



# monitor

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## Love of plants continues to blossom for Como resident

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Even though Leann Clemmons no longer works at Como Conservatory, her love of plants continues in her front and back yard of her Como Park home. She recently participated in The District 10 Garden Tour last month, which was part of the Como Neighborhood Staycation, and opened her garden for neighbors to see.

Clemmons became interested in gardening when she was working at Como Conservatory back in the late '90s.

"I would pump the gardeners for information," she said. "We bought our house in '97 and started digging up the yard to put a garden in the following spring. Obviously, we didn't do it all at once. We did little pieces at a time. Over the course of one year, I got to the point where I thought, I like it. I'm done."

But, Clemmons says there's always something to do in her garden.

"You're never really done," she said. "Things change. The Japanese maple tree was just a little stick when I got it. Now, it's 10 feet tall and 10 feet wide, about as big as it can get. The plants underneath it didn't like so much shade. Things have to

be moved around. This was true especially in the front with the sugar maple."

Clemmons humorously confesses the reason she turned most of her front and back yard into a garden.

"Apparently, I can't grow grass," she said. "I grow weeds. I couldn't do all the chemical and whatever (pesticides and weed killer), so I had to get rid of it. It was horrible grass."

Describing her garden as unconventional, Clemmons says she broke all the rules.

"It's kind of an extension of my house," she said. "It's like, I like it and if no one else likes it, that's alright. If something dies, I replace it with what I like to grow there. Some of it, I can't do. I can't keep a pincushion plant alive. I tried a number of different areas, and it just doesn't work."

Before putting in a plant, Clemmons considers the plant's requirements.

"I want to know how many hours of light for the plant," she said. "On the south side, I have a lot of clay soil in there. I try to add peat and manure and try to get it better. Especially, if there are bulbs in there, you can't dig around too much. If a plant says



Acquiring an interest in tropical plants while working at Como Conservatory, Leann Clemmons has large numbers of many different kinds of plants in her garden. (Photo by Andrew Fossbinder)



Como Park resident Leann Clemmons is marking her very own yard with the green thumb that brightened up the Como Park Conservatory for many years. (Photo by Andrew Fossbinder)

vigorous, it means it's going to spread. I have a limited amount of space. The beebalm spread too much so I took it out. When it comes to something aggressive and wants to spread, I get rid of it."

In turning her yard into a garden, Clemmons wanted to create a special place.

"I wanted it to be a place you want to come to—a relaxing, flowering place with fragrance," she said. "I think I've succeeded. It's a place to read a book, have a conversation, and watch birds. It really becomes another room in the summer."

In learning how to take care of the plants in her garden, Clemmons says she followed her mother's advice, "Do your homework."

"You go to Half Price Books, get a bunch of books cheap and spend the winter reading," she said. "That first winter here in '97-'98, I pumped the gardeners for information, I got some books and read like crazy."

Acquiring an interest in tropical plants while working at Como Conservatory, Clemmons has large numbers of many different kinds of plants in her garden. She has over 50 different daylilies, 35 different coral bells and similar plants like tirella or

foam flowers, 30 different astilbes, 30 different stone crop or sedum, and 30 to 35 hostas.

"A professional would say I've jammed too much in here," said Clemmons. "But, I like it. That's all that matters. It's like decorating your house. It's your own taste, whatever makes you happy. It's your own personal style."

On her brown stained deck and throughout her garden, Clemmons has many rocks.

"I like rocks," she said. "I have bowls of rocks in the house. There are so many shapes and textures. Some are sparkly or change color when they get wet."

Clemmons didn't plan what to put in her garden before going to the store.

"I just go to the store and buy what I like," she said. "I have no willpower when it comes to flowers."

According to Clemmons, the most unusual plants in her garden are tropicals—gardenia, jasmine, bananas, pineapple, bougainvillea, king sago palms, bromeliads, variegated ginger, dwarf bird of paradise, climbing bleeding heart, passionflower, asarina, and brown sedge grass.

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# monitor

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## Monitor in a Minute

### Sign height variance up in the air at Council

A controversial sign height variance request is still up in the air. The St. Paul City Council has laid over a decision on the Midway Center sign variance until August 18. Council members laid over the decision again July 7, the third layover in less than one month.

RK Midway wishes to redevelop land at the northwest corner of Pascal and St. Anthony avenues for a new retail store. Although the name of the retailer hasn't been released, the site plan on file with the city since 2007 calls for a 120,000 square foot home improvement store with rooftop parking.

On June 29 building permits were pulled to start work on the site, which is currently vacant. Had the building permits not been obtained that day, the site plan would have expired.

But a request for a sign height variance for the property has met opposition from Union Park District Council and anti-sign activists. RK Midway wants a 60-foot sign at the site, contending that is the only way for a sign to be seen from Interstate 94. City regulations only allow a sign height of 37.5 feet, requiring a variance. That sign height would match the Midway SuperTarget sign, which has been in place since the 1980s.

The sign variance is supported by the Midway Area Chamber of Commerce and other business advocates. The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) denied a sign variance request this spring, so RK Midway appealed to the City Council. That appeal was heard by the City Council in June but a decision postponed.

Ward One Council Member Melvin Carter III laid over the

variance request so that his staff, Mayor Chris Coleman's staff, district council and RK Midway representatives could continue discussing site redevelopment issues. "I think some good progress has been made," he said.

UPDC Member Scott Banas said the district council is concerned that any variance be granted within the context of what the entire site will look like. "We need a holistic look at the entire project," Banas said. RK Midway has agreed to those discussions and has agreed to keep meeting with the other parties.

### Zoning change sought for Marshall Avenue

A former Merriam Park bakery could become a small food manufacturing facility, if a zoning change wins St. Paul City Council approval later this summer. The St. Paul Planning Commission voted July 16 to recommend rezoning 2186 Marshall Av. from community business use to traditional neighborhoods or TN use. That recommendation goes to the St. Paul City Council for a series of readings, a public hearing and then a final vote.

No members of the public appeared at a Planning Commission Zoning Committee July 8 public hearing to speak for or against the request. One neighbor did call city staff in support of the request.

Union Park District Council took no position on the request.

Theodore and Elaine Kvasnik own 2182-2186 Marshall, at the southwest corner of Marshall and Cretin avenues. The buildings consist of three first-floor storefronts and apartments on the second floor.

The space at 2186 Marshall was most recently occupied by Cooqi, a gluten-free bakery which closed earlier this year.

City Planner Josh Williams said the Kvasniks wish to lease the space to a company that manufactures food products. While the new tenant may sell some of its products on-site, more than 50 percent of the product sales would be through wholesale and off-site retail outlets. That makes the business one of "limited production and processing" under city zoning regulations, requiring the zoning change. Community business use doesn't allow limited processing and manufacturing but TN zoning does.

Williams recommended approval of the rezoning, saying the limited manufacturing use would be consistent with the surrounding neighborhood. Last year the Kvasniks obtained a similar zoning change for a property they own at the southeast corner of Marshall and Cleveland avenues, to allow a nutrition bar manufacturer to occupy a small storefront there.

Theodore Kvasnik said the new tenant at 2186 Marshall would manufacture hummus. Hummus is a dip or spread made from chickpeas and other ingredients. The local firm that would lease the space sells its products at farmers' markets in the Twin Cities and at area grocery stores.

"When Cooqi moved in, they did a wonderful job installing a beautiful kitchen," said Theodore Kvasnik. He would prefer to keep the kitchen intact and let a new tenant use it.

A Rice Street property could benefit from state funding, if a grant request is approved. The St.

Paul City Council unanimously approved the grant request last month for 857 Rice St.

The grant would be through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and would be redeveloped. The property includes a one-story commercial building that has housed a variety of businesses over the years. It is near Winnipeg Avenue. It is in an area that is largely commercial, with some housing on the upper floors of the buildings. It is also across of the Winnipeg, Rice Street's newest mixed-use development.

The council action approved the grant request only. If it is accepted by the state and funding awarded, the City Council would then have to act again to accept the funding.

### Como Zoo receives state grant

Como Zoo will be hopping, thanks to a \$60,000 state grant approved by the St. Paul City Council in July. The council unanimously approved acceptance of the \$60,109 grant from the state of Minnesota. The funding is from the Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Sales Tax program. It is for programming development at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

The funds will be used for a conservation frog exhibit.

- Compiled by Jane McClure



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# Songs of Hope ring out in Como Park

By ELIZABETH MCLISTER

What happens when over 200 people representing over 26 countries convene after exactly 20 years? Joyful noise – and plenty of it. On the evening of July 31st Saint Paul's international performing arts camp Songs of Hope (S.O.H.) celebrated its twentieth anniversary with a reunion concert at the History Theater.

The anniversary show was part of a week-long reunion celebration honoring those who made the non-profit summer camp possible. Since 1990 Songs of Hope has attracted hundreds of children from across the globe.

