



She couldn't walk, run or bike -- but she could ride a carousel

Karen Wyckoff's parents and volunteers honor legacy by organizing Rein In Sarcoma each summer at Como Park



Karen Wyckoff began the Rein In Sarcoma event 19 years ago to raise money for research. (Photo submitted)

By JAN WILMS

The usual way to raise funds for a worthy cause is to walk, run or ride a bike. But when Karen Wyckoff wanted to raise funds for education and research about sarcoma, a connective tissue cancer she had been diagnosed with, she had been too weakened by the disease to do those activities.

However, she could ride a merry-go-round, and she rode a horse to raise funds to fight sarcoma at Cafesjian's Carousel in 2001. That first event had seven sarcoma patients and a total of about 250 people attending. In all, \$10,000 was raised, which went toward sarcoma research at the University of Minnesota.

Karen died a month after that first fund-raising gathering, but the carousel rides continue in Como Park, where Cafesjian's Carousel is now housed. The 19th annual Party in the Park will take place July 29 at Como, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Rein in Sarcoma (RIS), co-founded by Karen and her parents, Pete and Sue, has grown at a tremendous rate over the years, promoting education, support for patients and their families, research and a search for a cure for sarcoma.

Sarcoma often masquerades as sports injury

"You can get sarcoma any-

where in your body," said Amy Hoban, co-chair with Allison Mulcahy for Party in the Park. "The joke is that there are more flavors of sarcoma than Baskin Robbins. It could be based in cells, muscle, tissue, bone. Mine was in my abdominal wall."

She said that people of any age can get sarcoma, but it frequently hits young people in their teens and early 20s, when they are active and athletic.

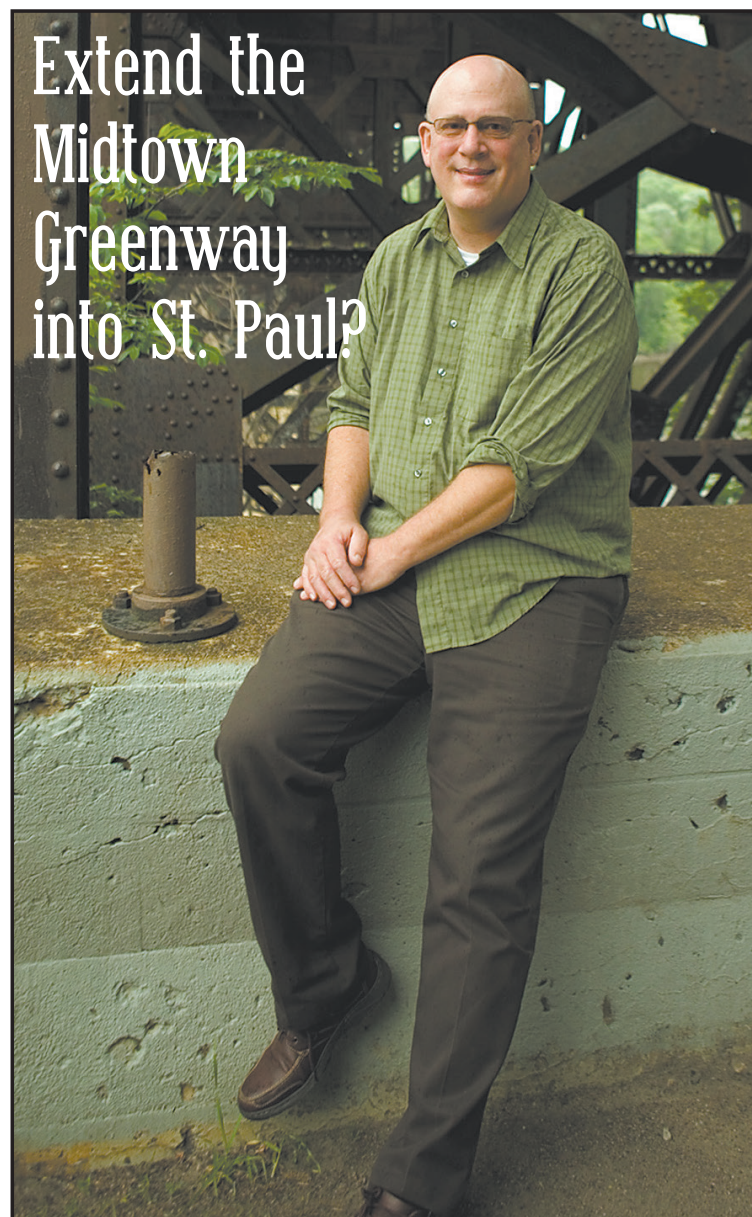
"It often masquerades as a sports injury," Hoban explained.

