felt we needed a new generation of traffic calming," he said. "Instead of using negative devices (like speed bumps) to force motorists into slowing down, I advocated using positive devices (like play areas for kids). I believed that these positive-oriented devices were needed to change the physical geometry of the street in order to force motorists into slowing down."

One important point in traffic calming is how the street is viewed—whether it is seen as a legitimate place for play and socializing rather than a place just for traffic.

"The speed of traffic on most streets is determined to a large extent by the degree to which the residents have psychologically retreated from their street," said Engwicht. "Moving the kids from the roadway to the sidewalk is like giving the motorist a permission slip to speed in the street. I work with residents to psychologically reclaim their street and move some of their everyday activities closer to the street."

In dealing with problems from more and more people coming to Como Park, Engwicht believes people should take action themselves rather than wait for the government to solve the problems.

"Everybody thinks it's somebody else's responsibility," he said. "Do something yourself to directly address a problem. You need to look at your resources—what you're willing to do or give. You

can build an entire campaign on real stuff you have access to. You must live today like you want to live tomorrow."

Rather than having a city throw a lot of money to solve a problem, Engwicht feels people should try to build civil relationships with each other.

"Traffic is a community problem not a city problem," he said.



David Engwicht, of Creative Communities International, who is Australian, gave a workshop called "It's a Zoo Out There! Taming Traffic Around Como Park," on April 21.

"It's related to the degree we've psychologically retreated from the street. Traffic is not something that falls from the sky. It's a citizens responsibility of how to deal with that."

As far as Como Park residents not being able to park and their kids not able to play in front of their house, Engwicht says many tourist destinations have the same problem. The psychology of a person out for a tourist experience is a different mindset than driving to work.

"The movement of where they leave their car can be part of

the experience," he said. "It's not so important how long it takes to get there. You have to make the movement part of the actual experience."

Engwicht has several suggestions of what people can do to get people to want to park farther away from the park.

"The experience must start the moment they park their car," he

guest in your neighborhood, they need to be treated like a guest."

Como resident Dennis O'Rourke, who attended the workshop, thought Engwicht's perspective was fascinating.

"It was a perspective and angles I never considered," he said. "I look forward to thinking about what he had to say over time. His stories were interesting. He's a very good storyteller."

When O'Rourke finds trash left behind by Como Park visitors in front of his house on a Monday morning, he feels they don't respect his neighborhood.

"I want people to respect my neighborhood," he said. "I've found three or four diapers in front of my house. There are garbage cans within half a block."

As a result of the workshop, O'Rourke plans to try some of Engwicht's ideas.

"I'm going to try to spend more time in my front yard other than raking," he said. "I want to try to show it's a home where people live and not just a conduit of transportation."

Engwicht's presentation surprised Como Park resident Laurel L'Allier.

"I expected something different," she said. "I expected ways other people can help. He encouraged ways we can help ourselves."

L'Allier says Engwicht's workshop gave her new ideas about how the Como Park shuttle can be used.

"He gave me the insight to look at turning things around and going at things from a different

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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Hamline Midway Library offers free yoga classes

We have spring on our mind at Hamline Midway Library this May. It's time to get out of the house, enjoy the weather, and join us at one of the fun and free events we are offering this month!

Anusara Yoga blends the precision of universal principles of alignment with a deep connection to the heart. Its uplifting philosophy celebrates life and looks for the good in all people and all things. Hamline Midway Library offers free Anusara

Yoga classes every Tuesday in May from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please bring a yoga mat and a firm blanket (Mexican style or a wool yoga blanket) and wear comfortable clothing that stretches. This class is taught by instructor Chris Gordon.

Our FREE, popular Computer Basics class is back! Learn basic computer skills, such as how to use a mouse and keyboard, create and save documents, how to use the internet and set up your own email

account. This four part class that will meet on May 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Participants must pre-register by calling 651-642-0293.

Attending regular storytimes at the library helps your child build pre-literacy skills and gets them ready to read. Hamline Midway Library offers toddler and pre-school storytimes every Friday in May from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Hamline Midway Library

Association is a group of library lovers working to build community and support the Hamline Midway Public Library through political advocacy, volunteering, and fundraising. The next meeting will be held on May 24th at the Hamline Midway Branch, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Senior Surf Day provides hands-on computer training to seniors who have little or no experience with computers. Seniors will learn how to type in a web address

and how to safely navigate from one webpage to the next. Seniors will also learn how to access internet sites that will assist them in obtaining information on their own, including Minnesotahelp.info, the Administration on Aging webpage and the Medicare.gov website. Classes are taught by representatives from the Senior LinkAge Line. Call the library at 651-642-0293 to register for our next Senior Surf Day on June 2, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Church merger

Continued from page 11

that we are open to new ways to minister to our community," he said. "It will be the place where the ancient traditions meet a new day, where the university meets the neighborhood, where the generations older and younger worship and learn and grow and are in ministry together."

Hinker said the merger discussions, from Hamline's perspective, emphasized the ability to do ministry together that neither could do

separately. "We were very intentional about framing the merger in terms of 'more ministry' rather than 'saving money,'" she said. "We believed that ministry offerings and stewardship of finances would be better spent going to ministry work rather than maintaining two different buildings."