Six weeks out of every summer, up to 75 kids flock to Minnesota to forge a unique community under the unifying command of song and dance. Participants immerse themselves in the music of many cultures before performing in nearby communities, including Como. Program director Tom Surprenant says of the memories that ensue, "Hopers have lots of stories, some sweet, some serious, and some both."

Images from several such life stories were shared via handmade collages in the History Theater's lobby on July 31st. Just before 7:30 p.m. that night, an eclectic

mix of adults and children milled around the commons, embracing one another and admiring the displays. Soon after all 175 audience members had filed into the theater, Surprenant and S.O.H. artistic director Jeanne Junge took the stage, each holding the hand of a young "Hoper". "We haven't prepared a formal introduction," Junge confessed before briefly thanking the audience and fellow project supporters. Fortunately, the ensuing performance spoke for itself.

The 2010 Songs of Hope company of about 85 young people was joined onstage by 15 reunion performers for an exuberant rendition of Kool & The Gang's "Celebration." Celebration indeed: that classic was followed by forty-five songs bridging cultures and distances. Traditional ballads from China, Madagascar, Costa Rica, and Turkey were interspersed with Western standards like Allen Toussaint's "Yes We Can" and John Lennon's "Imagine". Every tune was made accessible through animated performance.

Junge and Surprenant had both traveled widely before generating the concept for a program that would link children from far-away lands. Their brainchild was conceived in 1989 after a conversation with then mayor-to-be Jim Scheibel. During that exchange Scheibel declared that, should he become elected, he would facilitate stronger relations between Saint Paul and her six sister cities.

Mayor Scheibel made good on his promise, and in 1990 Songs of Hope struck out as a one-time, exclusive collaboration



The 2010 Songs of Hope company of about 85 young people was joined onstage by 15 reunion performers for an exuberant rendition of Kool & The Gang's "Celebration."



On the evening of July 31st Saint Paul's international performing arts camp Songs of Hope (S.O.H.) celebrated its twentieth anniversary with a reunion concert at the History Theater.

between the U.S.A., Mexico, China, Italy, Japan, and the Soviet Union. An overwhelmingly positive response encouraged the directors to make S.O.H. an annual event extended to all nations. Additionally, to date an 80% scholarship rate has facilitated the involvement of 250 local children, many of them at-risk.

Initially the grassroots program (operating under the sponsoring organization Sounds of Hope, Ltd.) relied heavily on door-knocking and donations. "There's always more than one person involved in a birthing process and Songs of Hope had many midwives," joked Don Johnson, former S.O.H. logistical coordinator and longtime Como resident. During the first four years of the fledgling program Johnson wore many hats, including president of the Board of Directors, fundraiser coordinator, and chauffer.

Over time the budget became viable thanks to the vision and re-

sources of families, politicians, corporations like General Mills, and organizations like the St. Paul Cultural STAR Program.

Johnson is convinced of S.O.H.'s potential to teach tolerance and broaden our collective definition of community. "You don't even need words to communicate – song is enough."

On July 31st, that facility for transcending differences was evident during the upbeat "Wavin' Flag" and the tender "Put A Little Love In Your Heart". It was clear when a Jamaican girl crooned the chorus to the Israeli song "Hine Ma Tov"; it came across when a strapping Turkish alum draped his arm around a young Guatemalan child during "That's What Friends Are For." Johnson may be right about not needing words to communicate effectively. Or perhaps words are useful after all – they're just better when they're set to music.

Visit [www.soundsofhope.org](http://www.soundsofhope.org) to learn more.

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# St. Paul Police investigate sexual assault, exposure incidents in Como

By DEBORAH BROTZ

It has been over a month since Como Park residents sense of being safe was shattered after a young Como Park woman was sexually assaulted and a man exposed himself to a woman who was out jogging on the south side of Como Lake.

St. Paul Police Department Sex Crimes Unit detectives are actively investigating the report of a sexual assault of an 18-year-old woman by an unknown intruder. On June 19, 2010, at 5:30 a.m., the victim returned to and entered her Como Park area home where she encountered an unknown man. The suspect then blindfolded and bound the woman, driving her to an unknown location where she was held for about 24 hours. During the course of this ordeal, the woman was sexually assaulted. The

suspect then drove the blindfolded victim to the Como Park neighborhood and released her at about 7 a.m., on June 20, 2010.

The suspect is described as white, male, 45-50 years old, thin build, moderate height, brownish/gold hair wearing a dark jacket and dark pants, sunglasses, a bandana, and a hat. The suspect's vehicle is believed to be an SUV with gray interior.

Anyone with information as to the identity and or whereabouts of the suspect is asked to call the St. Paul Police Family and Sexual Violence Unit at (651) 266-5685 or 911.

"That is still an active investigation," said Andy Skoogman, St. Paul Police spokesperson. "We have made no arrest at this point. We're still working the case. There have been no new developments."

St. Paul Police have stepped up patrols around the Como Park area and have urged joggers, walkers and runners to take extra precautions following the report of a man who exposed himself to a woman on June 28.

At approximately 5:15 a.m., a woman, who was out jogging, said she encountered a man on the south side of Como Lake. The woman told St. Paul Police investigators that the man jumped out of the bushes and exposed himself. The woman turned around and ran back to the Como Park Pavilion where she called police.

The suspect is described as a white male, 25-30 years old, approximately 6 feet tall with a very thin build and medium length brown hair. Anyone with information is asked to call the St. Paul Police Department at (651) 291-1111.

"There is nothing new on that," said Skoogman.

Police feel the suspects in these cases are not related.

"There are similarities," said Skoogman. "But, we have not been able to connect the two cases."

The St. Paul Police Department Crime Prevention Unit urges people using Como Park to: Jog, walk and run in pairs; limit the use of headphones; carry a cell phone; be aware of surroundings; tell friends and or/relatives where you are going and when you plan to return; and report suspicious activity or individuals.

Although the mobile cameras at the Pavilion and in the parking lot on the east side of Como Lake were pulled for the Flugtag event on July 24, they were returned to Como and were videotaping all the time. Recently, the mobile cam-

era on the east side of the lake was removed.

"It needs to be repaired," said Skoogman. "Temporarily, there will be only one. 'We don't know if and when the second one will be put out there.'"

Even though nothing new has happened at Como Lake in over a month, people should not forget about these past two incidents and should remain vigilant.

"We want people to always be aware of what's going on in their surroundings," said Skoogman. "We don't want people to let their guard down. We don't want people to forget about it. If they see anybody suspicious or anyone who matches any one of these descriptions to certainly call us. We still need their help. They can go out and enjoy the lake but should take precautions."

## Compromise reached for sidewalk on Marshall Avenue near Town and Country Club

By JANE MCCLURE

A sidewalk will be built along the north side of Marshall Avenue by Town and Country Club, as a result of a legal settlement approved July 21 by the St. Paul City Council. The settlement was approved just a day after the city and the 120-year-old private club were set to go to court.

The city will cover the costs associated with sidewalk construction, under the settlement terms. Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark said the settlement is a fair one and will meet the needs of pedestrians as well as Town and Country Club.

"I think it's good news all around," said Stark. "We've satisfied the concerns of the club while allowing this project to go ahead."

Town and Country Club attorney Patrick O'Neill said the club is satisfied with the settlement. "The Town and Country Club considers itself to be a good neighbor, and still questions the wisdom, for safety reasons, of a sidewalk next to a golf course that has been function well without one for 120 years. The city was committed, despite our concerns, to move forward."

Town and Country filed suit to block the project this spring, later filing a second civil lawsuit in the name of one of its mem-

bers to address concerns about the club's standing to take an action under state environmental law. That second lawsuit was also settled as a result of the vote July 21.

O'Neill described the settlement as a compromise, noting that the club will be able to save the trees on its side of the Marshall fence. The club also avoided having to pay the assessment, avoided costs for removal and replacement of its fence and "hopefully resolved future differences through an encroachment permit."

"Town and Country Club is hopeful that in the future the city will engage in better communication with its taxpayers, rather than just sending notice of an assessment in the mail two years after the project has been approved," said O'Neill.

Stark said the fundamental question being raised is why a sidewalk is needed in the area. There is a sidewalk on the south side of Marshall but pedestrians have to use a dirt path on the north side. In a letter sent to those who have contacted him about the project, Stark said, "Marshall Avenue is a key transportation corridor within St. Paul, especially due to the Marshall Avenue Bridge, which connects the City to Minneapolis. People using all transportation

modes – be it a car, bicycle, bus, wheelchair or their feet – should be accommodated by the public right-of-way on such a major thoroughfare.