"Although a rare cancer, it comprises 17 percent of children's cancer," said Janelle Calhoun, the executive director of RIS. She added that symptoms

may or may not be painful, and can include a lump or bruise that may grow at a rapid pace or grow slowly. Some tumors can grow from the size of a pea to the size of a grapefruit in around 40 days.

Calhoun said the organization has an education committee, comprised of doctors from Mayo, the University of Minnesota, Children's Hospital, Regions and Children's Masonic Hospital. Education has been a top priority for RIS. "Some surgeons are not familiar with sarcoma, and they do a small incision and take out the tumor in strips. Sarcoma reacts negatively to this," Calhoun said.

Continued on pages 2-3



Executive director Soren Jensen said, "In my eight years at the Midtown Greenway Coalition, the question I'm asked more than any other is, 'Why doesn't the Greenway extend into St. Paul?' We hope our bridge study helps start conversations with railroad and government officials about how to move this project forward." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin) >> Read more on page 9

On the Right Track with jobs for youth

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Madison Price is an ambitious 17-year-old who attends Nova Classical Academy during the school year. This summer, the Midway resident has a paid internship with the city of St. Paul's Department of Safety and Inspections.

Price said, "I'm learning about zoning requirements and regulations, which will help me down the road when I open my own child care business. I see myself being an entrepreneur once I graduate from college. I plan to attend a Historical Black College or University, maybe Spellman or Howard."

Price is part of a city of St. Paul Parks and Recreation program called Right Track.

According to program supervisor Shaina Abraham, "There are more than 700 students ages 14-24 participating in our program currently, and there will be 100-150 on board during the school year. The city of St. Paul is working toward broader inclusivity across its workforce - and this is one way to get there faster. Youth in our program are getting life exposure to real jobs in several city of St. Paul departments, non-profit organizations, and businesses."

Right Track's mission is to enhance St. Paul's workforce by providing career readiness opportunities and work experience for under-resourced youth.

In St. Paul, 24% of youth are unemployed, including disproportionately high numbers of youth of color. It's no secret

that Minnesota ranks high when it comes to racial disparities. Right Track exists to connect youth from low-income families (or youth facing other barriers to employment) with meaningful work, so they will be better prepared to thrive in the workplace.

On a computer track

In his second summer with Right Track, 19-year-old Midway resident KaDeane Smith has begun an internship with St. Paul Public Schools Facilities Department.

Smith is also a student in St. Paul College's Gateway to College, where he can finish high school while beginning college. He hopes to continue his education at Full Sail University in Florida in a year or two, focusing on designing and developing computer games.

At SPSS this summer, his internship will introduce him to Management Information Systems (MIS), computer assisted design (CAD), accounting, and administrative skills.

Be a Right Track supervisor

Right Track participants attend two launch dates before their internships begin. They meet their job coaches right away, and are introduced to top-

"The city of Saint Paul is working towards broader inclusivity across its workforce - and this is one way to get there faster."

~ Shaina Abraham

ics that will be revisited throughout the summer including professional email and telephone etiquette, Microsoft Excel, networking skills, budgeting, personal finance, and public speaking.

Supervisor Shaina Abraham said, "I've worked with youth, families, and communities for more than 20 years. What's exciting to me about working with Right Track is, of course, working with kids - but also helping supervisors to grow along with the changing workforce. The next generation of workers is going to look very different when the Baby Boomers retire."

Just like the Right Track youth, supervisors attend training before summer internships start. They learn about cultural competency and diversity, and how to give their interns a voice and a sense of empowerment in their workplace.

It's not too early to start thinking about hiring a Right Track intern for next summer. Benefits to employers include access to a talented pool of diverse youth interns at a reasonable cost (approximately \$1,500 per intern). Right Track staff provides youth recruitment, screening, and placement; two days of

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Flying Pig Thrift store opening soon along Snelling

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She's the St. Paul Library Volunteer of the Year

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Little Africa Fest is now two days instead of just one

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Riders on the carousel at Como Park. Free rides are offered during the annual benefit. Patients and survivors take the first ride. (Photo submitted)

Rein in Sarcoma's 19th annual
Party in the Park
 July 29
 6:00 - 9:00 PM
 FREE to attend and OPEN TO ALL
 to end sarcoma cancers
 Como Park - East Pavilion | St. Paul, MN
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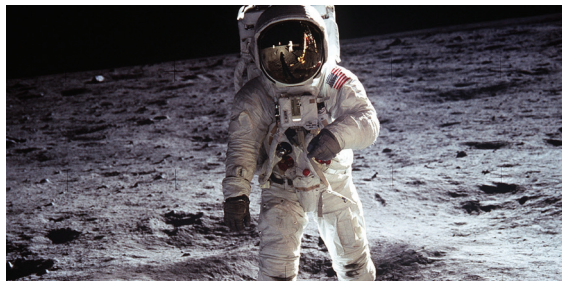
Volunteers at Party in the Park. The event has grown at a tremendous rate over the years, promoting education, support of patients and their families, research, and a search for a cure for sarcoma. People of any age can get sarcoma, but it frequently hits young people in their early teens and 20s, when they are athletic and active. (Photo submitted)

"You can get sarcoma anywhere in your body."
 ~ Alison Mulcahy



Janelle Calhoun and Amy Hoban share information about Rein in Sarcoma. There will be activities for children, fire dancing, and food. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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This original Bell planetarium show puts audiences on the surface of the Moon with Neil Armstrong by transforming archival footage of the Moon landing into a 360 experience.