"Merging two congregations involves more than property, endowment or naming issues, but about merging two cultures, traditions and ways of worship," she said.

Boehlke said that compared to the brighter Good Shepherd sanc-

tuary, Hamline UMC's stone Gothic-like miniature cathedral (built in the late 1920s) has a more formal, darker feel, but that "we will definitely be trying some new things while keeping the great traditional music and sacred traditions of both churches."

Boehlke noted, for example, that Good Shepherd has a moment of silence following the sermon and worshippers don't leave until the organ postlude is complete. Hamline's choir, by contrast, wears robes and has a more formal worship style. Worship times, an hour earlier at Hamline, now split

the difference with a 10 a.m. start time. "Like mergers of any organizations, we will have some excitement and perhaps discomfort as we build a new joint traditions," he said. "Churches are not exempt from life and societal changes, and we must meet that challenge to keep God's word alive in those contexts."

Hinker and Boehlke both are optimistic about the future post-merger. These include family-focused ministries for parents with children, adult spiritual formation, hands-on mission opportunities for all ages, fellowship opportuni-

ties for all interest and age groups, community ministry and witness, and closer connections with Hamline students and other local colleges. Hamline also operates a dining hall at the Minnesota State Fair each year and that tradition will continue.

Boehlke said he expects Sunday worship numbers of 250 after the merger, which would be in the mid-range of most Methodist congregations in Minnesota. The Minnesota Conference Bishop, Sally Dyck, will preside at the first merged service at 10 a.m. on May 23rd.

Huie

Continued from page 8

was on the cover of Life Magazine or in a family album," he said. "The current generation automatically assumes that photos are manipulated and suspect, whether on the cover of People or on Facebook."

"Technology has made it possible for people, no matter how young, to customize their own bubbles," Huie said. "That difference in photographic projection is immeasurable."

Huie said that digital reality has become our reality.

"Most people live their life online, so offline becomes the alternative."

"Authenticity and veracity don't exist anymore," he said. "Just points of view. That's a major dynamic—a fight for whose point of view dominates."

"It doesn't matter whether it is a red state or blue state, immigration, or Darwinism vs. Creationism," Huie said. "Even sciences fight over a point of view, and most of those points of view are ethnocentric in nature."

The images that will be shown in more than 70 business storefronts along University Avenue for the next six months will show the reality and not the perception of the people of the area.

"The project is a pretty good overall picture," Huie said.

He said that although the Lake Street exhibit had left him bankrupt both emotionally and physically, this project is much easier.

"This is easy because of the support and experience of Public Arts Saint Paul," Huie said. He applied for a grant through the Joyce Foundation for funding, and he said Podas-Larson had been extremely helpful in gathering funding and assistance.

Huie said the designers of the projection site and the volunteers and the photo printers all were a great help in the exhibit.

"I think this project energizes me, too," he said. "The Lake Street project was stressful, and this is not at all like that. I try to think about things differently, and embrace more what I do."

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One of the local artists participating in the Northstar Watercolor Society's annual Art-in-Line show May 14, 15, and 16 is Helen Bond.

Art on a Line at State Fair

Local Northstar Watercolor Society artists will be participating in this year's 8th Annual ART ON A LINE show and sale of original paintings on May 14th, 15th & 16th. The event takes place in the Fine Arts building on the State Fair Grounds. Hours are: Friday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Local artists participating are: Dave Hedenstrom, Marian Wolters and Helen Bond.

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Classifieds

Continued from page 15

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RUMMAGE SALE

Mark your calendars! The Hamline Church All-Church Spring Rummage Sale, 1514 Englewood Ave., is scheduled for May 14 - May 15, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. The sale will include: furniture in good condition, books, toys, games, tools, office furniture, electronics in working order, collectibles. 5-10

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Wanted to buy - toy trains, Jerry. 651-645-6259. 6-10

Wanted to buy: Top cash paid, older furniture, beer items, miscellaneous antiques. 651-227-2469. 12-10

Traffic

Continued from page 12

angle," she said. "We should not look at things the way we normally do."

As a result of Engwicht's workshop, L'Allier has decided to take action, which will make her street more welcoming.

"Tonight my neighbors are helping me to move my picnic table in the front boulevard," she said. "A lot of people walking down to the lake cross in front of my house."

When Engwicht comes back

in 10 years, he hopes people will have done something to make their street more visitor friendly. Some suggestions were picnic tables in the front yard, a lemonade stand, a boulevard garden, putting stuff you don't want out on the sidewalk for free, or drawing with chalk on the street.

"I'm an absolute believer at what happens at the micro level," he said. "It starts with something, and the chain reaction goes on. All creativity starts with risk taking. I'm a passionate believer in every person taking a small positive action."

Linder's Garden Center celebrates 100 years



Linder's Greenhouse and Garden Center will celebrate their 100th anniversary on Saturday, June 5 through Tuesday, June 15, at 270 West Larpenteur in Roseville, Minnesota. Summer hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Phone 651-488-1927.

Hamline University Congratulates its 2010 GRADUATES!

Commencement ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 22, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.



We ask for your patience as we welcome the friends and families of our graduates to the neighborhood.

For more information please visit
www.hamline.edu/commencement