Pedestrians are especially ill-served by this section of Marshall Avenue. "Imagine, if you will, a neighbor who lives north of Marshall and east of Cretin, perhaps on Iglehart Avenue or Moore Street, and who wants to cross the bridge into Minneapolis. While they would be able to travel with relative ease in both directions via car, they would need to cross busy Marshall Avenue twice in order to walk across the bridge or north on Mississippi River Boulevard. A street that inconveniences the pedestrian, as compared to the motorist or cyclist is not a street designed to encourage walking. In my mind, and in the estimation of the many community members who conceived and worked to implement this project, this public good outweighs the loss of the crabapple trees and the addition of a modest amount of concrete."

Under the terms of the settlement, the city will proceed with construction of the sidewalk between Marshall and Otis avenues. The city will cover the \$43,000 costs and won't assess the club for the work. Town and Country Club has agreed to maintain the sidewalk, keeping it

clear of ice and snow.

The sidewalk will be built on city-owned land.

The city will also pay for removal and replacement of 27.4 percent of the existing fence as part of the project and will work with Town and Country Club to match the existing fence. The city will also cover costs of the retaining wall planned at Cretin and Marshall, and will grant an encroachment permit for the existing fence around the entire Town and Country Club property. The Town and Country Club fence along Marshall Avenue was built five feet onto the public right-of-way.

The city will have to remove flowering crabapple trees along the Marshall boulevard, and will work with Town and Country Club on selection and replacement of the trees. The contractor for the sidewalk installation will work to avoid damaging the trees on Town and Country Club's property. Three spruce trees between Otis and Montrose will have to be removed. The city will replace the trees with similar trees, at no cost to the club. Three other trees and vines may have to be trimmed to prevent them from projecting into the right-of-way, which the city will do.

Mature oaks, cottonwoods, and American elm that are located near the property line will only have minor root damage af-

fected by the project and will grow new roots to take their place, said Stark. The city forester has looked at the trees.

The sidewalk on the north side of Marshall Avenue, between Cretin and Otis avenues, is but one part of a larger project, the Marshall Avenue Green Streets Project. The \$600,000 project is largely paid for through a federal grant administered by the Twin Cities nonprofit group Transit for Livable Communities. Improvements include a new planted center median and an eastbound bicycle lane. New signage will indicate that westbound cyclists have full use of the right traffic lane. Marshall Avenue will be widened two feet on the south side of the street. The Marshall speed limit will be reduced from 35 to 30 miles per hour to accommodate the new eastbound bike lane.

The project has been in the planning stages since 2005. When project supporters were unable to obtain Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) funds in 2007 they applied for the federal grant. The federal pilot grant funds were available only for the specific purpose of pedestrian and cyclist improvements. Stark noted that all throughout the project planning, a sidewalk on the north side of Marshall was included.



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# Fund established to help businesses survive the Central Corridor build-out

By JANE MCCLURE

A \$1.5 million fund to help businesses survive Central Corridor light rail construction isn't enough to meet the expected needs, elected officials said. But the assistance, in the form of interest-free loans, is a start.

Elected officials, business people and community development workers along the 11-mile \$957 million light rail line gathered July 20 to hear about the loans and the Ready for rail initiative to help businesses.

Construction on the light rail line got underway last year in downtown St. Paul, with much of the work on University Avenue starting next year. Business owners, many already worried about the permanent loss of on-street parking and the temporary problems of access to the storefronts, have clamored for assistance. Groups including University Avenue Business Association and Asian Economic Development Association, have pushed for some kind of assistance to make up for lost customers and revenue. Under plans on the drawing board, streets could be torn up for several weeks in front of a business. Commitments have been made that there will be access to businesses at all times, but many are still skeptical.

Metropolitan Council, which is building the rail line, has provided

business outreach workers for the entire light rail route. Technical assistance in the form of marketing and promotion has also been offered. Staff has met with business owners, block by block, to discuss marketing, parking and access issues.

The City of St. Paul recently announced the first round of funding to help businesses make parking improvements, through forgivable loan program. About \$1.3 million was allocated. But until now there had been no funding to help businesses cover losses.

Last month Metropolitan Council allocated \$1 million toward the loan program. Another \$500,000 came from the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, a group that is raising funds through 11 regional and national foundations. The loan fund will be administered through a local nonprofit group. Metropolitan Council Chairman Peter Bell, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak hailed the loan fund.

"We know there are going to be challenges," said Coleman. But he and other leaders said they are committed to helping businesses stay open during tough economic times.

Coleman said it's important to think of the \$1.5 million not just as a loan program but as one piece of an overall strategy to help small businesses.

"We know it's not going to be

survive light rail construction and thrive after the line is built," he said.

The message is, "When change comes to small business, you're not in it alone," said Rybak. He praised University Avenue business owners for showing entrepreneurial spirit even during tough economic times already.

Rybak, Coleman and Bell all emphasized that once light rail is up and running, businesses will see the economic benefits. The challenges, they said, is to get through construction. A few businesses, including the Finn Sisu ski shop and a rental vehicle business, have already left or are planning to move off of University.

Business owners have had mixed reactions to the proposed program. Some have pushed for grants rather than loans, or have suggested that the loans be forgivable if a business stays at its location for several years. Others say the loans are a good step and should be encouraged.

Yet another concern is the amount of the loans. For most businesses, the amount available would only keep the doors open for a few months at most.

Others said assistance will help them to stay. Mike Hatzis-

tamoulos, owner of Best Steakhouse at Victoria and University, praised the effort. He noted that when the light rail project was first discussed, he joked to his wife, "I'm going to start drinking again."

Instead, his business has obtained a loan to help improve off-street parking as well as marketing help through a Web site designed by business consultants who are helping University Avenue businesses. "This has been fantastic," he said. He believes the loan program is another step toward helping businesses survive.

Few details are available about the proposed loan program. Businesses would have to have \$2 million or less in gross annual sales to qualify. The amount available would be a maximum of \$10,000 per business. More details should be known when an organization is chosen to administer the loan program. Bell emphasized that Metropolitan Council wouldn't run the program.

Details on all of the resources available for businesses before and during Central Corridor construction are on a new Web site, [www.ReadyforRail.net](http://www.ReadyforRail.net). The site provides construction schedules, information on business consulting services and project contact information.



## Long-time Midway business changes hands

The Gildner Family recently announced that on May 1, they purchased Hamline Hardware. They are continuing to do business at the same location of 755 N. Snelling Avenue as "Hamline Hardware Hank." The new owners, Jon, Matt, Jim and Jan Gildner have totally remodeled the store, expanded the paint and hardware product lines, added rental tools and equipment, and are continuing the window, screen, and small engine repair services. According to Jan Gildner, the increased inventory, a new color computer to match paint, and other changes were made to better serve the community. A Grand Opening Sale is planned for September 9-12 to celebrate the change of ownership and their new look.

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# Central Corridor's art reflects corridor's diversity

By JANE MCCLURE

Artwork for 15 of Central Corridor's light rail stations is meant to reflect the diversity of neighborhoods along the 11-mile light rail corridor. The project's Corridor Management Committee got a look at the latest artwork July 14 and for the most part, liked what they saw.

The preliminary designs were approved in October 2009. Design work continued, with community input, for several months after that. The designs are expected to be approved by Metropolitan Council later this summer. Installation of the artwork will take place in 2012-2014 as stations are built.

Artists chosen for the stations are Seitu Jones, Nancy Blum, Roberto Delgado, Janet Lofquist and the firm of Myklebust and Sears. Each artist de-



Artwork for 15 of Central Corridor's light rail stations is meant to reflect the diversity of neighborhoods along the 11-mile light rail corridor. The project's Corridor Management Committee got a look at the latest artwork July 14 and for the most part, liked what they saw.

signed three stations.

The station art is different from location to location. Artists

were directed by project staff to choose design elements that reflect the surrounding community. The total budget for art is \$2.8 million or \$187,000 per station. Those amounts include design as well as installation of the art.

The West Bank station, which features an elevator and stair connection, features large birds flying on the outside of the structure. The East Bank station has scientific equations, prompting committee members Peter McLaughlin and Kathy O'Brien to joke about the need to check the formulas for accuracy. "Otherwise, we know professors who will," said McLaughlin.

The Stadium Village, Fourth

and Cedar, and Snelling Avenue stadiums feature area photographs in a collage style, a feature of Delgado's work.

Other designers drew on area history. Jones' design for the Lexington Parkway stop reflects the design of Lexington Park, the baseball stadium that stood in the area for many years. He used ethnic designs for the Dale Street station and information on freedom of the press and the Minnesota Bill of Rights for the Rice Street station near the State Capitol. Loquats designed the 10th Street station with a Winter Carnival ice palace theme. A few of the 19th century ice palaces were in the capitol area. Myklebust

and Sears and Blum also used historic themes when designing the Westgate and Raymond stations, to reflect the past history of manufacturing in those areas. Myklebust and Sears also used a locomotive wheel theme for the Union Depot station.

Nature themes are planned for other stops included 29th Avenue, Fairview and Capitol East. The Fairview station will feature acorns and oak leaves, with a water and ice theme at Capitol East.