Lunar Sample Disk

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Apollo 50 and the Cosmic 5K

July 20

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Bell members are kind of a big deal!

Bell members receive free admission every day and more all year long.

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She couldn't walk, run or bike -- but she could ride a carousel

Continued from front page

"Tumors have to be taken out in their entirety with a lot of tissue."

Rarity makes it difficult to get good information

She said Karen and her family had a vision to educate medical professionals, patients and their families. RIS has raised money for research to understand how these tumors work. "We are sometimes still using data and information that was effective in the 50s and 60s," Calhoun said.

Because sarcoma is so rare, Hoban said not much research money is given to explore sarcoma. "So we sponsor research, some of it looking at things that have worked in other cancers, even dogs. We have a vet and genomic testing has been studied to see what could apply to sarcoma."

And for the past 10 years, third year medical students have received training in sarcoma so that they can advocate for all the years they are in practice.

"So many committees have sprung up," Calhoun continued. "We have development, research, finance and education committees and a marketing team and board that are made up of really caring and dedicated people."

Although most of the volunteers are survivors or patients and their family members, or people who have had some connection with the disease, others volunteer to support what they consider a

tremendous cause.

Patient and family support are important parts of the RIS mission. Tote bags are provided for nurses to distribute to current patients. And the patients can get a notebook with information about sarcoma that can be given out or mailed or downloaded online.

Hoban said the rarity of sarcoma makes it difficult to get vetted information about it. "And even if you did get something online, you wouldn't get much information," she said. "So we have a medical advisory board that makes sure the information in the notebook is correct... The first thing I did when I was diagnosed was download it."

Mentors, coffee meet-ups, galas, speakers and more

Patients can also get matched up with a mentor who has had sarcoma. This can be a local match or one across the country. "Getting good information and being able to talk to other patients is very difficult," Hoban said, "and this is a way to support patients."

She said that support for patients is part of what Party in the Park is all about. "Whenever you go to an RIS event as a patient you are offered the opportunity to wear a sunflower corsage," Hoban said. "You can see others who have the corsages, and go up to anyone and ask them about their story and their care."

There is also a Winter Gathering and a Fall Gala. There is a

coffee for survivors that meets every week. Another fall event is Rein in Sarcoma Remembers for those who have lost someone to the disease. Guest speakers are invited to talk about grief.

"With all of our events, we try to have something social and something educational," Hoban said. There are golf fundraisers and bike fundraisers, with groups continually meeting throughout the year to plan and to educate and to support.

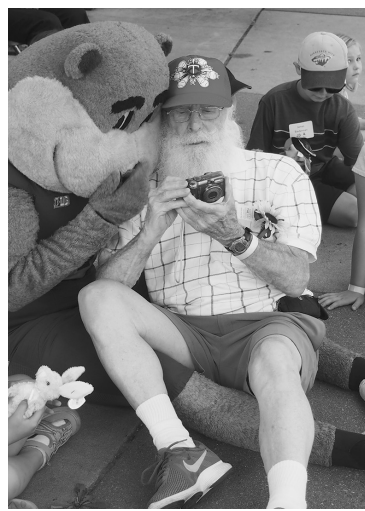
July 29 event starts at 6 p.m.

Things have come a long way since Karen Wyckoff started the first event with seven patients and about 250 people in attendance. Over \$2 million has been raised for sarcoma research.

This year's Party in the Park begins at 6 p.m. A tribute ride on the carousel will kick off the party, with all patients and survivors taking the first ride. For the rest of the evening, Como Park provides free rides on the carousel to everyone.

Although the public has always been invited, this year a special effort through social media is being extended to bring in even more attendees. There will be activities for children, including face painting and inflatables. Elpis, an organization that assists homeless youth, will offer participants the opportunity to build their own birdhouses and birdfeeders. There will be fire dancing and food.

"We would love for everyone in the neighborhood to feel welcome and have a fun night," Cal-



An attendee snaps a photo with Goldie at Sarcoma event. (Photo submitted)

houn said.

Party in the Park is free, but visitors are asked to register on the RIS website at www.reininsarcoma.org.

Other than Calhoun and a medical educational professional, RIS relies on volunteers. Over 110 will come together on the day of Party in the Park to help. RIS also has help from major sponsors: Walser/Subaru, Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota.

"The hardest part," said Calhoun, "is our friends passing." She added that there are also many celebrations of survivors. "I am so proud everything I see every day. There is a lot of passion and a lot of hope."

Meet Karen Wyckoff

Karen was born Sept. 13, 1975. She died on Aug. 28, 2001, two weeks before her 26th birthday.

Growing up in the Minnesota communities of Falcon Heights and Shoreview, and attending Roseville schools, Karen was always involved in many activities, including tennis, soccer, basketball, cross country skiing, piano, violin, and Girl Scouts.

Because of an error in a biopsy done in Oregon during the spring of 1997 while she was attending Willamette University that said a growth in her armpit was benign, surgery actually spread the sarcoma cancer. Karen knew after that first surgery that her prognosis was grim. She refused to stop living but instead lived more intensely.

After graduation Karen joined the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) for a year. She worked for Legal Aid in North Minneapolis conducting intake interviews with clients and legal outreach, and serving as a legislative advocate for homeless youth.

In the fall of 1999, Karen enrolled at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health to pursue her master's degree, but she again began to have health problems; the cancer had returned.

Just two months before she died, Karen conceived of and coordinated the first annual Rein in Sarcoma event. The event attracted more than 250 friends and supporters and raised over \$10,000 to support cancer research. Karen was always lighting fires within people to encourage them to change the world for the better. (Adapted from www.reininsarcoma.org)

"We would love for everyone in the neighborhood to feel welcome and have a fun night." ~ Janelle Calhoun

At left, Sarcoma patients and survivors wear sunflower corsages at events (Photo submitted)



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Why does a small neighborhood newspaper still exist in the days of Facebook and instant online news? What sets the *Monitor* apart from these other news sources?

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The simple answer is we're your local news source. There's not another publication that covers the Midway and Como neighborhoods like we do.

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We write about local businesses opening and closing, about what's being torn down and what's being developed, about who is agitating for change and who has paved the way for others to follow.

We tell you about the neighbor who has turned into an entrepreneur, the college student who is giving back to the world, and the Boomer who is following a more sustainable lifestyle.

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The *Monitor* has been delivering news to your doorsteps since 1975. In fact, September marks our 44th birthday. And

It's one of the oldest conflicts in the world – business owner vs. the government. It's just one example of a person not wanting to be told what to do by someone else – think parent vs. child, cop vs. suspect, teacher vs. student. Usually, a business owner is expecting (hoping) different licenses, taxes and other fees will cost less than they ultimately do. This story is seen around the world. But is it different in Saint Paul?

Many business owners suggest it is harder to do business in Saint Paul than other cities. It can be hard to make a comparison of an older, built-out city like Saint Paul with a newer suburb-one which has more developable land and aspires to attract more residents and businesses. But often Saint Paul is also seen as more difficult than its bigger twin to the west – Minneapolis.

When a city gets that reputation it can mean a business: a) Won't consider locating within its boundaries; b) Will choose to expand elsewhere; or c) Will look at moving to a different city, despite all the hardships associated with making a move.

Employees at the city of Saint Paul have heard the con-



Too Much Coffee

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN, Tessa@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor launches Voluntary Pay program

we're here to tell you: Print Is Not Dead.

We're Delivered Responsibly.

The folks who work for this newspaper are connected to the area. We're not dropping in, writing an article that will tear the area apart, and then flying out. We're committed to this neighborhood, and the people who live and work in it.

This does mean we approach things differently. We have to.

We don't do #fakenews.

Will you help cover the costs of the monthly Monitor?

In the upcoming months, I plan to introduce you to the various people and companies that play a role in getting this newspaper to your front steps and local bulk drop business sites each month. What questions do you have? Send them my way.

We are inviting you and our other readers to help us by voluntarily paying the cost of print-

ing and delivering your paper.

The *Monitor* doesn't charge for subscriptions to our monthly newspapers. Like most others, we rely on advertising revenue to pay for the costs of putting the newspaper out – paying the printer, the delivery staff, one full-time and one part-time sales representatives, bookkeeper, and others. We pay for our web site, Adobe and Quickbooks software, phones, and post office box. Because we run a virtual office, we contract with a provider for cloud services and a remote desktop, along with email and other IT services.

We want to make sure that our content is fresh and engaging, and so we pay writers and photographers to cover meetings and conduct feature interviews.

As owner, I'm a jack-of-all-trades, doing the newspaper layout, writing articles, paying the bills, selling some ads – and making the coffee.

I'm committed to quality journalism at the *Monitor* and its

sister newspaper, the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*.