Coordinating committee members like the artwork show, although there was some question about why Stadium Village station doesn't have more of a sports theme. The art is largely restricted to station wall panels and structural supports. One of the criticisms of some public art at the Hiawatha station is that it made the station layouts physically different and posed challenges for people with disabilities.

Artists haven't been chosen for the three infill stations at Hamline, Western and Victoria, said Alicia Vap of the project staff. Those decisions will be made in the future and a similar community process followed.

Although the community groups that pushed for the added stations also wanted to have a say in the process of artist selection, Metropolitan Council Chairman Peter Bell said, "We're not planning anything different."

Interim committee member Anne White asked if there would be a chance for additional community input, on station features such as maps of surrounding communities, signage and ways to promote neighborhood identity. Space is needed at the stations for transit schedules and other information.

"There's a limited amount of space," said Bell.

Vap said there is space at the stations for information kiosks similar to those at the Hiawatha stations and that is a possible place for neighborhood information.

Naming of stations was another issue raised. There has already been a push from Minneapolis' Prospect Park neighborhood to rename the 29th Avenue station. The street is only a few block long and isn't well-known. "Nobody knows where it is," White said.

Bell said project and Metropolitan Council staff would consider naming suggestions. "We'd retain the right to decide the name," he said. Staff and council members are aware of the concerns from Prospect Park and will consider those.



Nature themes are planned for other stops including 29th Avenue, Fairview and Capitol East. The Fairview station (above) will feature acorns and oak leaves.

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Meeting scheduled Aug. 12...

## Parks and Rec developing Transportation Improvement Plan for Como Park

The City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of developing a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for Como Regional Park. The objective is to create a TIP that will be used in planning future transportation improvements for the park.

The project team has gathered data and collected input on transportation-related issues and concerns within the park and sur-

rounding neighborhoods. At this point, primary issues have been identified and the project team, in partnership with the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), has brainstormed potential transportation solutions for the park. The process of concept evaluation has started, and the project team would like public input as it moves forward into developing the final recommendations that will become part of the TIP. The public is invited to

learn more about project status and discuss potential solutions at an upcoming public open house on Thursday, August 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Presentation given at 6:30 p.m. Como Regional Park, Visitor Center, 2nd Floor, St. Paul, MN.

A single presentation will be given at 6:30 p.m., after which attendees will have the opportunity for focused discussion and review of potential transportation options with project staff. If you

are unable to attend, a video of the presentation and graphics presented will be available online following the open house. More information on the project and the public open house can be found on the project website: <http://tinyurl.com/comoparktip>.

Questions pertaining to the project and the open house may be directed to: Michelle Furrer, Director/Campus Manager, Como Zoo and Conservatory, by calling 651-207-0333 or [michelle.furrer@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:michelle.furrer@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

[www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

## Plants

Continued from page 1

"My new one is Jungle Gardenia, Ixora Maui Red," she said.

She also grows a good selection of plants for food—carrots, peppers, tomatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon, grapes, lettuce, radishes, beans, snow peas, broccoli, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts.

"We've had all kinds of things—bok choy, kohlrabi, corn, parsley, herbs, potatoes, zucchini, and acorn, butternut, and spaghetti squash," said Clemmons.

Most gardeners, as well as Clemmons, do have favorite plants.

"My favorite plants are gardenia and jasmine because of the fragrance," she said. "As far as perennials, I like hyacinth a lot because of the fragrance."

Maintaining her garden is a lot of work only at certain times.

"It's a lot of work in spring and fall," said Clemmons. "In summer, the busiest time is when the day lilies are blooming. There's a lot of deadheading with day lilies. I put mulch down so there's not a lot of weeding."

Clemmons' garden also has water features—a waterfall and bird baths everywhere. In addition to the cardinal everyone calls "Baldie," mourning doves, chickadees, and robins are often seen in her yard.

"The waterfall is styrofoam," she said. "I just needed it to be as simple as possible. I wanted the sound of the waterfall and a place for birds."

There's a certain feeling Clemmons gets when she's in her garden.

"It's like I'm on vacation," she said.

With neighbors dropping by all day long, Clemmons' garden is important to her. Sitting in her sky chair, which hangs on a frame, she often has the company of her neighbors' pomeranian and a large tomcat named Morris, who everyone calls Mo Mo.

"It's a productive use of time," she said. "I don't have any more grass to dig up. I'm going to dig up the boulevard because the sod the City put down was junk. I have wildflower mix in one part of the boulevard. I'll just use more of that to finish off the boulevard and get rid of weeds."

Gardening for 12 years since 1998, Clemmons has several hopes for her garden.

"I hope for no bunnies," she said. "I need to work on my vegetables. I really do hope my great grandmother's white peony blooms next year. It was at my mom's house. I got it when she passed. It's over 100 years old. It came originally from Forest Lake."

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#### Using LinkedIn for Job Searching

6:30 p.m. Tues. • August 3  
James J. Hill Reference Library  
80 W. 4th St., St. Paul  
651-265-5500

Lonny Gulden, founder of ChiefConnectionsOfficer.com and an expert in building businesses, will help attendees use the online resource LinkedIn to enhance job searching

#### Effectively Navigating Web-based Career and Job Search Tools

6:30 p.m. Tues. • August 10  
Rondo Community Outreach Library  
461 N. Dale St., St. Paul  
651-266-7400

Shelia Cunningham McComb, project coordinator at iSeek.org, will provide an overview of ISEEK's job search resources and effective job search strategies

#### Using Networking to Unlock the Hidden Job Market

6:30 p.m. Tues. • August 17  
James J. Hill Reference Library  
80 W. 4th St., St. Paul  
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Amy Lindgren, president of Prototype Career Service, will identify common networking mistakes people make and how to correct them.

#### Identifying Transferrable Skills and Online Job Search Tools

6:30 p.m. Tues. • August 24  
Rice Street Library  
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Rachel Vilsack, regional labor market analyst with the MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, will focus on finding occupations that are a good match based on your skills and how these skills can transfer to potential careers.



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# Hinrichs takes taekwondo title, calling in ministry



Miranda Hinrichs - who has called the Como Park area her home for the past year - won her fourth national sparring title in the heavyweight division at the most recent US Taekwondo Nationals in Orlando, Florida. (Photo by Elise Wied)

By ERIK BURGESS

Opportunity has waited at the door for 21 years.

In early July, it finally knocked for Miranda Hinrichs.

Hinrichs - who has called the Como Park area her home for the past year - won her fourth national sparring title in the heavyweight division at the most recent US Taekwondo Nationals in Orlando, Florida.

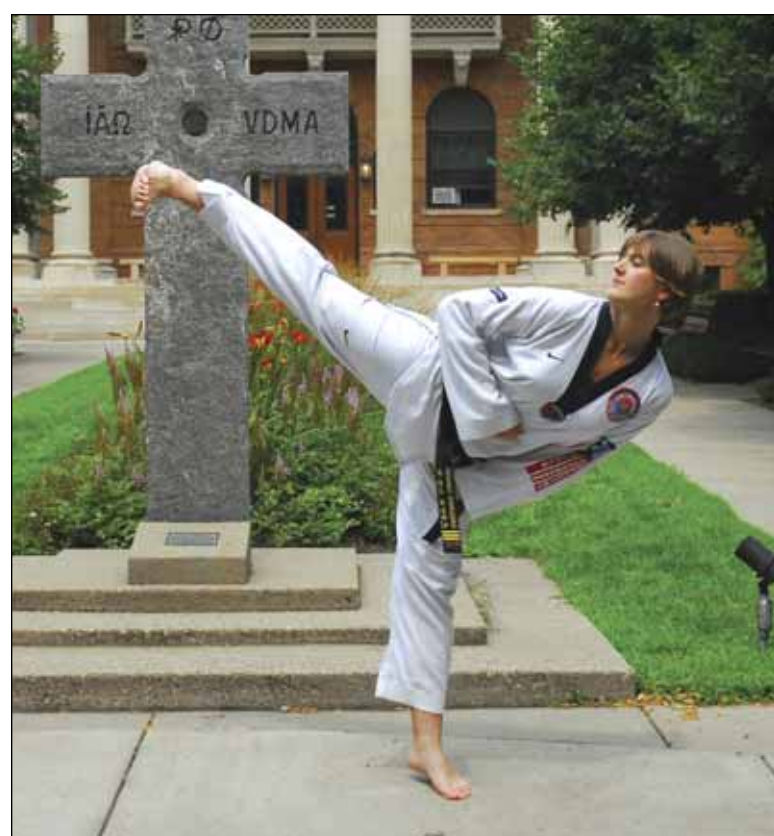
This particular win marks her second major title win this year, but perhaps more importantly, allows her to participate in the team selection trials for the 2012 US Olympic team.