To do that, we're asking for your help. Would you consider donating \$12 – or \$1 a paper? How about \$24 – or \$2 a paper? Maybe you love us so much that you want to send more and pay it forward – we'd love that! One lucky donor will get a four-pack of tickets to the Ren Fest; drawing on Aug. 5.

See page 12 in this issue for our Voluntary Payment donation form or go to our website.

I'd also like to start running photos of readers on our Social Media channels and within our printed pages. So, snap a photo of you with the latest, hot-off-the-press newspaper. Tag us online or email it my way. Let us know what you appreciate about the paper. Let us know what we're missing. Share story ideas. Send in your letters to the editor and guest commentaries.

We're relevant, informative, reliable and responsible – because of you.



Building a Stronger Midway

By CHAD KULAS, Midway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Improving Saint Paul's business climate

cerns and want to make improvements. They too want to see the city run more efficiently and to have fewer business owners annoyed at what they believe to be longer waits and difficult regulations to understand.

In January, the Midway Chamber hosted a meeting where most City Council offices as well as other city staff were present. The meeting was an opportunity for businesses to think about what works, what doesn't and what could make life easier for a business owner in Saint Paul. The Midway Chamber has taken information from that meeting and is creating a vision going forward. One part of that vision is to form a committee where we aim to make Saint Paul more business-friendly. We will begin meeting this summer and will have involvement from key

city of Saint Paul staff.

We are also partnering with the city's Department of Safety & Inspections (DSI) on a meeting regarding Class N licenses. These licenses include liquor, automobile and health/sports clubs, and require a 45-day period for the public to make comments. Could this process be more efficient? A brainstorming meeting will be held Thursday, July 25 at Urban Growler Brewing Company, 3-4:30 p.m. Please consider attending if this issue interests you.

Another old conflict is a new business moving into a neighborhood vs. the residents. Most district councils review new license applications and offer residents the opportunity to comment. Many residents feel an ownership of their neighborhood (as they should) and ask the hard questions to an outsider moving in

to their community. We always stress to businesses the importance of meeting with as many neighbors as possible and building a relationship with the area district council. Usually, a solid relationship with the community means any initial concerns can get ironed out and the residents are more likely to support the new business.

So, will Saint Paul's reputation change? A major change like this can't occur overnight, but we hope gradual changes can happen short term and eventually lead to bigger change. Perhaps technology can lead to more efficient services (example: more permits available online) and a cultural shift can occur, as well. A more business-friendly city will help all – including city staff and residents who can benefit from a more thriving community.

Letter to the Editor

Disappointed in city's climate action and resiliency plan

To the Editor:

Every day when I wake up I think about what the future will look like for my children. If I allow myself to think even further ahead I wonder what the future will look like for my grandchildren. I must admit that at times I feel quite pessimistic about that future due to the upcoming and ongoing Climate Crisis.

However, rather than submitting to that pessimism, I (and many others) choose to focus on changing that future through taking collective action to transform our energy and climate future. As a Saint Paul resident, I felt great pride recently at the unveiling of Saint Paul's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. Great pride that I live in a city that is meeting this challenge head on and pushing for a better future.

I must admit that after I read the plan in full that pride has turned towards disappointment. The city's plan, which mirrors that of Xcel Energy, is more of the same in the sense of slow incremental change, continuation of fossil fuel use, etc. In other words, more fracked gas, more nuclear power and more focus on "change" that will continue to benefit Xcel shareholders as opposed to moving us toward a decentralized/clean energy system that would benefit ALL city residents.

Therefore, what to do? Re-sign myself to pessimism again or act? I and all of us must ACT. We must demand that Saint Paul act boldly in fighting the Climate Crisis. We must demand that our energy policies urgently switch to renewable energies, that our energy plans benefit the most vulnerable in our city (rather than exploiting them) and that we creatively look at decarbonizing all areas (transportation, food supply, etc) of our lives. Saint Paul can be a climate leader for the state and the country if we want it to be. We must make it clear, to Xcel and the world, that we are leading the fight for our children's future and that we will never stop.

Tom Lucy
Como Park Resident

Monitor

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News for you!

The *Monitor* is a monthly community publication in the Midway and Como areas of St. Paul, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. All correspondence should be sent to the *Monitor*, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417. To contact the editor, call Tessa at 612-345-9998. To reach the advertising department, call Denis at 651-917-4183. If you have a problem with delivery, call 612-345-9998.

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TMC
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McMurry Field, Hamline Park play area make cut in city's 2020 budget process

By JANE MCCLURE

With completion of a June public hearing process, St. Paul's 2020-2021 capital spending recommendations are en route to Mayor Melvin Carter and the St. Paul City Council for inclusion in the 2020 city budget. The recommendations were due in the mayor's office June 30.

Improvements to McMurray Field and a new Hamline Park play area made the cut, but the long-awaited replacement of Fire Station 20 at University and Cretin/Vandalia was set aside.

Another project that was postponed is planning for the Central District Police headquarters, which moved off of Rice St. in the 1990s. District offices are now at the main headquarters near downtown. Penciled in for the future is planning for the future of the Hamline-Midway and West Side's Riverview branch libraries.

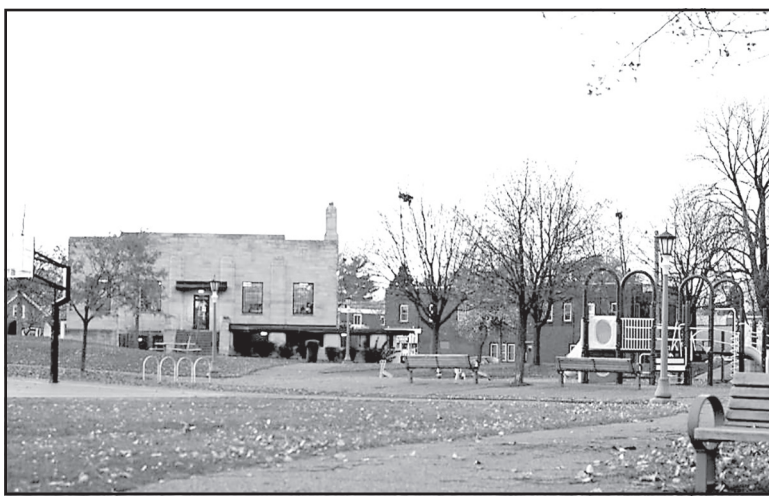
Hamline Park playground is poised for \$373,500 million in 2020, if the committee recommendations make it into the final budget.

Parks and Recreation sought \$4 million to replace artificial turf fields at McMurray. The committee recommendation is for \$1.5 million.

Will libraries be replaced?

Libraries sought more than \$7 million for the two libraries. The recommendation is for planning money in the years ahead.

One idea that has been dis-



A \$373,500 construction project is set for 2020 at Hamline Park's playground, if the funding is approved by the city. (Photo submitted)

cussed in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood is to replace the current library on Minnehaha Ave. with some type of community arts center, using the existing library building. Some neighborhood activists wanted to see the current library preserved as such a center or for other uses.

Library spokesperson Phoebe Larson said there are no plans for the library's future. The next steps will come out of the planning process.

"Both libraries have aging facilities," she said. No decisions have been made as to whether or not buildings would be modernized or replaced. Each library is more than a century old.

As for Fire Station 20, it was set aside in favor of more pressing needs at Fire Station 7 on

the city's East Side. Replacement of Station 20 has an estimated cost of \$8.184 million. Its replacement has been discussed for more than a decade.

The largest 2020-2021 submission was replacement of Rice Recreation Center in the city's North End, with \$11.2 million sought in 2020 and \$2.3 million in 20201. The project was awarded \$400,000 for planning.

Yes, CIB process has changed

The committee recommendations were developed by a city-staff CIB committee working group and then reviewed by the CIB Committee.

If veteran community activists think the Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) pro-

cess has changed, they're right. The 2020-2021 budget cycle is the first under a new process for funding capital projects. The process has been in the works since late 2016. The CIB Committee is still working on details of the new process.

"We were building the plane while we were flying it," said Madeline Mitchell of the Office of Financial Services.

The budget includes \$4.451 million in capital bond-supported projects in 2020 and 2021. Most funded projects are for capital maintenance for city facilities. A second public hearing is planned for this fall.

The proposed capital budget calls for \$4 million per year in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) spending, \$4.451 million per year for annual programs and \$6.224 million per year for large projects.

Until 2015, the capital budget process in St. Paul was long, involved, and heavy on community engagement. More than 100 projects were submitted every other year. Every district council is invited to have representatives on CIB task forces on community facilities, streets and utilities, and residential and economic development. The amount of staff and volunteer time spent on CIB prompted then-Mayor Chris Coleman's administration to put the entire process on pause in 2016 so that it could be studied. The 2018-2019 cycle included larger projects chosen in 2017,

including the Frogtown Recreation Center.

The task forces are gone. 2020-2021 projects were reviewed by a city staff-CIB Committee group. They used criteria including departmental long-range plans, racial equity and condition of facilities to make decisions.

Is there enough community input?

CIB Committee members had mixed reactions to the new process.

Committee member Paul Raymond said he appreciates that small, community driven projects won't have to go up against large projects such as fire stations and recreation centers.

But others, including Committee member Joel Clemmer, said they'd like to see city departments do more community engagement when they bring projects forward in the future.