"It's probably long overdue," said Jesse Amacher, head instructor at the St. Paul World Taekwondo Academy (WTA) gym. "She's a fierce fighter."

But Hinrichs - who has been training in taekwondo for nearly 21 years, including five years at the St. Paul gym near Como Lake - is not jumping on this chance to be on the Olympic fighter quite yet.

At 30 years old, Hinrichs just finished her Masters of Divinity at Bethel University and is now working an internship as a pastor in a rural Wisconsin town.

"I've felt that call more strongly," she said of the ministry.



At 30 years old, Hinrichs just finished her Masters of Divinity at Bethel University and is now working an internship as a pastor in a rural Wisconsin town. (Photo by Elise Wied)

Hinrichs' schoolwork with the ministry and her taekwondo have always intertwined quite well, though. After a long day at school, she said, sparring with her teammates at the WTA provided a necessary release and allowed her mind to focus on new challenges.

"They actually work really well together," she said. "[My taekwondo] does affect schoolwork but I also think they coordinate well together."

Now located in Cambridge, Wisconsin, Hinrichs has begun the next part of her life. With the new opportunity to become an Olympic competitor, she said she will try to continue to train, although the move has her far away from her team, which has become like a family to her.

"It'll be different being away

from my team," Hinrichs said. "It's going to be a lot harder for me to train on my own."

According to Amacher, who has trained with Hinrichs long before he took over the St. Paul gym 5 years ago, the normal competing season for the WTA schools - with ten locations in the Twin Cities - is nine months long. The training regime normally includes all of the schools meeting up at the Maple Grove location for a lengthy sparring session together.

This connectivity of the WTA schools, Amacher said, is what he believes gives them their strength at competitions.

"I think that's one thing that's helped us get the ranking we have," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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# Mundo Nuevo opens in Hamline-Midway

By ERIK BURGESS

For day care-age children in St. Paul, it's a whole new world come September.

Mundo Nuevo, or "new world," a Spanish immersion day care and preschool center, will be opening a new location at Hamline Church in the Midway neighborhood of St. Paul in September.

The center, which immerses children 18 months to 5 years to the Spanish language, has operated out of Inver Grove Heights since 2001. According to the director of the new center, Leah Johnson, the move to St. Paul was a long time coming.

"The whole process has been ongoing for the last couple years," she said. "There are four Spanish immersion preschools in Minneapolis but nothing so far in St. Paul."

Johnson's experience with Mundo Nuevo began with her own daughter, whom she enrolled at the Inver Grove location when she was three years old. Johnson's daughter, whose father is from Ecuador, was spoken to and taught in Spanish at the Inver Grove location three days a week.

"[Spanish] is such a part of who she is; I want her to know that," Johnson said of her daughter.

Johnson's daughter is now seven years old and continuing Spanish education at Adams Spanish Immersion Magnet school in St. Paul.

Mundo Nuevo's new location at Hamline Church seemed like an obvious choice, Johnson said. The church had classrooms they were only using one day a week, and the church staff was very open to the new school using their classrooms.



Mundo Nuevo, or "new world," a Spanish immersion day care and preschool center, will be opening a new location at Hamline Church in the Midway neighborhood. Above, Leah Johnson is the new director of the Center. (Photos by Andrew Fossbinder)

"I'm a great believer in a church building being used," said Senior Minister Peter Boehlke. "In these changing times, the church can be present in people's lives other than one hour Sunday mornings."

According to Boehlke, the daycare will be utilizing 3 lower level classrooms in the church. The church also decided to build a new playground on their Asbury corner, a structure which both the church and the daycare will be able to use.

"They decided they wanted to do that for us," Johnson said

of building the new playground. "It's really their project, and it'll be their playground."

Boehlke reiterated his belief in the church building being open to the new daycare, and he joked that the Sunday school kids wouldn't mind the new playground, either.

"We're committed to them in that way," Boehlke said of the daycare staff. "[And] it'll make coffee hour on Sunday a little less boring for our kids."

According to a press release, the playground will be about 1600 square feet and made of

eco-friendly materials. It will be open to the community outside of daycare hours.

In addition to the new playground, the church has also updated its fire protection and security systems in order to ensure everything was up to code for the new school moving in. Johnson said finding a building that was up to code was a long process.

"It's more challenging than I ever imagined," she said.

But Boehlke said, aside from updating the necessary fire and safety equipment, the

church congregation has been very helpful and welcoming of the new daycare.

"Some of our members ... have really fixed it up for them," he said.

Both Johnson and Boehlke spoke of the importance of learning a new language at a young age. Mundo Nuevo provides fully bilingual and native Spanish-speaking teachers who teach and take care of the children in similar ways to typical American daycare centers; only they do so in Spanish.

"It's easier for children to pick up languages the earlier [they start]," Johnson said.

While most children don't start learning new languages until high school, daycare centers like Mundo Nuevo provide children with early exposure to a new language. Johnson said these skills are very important in the current global scheme.

Johnson's love for being multilingual came not only from watching her daughter grow, but also from her own experiences. She has been working with Latino non-profits for the past 15 years, using her Spanish skills in her daily work.

"It makes sense in our growing global interconnected world," she said. "I've had so many opportunities in St. Paul [and] Minneapolis to use my language skills."

Boehlke said many of the congregation members are excited about this new opportunity for their children, and he hopes the center helps to diversify the congregation.

Interested parents are asked to attend an open house date on August 18 or may visit [www.bilingualchildcare.org](http://www.bilingualchildcare.org). Leah Johnson can be reached at 763-670-2589.

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# In Our Community

## FREE Community Breakfast August 22

Join us August 22th when breakfast will be served 8-9 a.m. and every fourth Sunday thereafter. FREE to the community of the North End. Come one come all to our fellowship hall. North Emanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch Ave. at Matilda Street, 'bringing hope and help to the North End'. Emanuel means 'God is with Us'. May He be with you also as we share this FREE Community Breakfast with your North End neighbors.

Directions to North Emanuel are easy when you know where the Rice Street Library is located. Then go west 5 blocks on Hatch Ave. and stop at Matilda Street. Pastor Kisten Thompson, and the members of North Emanuel welcome all to this event. Church ph. 651-489-5611. For more information call Larry at 651-373-5797 or Sandy at 651-283-1681.

## 'Vital Aging Network' topic of luncheon

"An Overview of The Vital Aging Network (VAN)" will be the topic at a luncheon for seniors on Sept 14 at 11:30 at 1415 Englewood Avenue. Learn more about VAN, a volunteer-led network that focuses on building leadership skills and civic engagement of adults 50+. A registered nurse will be available to take blood pressures. A free will donation is asked for the meal but there is no cost to hear the presentation. Anyone who would like to come for just the presentation may arrive at 12:10. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations, or request free transportation for either event, grocery shopping or medical appointments.

## District 10 seeks newsletter volunteer

District 10 Como Community Council is looking for a volunteer to coordinate our quarterly newsletter. For more information please contact Rhonda at 651-644-3889 or District10@district10comopark.org

## Fundraising for University Ave.

University Avenue Business Association holds its first annual fundraiser in August. Spend an Afternoon on the Avenue with the University Avenue Business Association. UABA invites community members to show their support for local businesses on Wednesday, August 11 from 4-7 p.m.

The afternoon will include

## Company presents one-man play

Carlyle Brown & Company presents *Therapy and Resistance*, a new one-man play written and performed by Carlyle Brown and directed by Noël Raymond. Performances are at Dreamland Arts, 677 Hamline Ave. N, from September 2-19, playing Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18 (\$15 for students/seniors) and may be purchased by telephone at 651-645-5506 or online at [www.dreamlandarts.com](http://www.dreamlandarts.com).

*Therapy and Resistance* is the newest work of nationally renowned playwright Carlyle Brown, a 2010 honoree of the Otto René Castillo Award for Political Theatre. Set in 1968, a cataclysmic year of civil strife in America, *Therapy and Resistance* tells the story of the Viet Nam War draft resistance movement and the attempts of one draftee to get a deferment as a "manic-depressive schizophrenic with paranoid tendencies."

The play unfolds through a personal narrative laced with biting humor and political satire, finding contrasts and parallels between 1968 and now, when the country is likewise at war and divided from its self. Told from the perspective of a young African American man, but peopled with a myriad cast of characters, from a motherly recruiting officer to an enigmatic behavioral psychiatrist, *Therapy and Resistance* deftly explores the madness of war and the madness it causes in individuals.

Carlyle Brown's plays include *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Colored Minstrel Show*, *Buffalo Hair*, and *Pure Confidence*. *Therapy and Resistance* is his third solo show. His most recent one-man play, *The Fula from America*, was named "Outstanding New Show of 2003" by the Star Tribune, and also selected as one of the "10 Best Plays of the Year" by City Pages.

*Therapy and Resistance* is directed by Noël Raymond, Co-Artistic Managing Director of Pillsbury House Theater. Raymond has been a company member of Carlyle Brown & Company since 2004. She directed CB & C's 2008 production of *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been*, about African-American poet Langston Hughes and the McCarthy hearings on Un-American Activities.



Carlyle Brown & Company presents *Therapy and Resistance*, a new one-man play written and performed by Carlyle Brown and directed by Noël Raymond. Performances are at Dreamland Arts, 677 Hamline Ave. N, from September 2-19, playing Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (Photo by Charissa Uemura)

free food from Shuang Hur, live music provided by local artists, a silent auction, and a raffle drawing for a chance to win an Apple iPad. All money raised will go towards supporting UABA in its efforts to ensure businesses on the avenue are supported and sustained.

Rain or shine, the afternoon will include a meet and greet with local business owners and members of the UABA board.

The event is at 712 University Avenue West in St. Paul. Tickets are \$12 at the door, or \$10 beforehand. Tickets to the event or for the raffle can be purchased by calling UABA at 651-647-2276 or emailing [info@universityavenuebiz.com](mailto:info@universityavenuebiz.com). Raffle tickets are \$1 each.

The University Avenue Business Center's mission is to ensure that a viable and diverse business environment is sustained and enhanced on University Avenue. The organization is dedicated to the development of a strong collaborative relationship among the business community, residential community, local government, and the people served.

## Washington H.S. 50+ Club Annual Reunion

The Washington High School 50+ Club Annual Reunion will

be Saturday, September 11, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Prom Ballroom, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale, Minnesota.

The event is open to anyone who attended Washington High School from 1929 through 1960. If you went to Washington High School during these years contact: Dick Flipp at 484-4123 or Shirley Tucher-Kresko at [slkresko@gmail.com](mailto:slkresko@gmail.com)

## Library winds down the summer

Hamline Midway Library is winding down the summer with some fun programs and events this August. Be sure to swing by the library and stock up on some good books before heading to the cabin for your Labor Day vacation!

Regular Friday morning storytimes continue through the month of August at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories, music and fun!

Does your child love dogs? Sign him or her up for our Paw Pals program! Paw Pals helps your child build literacy skills and a love for reading. Each month a volunteer and her licensed therapy dog, Toby, visit the library and offer fifteen minute blocks of reading time with Toby. This program is open to children ages 6-12. Their next

visit to the Hamline Midway Library is August 14 and September 11. Call the library at 651-642-0293 to register for a block of reading time.

The Hamline Midway Library Association will be meeting on August 23 at 6:30 p.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. New members welcome!

Basic computer classes are starting again! The four-class series will meet Thursday mornings, September 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Students will learn basic skills for using a computer, such as how to use a mouse and keyboard, create and save documents, and how to navigate the internet. Call the library to register for this popular class.

Call 651-642-0293 or stop by the library at 1558 W Minnehaha Ave, near the intersection of Snelling and Minnehaha, to sign up for events that require registration. All events are free.

## Not glamorous, but necessary

Volunteers from Target Corporation will support Como Park Elementary School with a one-day Super Cleaning event on August 5th to prepare for Back-To School. Over the summer Como Park Elementary held summer school programs for students from Como Park Elementary, Chelsea Heights Elementary, Saint Anthony Park Elementary and Saint Paul Community Education classes. Thanks to 50 Target volunteers taking on the dirty jobs of scrubbing and cleaning walls and windows, the school custodial staff will have the school polished and ready to welcome students on September 7th. HandsOn Twin Cities linked the Target volunteers with Como Park Elementary for this service project. Como Park Elementary would like to thank all of the volunteers from Target for giving their time to make our school shine and to HandsOn Twin Cities for coordinating this event.

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# Little known Joyce Kilmer connection to Como Park

"I think that I should never see, a poem as lovely as a tree." In the early 1900s, Joyce Kilmer was a famous and respected poet, writer, editor, and lecturer. But, other than the first line of his poem "Trees," few people today know anything about Kilmer's written works or know there is a

WPA-era memorial in Como Park dedicated to Kilmer.

On July 12, 2010, John Covell, Joyce Kilmer biographer, visited the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace (aka: Dutch Oven), located off Como Avenue within the newly designated Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom

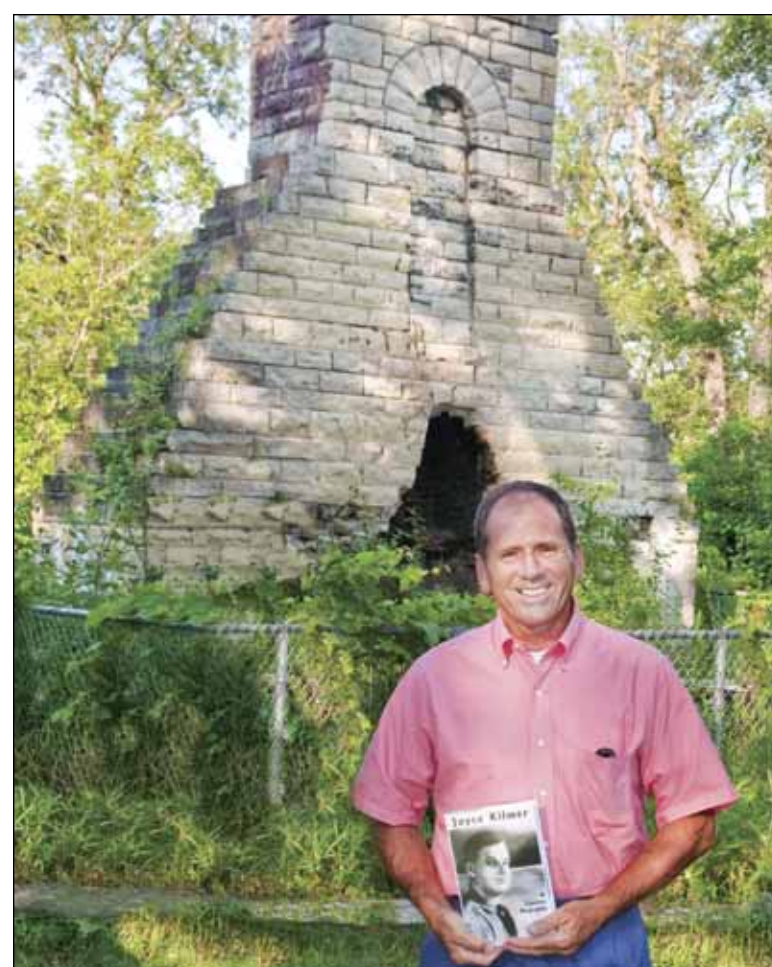
site. Sadly, as a result of years of abuse and neglect, the memorial is in danger of collapse. However, the structure is scheduled for a complete restoration later this summer.

Covell traveled from Texas to be the guest speaker for the Como Woodland Advisory Committee's summer meeting. And the author was also eager to see the memorial dedicated to the man that he had spent so much time researching.

Drawing from his research and interviews with Kilmer's family members, Covell illuminated Kilmer's life and significance not only as a poet, but also as a devoted family man and decorated WW1 soldier (killed in action at the age of 31). At the Advisory meeting, Covell recited several of Kilmer's lesser-known poems, and spoke in detail of Kilmer's life and works for over an hour.

Covell said, "It will be his [Kilmer's] poetry and his other works, his devotion to friends and family and his sense of honor that paint a portrait of an honest critic, a wholesome poet, a loving husband and father, and a heroic soldier."

To help celebrate the restoration of the Joyce Kilmer Fireplace and the value of trees, the District 10 Environment Committee and Como Woodland Advisory



John Covell, Joyce Kilmer biographer, recently visited the soon-to-be restored Kilmer Memorial Fireplace.

## Scheffer Rec wins 3rd place in Fastpitch



The Scheffer Recreation Center 18U Girls Fastpitch team (pictured) won the 3rd place game on Tuesday, August 3, vs. Pearl Park (a Minneapolis team) in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Twins RBI League. This is the first time Scheffer has had a team in the league and they did an outstanding job this year.

Committee are sponsoring up to six poetry workshops this autumn at Chelsea Heights and Como Park elementaries. Donations to help pay for a professional poetry teacher are being collected through District 10 Community Council.

John Covell has contributed six copies of his book "Joyce Kilmer - A Literary Biography" as

incentives for the first six donations in August (of \$50 or more) to the Poet-tree Workshops.

For information on the Poet-tree Workshops and how to donate, visit: [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org) or call 651-644-3889. For more information about the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom and Como Park history, visit: [www.comowoodland.org](http://www.comowoodland.org).

## T State Fair!



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Instead of searching for cheap parking, ride Metro Transit instead!

Route 3 offers service between downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul along Como Avenue. Plus, there's service from roughly 6 a.m. until midnight every day of the fair.

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Take the easy way to the State Fair – riding the bus is part of the fun!