Capital Planning Team members said that while there were tough choices, the recent process was easier than previous CIB rounds, where there were so many submissions to choose from. It also helped participants to look at project scoring and discuss needs. Several agreed it was good to hear focused projects.

In 2020, the CIB Committee and staff will review a small pool of community-based projects. The funding amount to be shared has been suggested at \$500,000.

Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Organized collection fight goes on

Some Allianz Field neighbors will get residential permit parking, but others saw their request rejected June 26 by the St. Paul City Council. While that helps Snelling-Hamline residents who say their streets are full on game days, it frustrates Merriam Park residents who will continue to deal with spillover parking from soccer games.

Both requests had the support of Union Park District Council. Ward Four Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson opposed both districts. She and other council members agreed that they'd like to see something other than a year-round permit district in place to deal with game parking.

Nelson also said that there have only been nine games.

On a 6-1 vote the council OK'd expansion of a permit district that includes Concordia, Carroll and Iglehart avenues between Asbury and Pascal streets. That district in Snelling-Hamline was created years ago to deal with commuter park and ride issues. Street, east of Snelling Ave.

Longtime neighborhood resident Daniel Jambor told the council that game day employee and attendee parking has affected the tiny neighborhood. He said that all neighbor want is reasonable access to their homes. Snelling-Hamline residents also tire of speeding and illegally parked motor vehicles, trash strewn on boulevards and noise after games.

Ward One Council Member Dai Thao represents Smelling-Hamline. He sympathized with neighbors.

Nelson cast the lone vote against the Snelling-Hamline request and led the charge against the Merriam Park request. She said that permit parking is too "broad and overreaching" to address the game day issues. She wants other solutions tried first.

Council President Amy Brendmoen supported the Snelling-Hamline request but shared Nelson's concerns about the overly broad impacts. One suggestion raised during the council meetings was to see if game day only restrictions could be posted.

Snelling-Selby Area Business Association and commercial property owners opposed both requests.

Merriam Park neighbors in the area southwest of I-94 and Snelling Ave. had worked on their permit request for more than a year, in anticipation of soccer. They were unhappy that the request failed on win approval, on a 2-3 vote. Council members Kassim Busuri and Jane Prince voted for the district, with Nelson, Brendmoen and Chris Tolbert against. Thao and Rebecca Noecker had left the meeting before the hearing and vote.

Restrictions in Merriam Park would have included Concordia between Pierce St. and Snelling and on Pierce and Fry streets from Carroll to Concordia avenues. Neighbors there have also struggled with spillover game day

parking, along with fan behavior and traffic issues. Neighbors after the meeting said they haven't decided next steps.

Nelson has called for a more comprehensive parking plan, rather than what she calls a "piecemeal" approach. Allianz Field has 400 parking spaces, most of which are reserved, and 20,000 seats. Fans are urged to use transit or off-site parking.

Bonding requests set

The city of St. Paul will submit four of its own bonding requests to the 2020 Minnesota Legislature, the St. Paul City Council decided June 12. The council and Mayor Melvin Carter's administration will also work with several St. Paul nonprofit organizations that are submitting bonding requests, to determine what level of support the city can provide.

2020 is a bonding year for state lawmakers.

The state will issue general obligation bonds to pay for the fixed asset, brick and mortar projects. St. Paul will be up against other cities, counties, colleges and universities, state projects and other needs when it makes its requests. The 2020 lists were due at the capitol June 14. Review will start soon, with decisions made during the 2020 legislative session.

The preliminary priorities approved June 12 are, in order, Third Street/Kellogg Boulevard Bridge - \$55 million; eastbound Kellogg Boulevard Bridge at River

Centre - \$10 million, the River Learning Center at Crosby Farm Regional Park - \$3 million and planning funds for the Como Zoo Orangutan Habitat and Energy Efficiency and Asset Preservation.

The top three requests have been on the city's wish list for several years. The bridges are both in deteriorated condition. The Third/Kellogg Bridge is considered to be most critical because it will carry future transit vehicles on the planned Gold Line.

Ward Four Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson said she and other council members have been hearing from nonprofit groups that will be seeking state bonding. Nelson said there are several entities in her ward seeking critically needed legislative support, including the International Institute on Como Ave.

The council member agreed that it is important for the city to review and determine support for the nonprofits' requests. That review will be done at a later date.

No more "opt-outs"

It's official - streets will be reconstructed whether St. Paul property owners like it or not. Without discussion, the St. Paul City Council June 12 rescinded its longtime street reconstruction opt-out policy.

The policy has been on the books since 1994 and was sparked when a group of North End homeowners asked to not have their street rebuilt. That led

to the opt-out policy. The policy was amended over the years to indicate that residents who successfully petitioned for an opt-out would have their projects moved to the end of the residential street paving projects' list. The opt-out was also clarified to indicate that an entire project area had to opt out, not just one street.