Get details at [metrotransit.org/statefair](http://metrotransit.org/statefair) or call 612-373-3333.





# Ramsey County proposed budget supported by 2.7 percent increase in property tax levy

By JANE MCCLURE

Ramsey County's proposed 2011 budget is supported by a 2.7 percent increase in the property tax levy. However, many county home owners are likely to see their county taxes remain flat or even decrease. The Ramsey County Board got its first look at the budget July 27, starting a series of budget workshops that day.

Commissioners will continue reviewing department budgets in August, with an initial public hearing on the budget at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17 at the City Hall/Courthouse. The maximum property tax levy will be certified Sept. 7. Commissioners are expected to adopt a final budget and tax levy Dec. 14, following the county's truth-in-taxation hearing Nov. 29 at Roseville Area High School. State law no longer requires a joint county-city-school district public hearing.

The county is the first of three local units of governments in St. Paul to release its budget and levy information. Mayor Chris Coleman will unveil the St. Paul city budget Aug. 11. The St. Paul Board Board, which set its budget in June, will announce its 2011 levy in the weeks ahead.

The 2011 county budget proposal totals \$590 million, up from \$572.3 million in 2010, for a 3.1 percent of \$17.7 million

spending increase. The county would levy \$260.3 million for that budget, up \$6.9 million. In 2010 the total property tax dollars levied were \$253.4 million. Property taxes make up 44.2 percent of the budget total. Other revenues make up the rest of the budget.

Ramsey County uses a two-year budget review and approval process, with the 2010-2011 budgets winning board approval in late 2009. County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt said there will be few changes to the 2011 budget adopted last year. Commissioners use the second budget year review to focus on department goals and how those are being met. They also will be doing initial planning for the 2012-2013 budgets.

"At no time in modern history has government been under so much pressure to achieve results, with fewer resources," Kleinschmidt said. With a growing state budget deficit and high unemployment, "we're evolving into the new 'normal'."

The county is facing the challenges of fewer resources at a time when more people may need its services. But because the county made many changes and cuts to programs and services during last year's budget review, few changes are proposed for

2011. Commissioners will get their first look at detailed changes Aug. 17. Those will include details about departmental operations. At this point county officials haven't announced any proposed new hirings or layoffs. That level of detail emerges during the department-by-department reviews.

unexpected \$4 million will be used to cover the costs of retirees' health insurance liabilities.

"Given the state's financial situation we find it hard to believe that we will receive that," Kleinschmidt said. County budget staff recommends using those funds to address retiree health insurance for that reason, rather

(\$190,092).

The 2011 budget does provide funding for the move of county employees out of the old West Publishing building and into space at Metro Square. It also provides funds to redesign Keller Golf Course.

But with continued state funding woes, commissioners indicated they may be spending some of the 2011 budget planning focused on the future. Commissioner Tony Bennett, who chairs the Budget Committee, said the county may soon be reaching a time when it has to make more drastic cuts. "I would predict that in the next two years we'll see whole programs disappear at the state level." Then the county in turn will have to decide which programs and services it will or won't provide.

Residents will see varying impacts of the county levy increase on their property taxes, based upon rising or declining property values. The owner of a median-valued home is expected to see a decrease. However, those impacts vary by neighborhood. The median home in Ramsey County is valued at \$168,100 but would drop to \$155,500 for taxes payable next year – for a \$55 reduction. Neighborhood-by-neighborhood values will be released this fall.

**"At no time in modern history has government been under so much pressure to achieve results, with fewer resources."**

- County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt

The largest share of the budget, 46.8 percent goes to health and human service programs. Another 27.7 percent goes to public safety and justice programs and 10.4 percent to administration and taxpayer services. General county purposes comprise another 8.7 percent and 6.4 percent is for transportation and recreation.

The largest budget adjustment is due to a smaller-than-anticipated cut in state funding. County officials had anticipated a \$6 million cut from the state; that was actually \$2 million. The

than having to use it on a short-term basis.

County Board Chair Victoria Reinhardt agreed. "We're not counting on it," she said. "We're not putting it into our budget until we get it." The state's budget woes have forced County Program Aids and other sources of funding to be rescinded in recent years.

Other cost adjustments proposed for the 2011 budget cover such issues as control of the emerald ash borer (\$107,035), changes to ice arena operations and increases in retiree benefits

## Hinrichs

Continued from page 8

Named the Taekwondo club of the year in 2009, the WTA took home 22 medals at this year's competition in Orlando and

ranked fourth overall. This year's nationals featured over 4,000 athletes from all over the nation.

Amacher recognized Hinrichs' great passion for the competition, but at this point in her life, the WTA would not push her to do anything.

"We don't want to place limitations or expectations on our athletes," he said. "We need to let them have their space."

But, he added, "It's in her blood and it's always going to be in her blood ... I know she'd do well [at the Olympic trials]."

Hinrichs and Amacher agreed that age was not as huge of a factor as it may be in other Olympic competitions. Even at 30, Hinrichs insured that she would be able to compete effectively.

"There are definitely people my age who are competing at an elite level," she said.

Amacher agreed, stating that Hinrichs' drive and ambition would mean more than her age in the sport of taekwondo.

"There are a lot of other factors than age," he said. "It has a lot more to do with a lifestyle choice ... I don't think age really comes into our head."

So Olympic competition is not out of the picture yet. Regardless, Hinrichs said she would love to see one of her teammates compete at that level in her place, if she were unable to attend.

"I would love to see myself or someone from my weight divi-

sion competing at that level," she said.

But for now, the future for Hinrichs appears to be largely solidified in the ministry. Taekwondo would always be a part of her life, but, with her new internship as a pastor, her life in the ministry has just begun to take off.

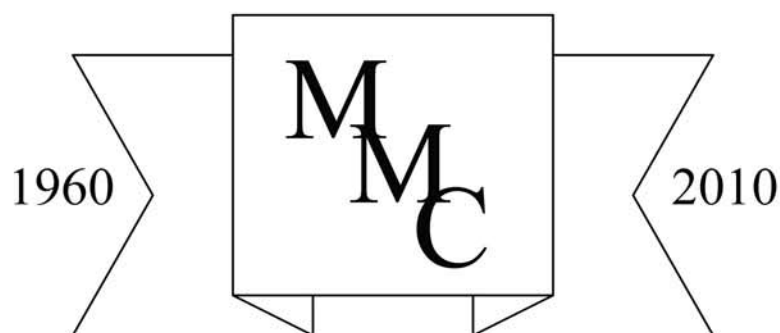
"It's definitely been on a long journey," she said of her work in the ministry. "[We'll] see what [I] can do to balance life and the ministry and competition."

World Taekwondo Academy has 10 locations in the Twin Cities area: St. Paul, Coon Rapids, Eden Prairie, Osseo, Delano, Maple Grove, Plymouth, Rockford and North St. Paul with a new location opening soon in White Bear.

Taekwondo is one of only two martial arts included in Olympic competition.

For more information on the WTA, visit [www.wta4u.com](http://www.wta4u.com).

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Hinrichs' sister Hilary Hinrichs and herself have trained together for the past two and a half years.



# City Council OKs Neighborhood Star projects

By JANE MCCLURE

Fourteen projects, including three added in by Mayor Chris Coleman, were awarded 2010 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grants and loans July 28. The St. Paul City Council unanimously approved the projects, ending a funding process that began this spring.

One of the added projects is tied to the planned Central Corridor light rail line. U7, a group of seven community development organizations along University Avenue, was awarded a \$50,000 grant, which will be matched with \$105,400. U7 will use the money to provide grants to commercial property owners along University Avenue from Rice Street to the Minneapolis border, and in the neighborhoods one block south and one block north. Property owners can apply for grants of up to \$6,400 to spruce up the exteriors of their buildings.

The Dunning Field beautification and bleachers improvement project was awarded a \$9,387 grant. The project had just missed the cut when the Neighborhood STAR Board made its recommendations in June.

The Dunning Boosters will match the grant with \$31,125. The Boosters will use the funds for trees, shrubs, park benches and trash receptacles around Dunning Field.

Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation's request for a \$50,000 grant to improve its East Side Commons property was the third request added in by the mayor.

The U7 project joins another Central Corridor-related project in obtaining funding.

The largest project, which would utilize a \$545,551 grant, would also serve area neighborhoods. University UNITED and St. Paul Public Works are seeking the grant to provide for streetscape improvements as well as public art along the planned Central Corridor light rail line. It is part of a two-year plan to provide \$1.2 million in Neighborhood STAR funds to purchase and install above-standard street lights, trees, an irrigation system, boulevard pavers and trash cans along University Avenue and on a plaza at Fifth and Cedar downtown.

City Council members are hoping they can eventually reduce the amount of Neighborhood STAR money to be used for the light rail-related streetscape improvements, and have pushed the Central Corridor project staff to pay for more of the streetscape and median improvements out of the project budget and not city funds.

The original Central Corridor grant request was for \$300,000, or \$1.2 million spread out over four years. But in its deliberations the board decided to allocate more funding this year, in order to get the project done more quickly.

The final list totals \$1,140,875. Of that amount \$736,066 is grants and \$404,809 is loans.

The mayor's actions added \$109,387 to the total. No projects had to be cut or trimmed to make up for the additions, according to

city staff.

The 21 requests city officials received in April totaled \$2,245,361. Of the requests, 11 were for \$581,702 in grant dollars only and 10 were for \$1.6 million in combination loan and grant assistance. The grant total requested is \$1,161,552. Total loans requested are \$1,083,809. The total match pledged was \$46,144,080. All Neighborhood STAR projects require a one-to-one match of dollars, materials, professional services or sweat equity.

Ten commercial development projects, four public improvements projects and seven housing projects were submitted. One housing project request was later withdrawn.

Monitor area projects allocated grants and loans include Our Lady of Good Counsel, which received a \$27,165 grant. A match of \$27,165 is pledged. This project won the top ranking from the Neighborhood STAR Board.

The Merriam Park home for cancer patients seeks a grant to landscape the home at 2076 St. Anthony Av. and provide an outdoor area with picnic benches and gardens. The improvements would be designed to be accessible for persons with disabilities. The facility does have outdoor space now but accessibility improvements are needed.

Another area project funded is the Maxfield Elementary School playground, which received a \$17,500 grant. This will be matched with a \$17,500 loan. Three new pieces of play equipment, benches and trash receptacles will be added.

Bix Produce Company, 1415

L'Orient St., was awarded a \$12,000 grant and \$12,000 loan toward an EcAFlo anolyte system, which is salt water processing equipment. This would result in cleaner waste water at the company's North End food processing facility. The company plans a \$24,000 match.

Also approved the Lower Rice Street improvement project, submitted by District 7 Planning Council. This would use a \$5,000 grant and \$5,000 match to provide brackets and banners for Rice Street.

Also funded is St. Philip's Garden in Summit-University neighborhood.

The project obtained a \$55,000 loan through Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation. The intent is to rehabilitate affordable housing units with new roofs, siding and windows. A new office and play area would also be added.

UniDale Mall's request for an \$84,000 grant and \$84,000 loan to replace the flat roof of the 30-year-old building was turned down. So was Sparc's bid for a \$50,000 grant and \$50,000 match to provide at least 10 low-income North End home owners with grants for home exterior improvements. Rebuild Resources at 602 Prior Av. was not awarded a \$7,650 grant to replace light fixtures. The company proposed a \$7,650 match.

Typically the Neighborhood STAR Board does two review and recommendation rounds each year, one for small grants and a second for large grants and loans. This was the first year since the Neighborhood STAR program began in 1994 that the large grant

and loan and small grant cycles were combined. As more and more Neighborhood STAR funds are used to balance the city budget and pay for capital needs and the Invest St. Paul Program, there is less money available for the city and its volunteer board to allocate.

Board Chair Kerry Antrim said it made more sense to do just one funding round. Before the 2010 round began city staff extensively publicized the change.

The City Council also voted July 28 to close out 12 Neighborhood STAR projects. Some were never completed and had to re-

turn funds. Others spent less than their approved loans or grants and returned those dollars. The oldest project turned back dates from 2004.

Those receiving funds have set timelines to spend the money or they can ask the city for extensions.

One of the largest projects turned back was a University/Snelling building facade improvement program, which turned back more than \$66,000 of a \$71,075 allocation made in 2005. That money goes back into the Neighborhood STAR funds and will be available for future projects.

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## WELLNESS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010


If you've been looking for a way to jumpstart your understanding of the importance of whole body health and ideas for how to adopt holistic health principles and a wellness-oriented lifestyle, this mini-conference is for YOU!

When: Thursday, September 16, 2010, 5:00-8:30 PM  
Where: Centennial United Methodist Church  
(1524 W. Cty. Rd. C2, Roseville)  
Cost: \$10 if registered by 9/7; \$15 at the door (includes a healthy dinner)  
Questions? Cindy Albing at (651) 414-5292 or [calbing@lyngblomsten.org](mailto:calbing@lyngblomsten.org)  
\*1.2 CEUs, childcare (children under 5), and transportation (\$2 fee) available.

Registration information can be found at  
[www.lyngblomsten.org](http://www.lyngblomsten.org) (see Events Calendar)

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Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to [denisw@aplacetoremember.com](mailto:denisw@aplacetoremember.com). Want ads must be in the Monitor before August 27 for the September 9 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

## APPRAISAL PARTIES

Entertain-have fun. Raise money for your charity. Bring favorite collectibles. For information, call Shannon 612-729-5910. 11-10

## ADOPTION

Loving family looking to grow through adoption. Please contact Emily at 480-227-1377 or [growinclovers@gmail.com](mailto:growinclovers@gmail.com)

## BATHROOMS

Bathroom/kitchens!! Basement finishing. Bad water pressure? Sinks, toilets and tub/surrounds, etc. Ceramic tile. Basement bathrooms installed. Call 612-275-9815. 8-10

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## CATERING

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## DONOR

Wanted: Kidney donor, healthy and O+ blood. Also, loading (folding) ramp/van. 651-772-2502.

## EMPLOYMENT

Position available for part-time advertising representative with the Monitor's parent company, deRuyter-Nelson Publications. Must be highly motivated individual with experience in sales.

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## ANTIQUES

For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. 12-10

## HAULERS AND MOVERS

Will haul away and clean up almost anything, or help you move. Any day. 651-274-0263 or 651-373-6652. B-09

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## OPPORTUNITY

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## PAINTING

Interior/exterior painting, enameling, plaster patching, free estimates. Bob. 651-633-5565. 12-10

Painting - wallpaper removal. Average 3 room paint job - \$250. Average house \$650. Average garage \$250. Painter Jim 651-698-0840. 8-10

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

**Merriam Park Painting**  
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## Classifieds

Continued from page 15

All Seasons painting/repair. Wood frames/stucco, power washing. Window glazing. Quality workmanship. Insured. 651-699-2832. 8-10

### PIANO LESSONS

Staying home more? Make music! Piano lessons with Ann. 651-647-1940. 8-10

### PIANO TUNING

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### PET SITTING

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### FOR RENT

One-bedroom, upper level apartment. Non-smoker, no pets. \$595/mo. Heat paid. Available now. 651-303-4432. 8-10

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RAM Handyman Services LCC. Good service, reasonable rates, "no job too small." Rich - 651-485-9680 - or www.ramhandyman.com. 6-11

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Save 20% furniture cleaning. Also, carpet cleaning. Two rooms \$59.00 Dave 612-721-5105. 612-636-3073. 12-10

Chimney Repairs—Phil Larson. A family business since 1951. 612-414-4612. 5-10-BB

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### TUTORS

Help children learn to read. Wanted: caring adults (50+ yrs) to tutor K-3 students in Mpls and SP schools 4-15 hrs/wk Sept-June. Training provided. Small stipend available for those who qualify. Call now for fall placement. 612-708-5933. 8-10

### VACUUM CLEANER

Vacuum Cleaners: Sales, service and supplies. Experts since 1952. 666 University @ Dale. 651-222-6316. www.a-1vacuum.com 6-10

### WANTED TO BUY

Paying the most cash for your furniture, dishes, glassware, knickknacks, costume jewelry, antiques, pictures, lamps, household items etc. I make housecalls. Call Mary Anne 612-729-3110. 9-10

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

**Classifieds**  
**\$1 per word**

## Rally Sunday planned at North Emanuel Sept. 12

North Emanuel Lutheran Church, located at 301 Hatch Avenue, St. Paul, is celebrating Rally Sunday on September 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The day begins with child friendly worship at 9:30 a.m. followed by activities and

games at 10:45 a.m. Registration for Sunday School will be that day. Kids, bring your backpacks to worship for a special Blessing of the Backpacks! North Emanuel is an ELCA congregation whose mission is dedicated to bringing hope and

help in the North End. We sponsor a free community breakfast every fourth Sunday of the month from 8 to 9:00 a.m. Pastor Kisten Thompson is the pastor. The church's phone number is 651-489-5611.

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**It's  
back to school  
time!**



We will welcome our undergraduate students and graduate students from our School of Business, School of Education, School of Law, and Graduate School of Liberal Studies back to classes in August and September.

**Law students—August 13 and 23**

**Undergraduates—September 8**

**Graduate students—September 8**

### ... UPCOMING EVENTS ...

**Hamline University at the Minnesota State Fair**  
Stop by the Hamline booth at the fair and say hello!

**Dates: August 26-September 6**

**Location: Education Building**

**Contact: Tracy Sparby at 651-523-2707  
or tsparby@hamline.edu**



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