The current street program is meant to address very old paved or oiled streets that have never been formally built. Streets get new surfaces curb and gutter, sidewalks, driveway aprons, boulevard trees and new streetlights.

Streets with sanitary and storm sewers that required separation were rebuilt in the 1980s and 1990s under a separate program.

Council members Amy Brendmoen and Chris Tolbert introduced the resolution eliminating the past opt-out policies. They contend that delaying work creates high costs later and adds to ongoing street maintenance costs. The city often hears from new residents in areas that opted out in past years, who question why their street hasn't been rebuilt.

The most recent opt-out was in Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, for the second phase of the Woodlawn-Jefferson project. Residents complained that street reconstruction would mean adding sidewalks and losing more than 50 trees. They said residents don't need sidewalks and can walk in the streets.

Hamline Midway Coalition

By MELISSA CORTES, Community Organizer, HamlineMidway.org



Celebrate the stories, culture, music, food and more from the African immigrant communities in Minnesota during two-day Little Africa Festival.

Snelling Ave closes for Little Africa Fest Parade

Little Africa Fest began in 2013 with the vision to celebrate African Immigrant communities in Minnesota. Now in its 6th year, Little Africa Fest has grown to celebrate, gather, and continue to celebrate Minnesota's African communities with a two-day festival on Saturday, Aug. 3, 4:30-9 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 4, noon-9 p.m.

Day 1 of the festival will kick off with a parade down Snelling Ave. to Hamline Park. Festival planners African Economic Development Services (AEDS) requested permits and proposed closure to the city of Saint Paul and with communications with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) – it was approved. The parade will enter in

Hamline Park for a grand opening and festival kick off. You won't want to miss it!

Community members are encouraged to participate in the grand celebration of African Day by joining in the parade or being a spectator along Snelling Ave. Spectators are encouraged to line up on the East Side on Snelling Ave. between Charles and Lafond for the best view.

Day 2 will be the grand celebration with traditional African music and dance, African art, African foods, and for the first year ever, a petting zoo. This event is family friendly and free. All are welcome and encouraged to come.

Artist, businesses, and community groups are encouraged to participate and more information can be found at www.littleafricafest.com.

Hamline Midway Elders

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

Defensive Driving Refresher Course – Thursday, July 18, 1–5 p.m. at Hamline Church United Methodist

Free four-hour refresher driving class for older adults who have previously taken the initial 8-hour class. To register, contact tom@hmelders.org, 651-209-6542.

Annual Ice Cream Social – Tuesday, July 23, 6-7:30 p.m. at Newell Park (900 Fairview Ave.)

Community members of all ages are welcome to join us for ice cream treats, live music and dance performances, and a visit from Sgt. Fuzz – St. Paul Police dog.

Jody's Documentary Series – Wednesday July 31, 1 p.m. at Hamline Midway Library (1558 West Minnehaha)

Join us to view documentaries with discussion after, refresh-

ments provided. This month's film (50 minutes): "Happy Winter" (see our website for film descriptions www.hmelders.org/events.html)

Knitting & Crochet Group – Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. (ongoing) at Hamline Church United Methodist

Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. The group meets weekly throughout the year to work on projects, such as shawls or scarves that are donated to those in need. New participants are always welcome.

Monthly Luncheons – Second Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Ave.

Aug. 13 "Seniors Snippets" with book giveaway hosted by Green Books



Scholarship given to Eagle Scout

Gregory Ballen, a recent graduate of Great River School in St Paul, was one of 25 Eagle Scouts selected by Northern Star Scouting to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The council awards 20 to 35 scholarships annually to candidates who have demonstrated outstanding troop leadership, scholastic achievement and strong citizenship. Since the program began in 1990, more than \$500,000 has been distributed. Ballen earned his Eagle Award as a member of Troop 9066, chartered to St Bernard's Men's Club in Saint Paul, where he served in many troop leadership positions. One of his Scouting highlights was working as a camp counselor at Tomahawk Scout Reservation near Birchwood, Wis. (Photo submitted)

Como Community Council Corner

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

Coming up: ice cream social, garden tour, ComoFest

Make room for ice cream

The Como Community Council's annual Ice Cream Social is Friday, July 12. The free event features giant bubbles, face-painting and other diversions for kiddos; music by the Incredible Shrinking Men from 5:30-7; Shakespeare in the Park ("The Merry Wives of Windsor") by Classical Actors Ensemble at 7:00; and a ComoConnect resource zone. The ice cream is sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Details: The District 10 Ice Cream Social runs 5:30-8 p.m. July 12 at the Como Park Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway N.



District 10's Ice Cream Social is about more than ice cream. (Photo submitted)

Tour gardens with a purpose

A "pollinator friendly" garden tour takes place Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Wander at your own pace and admire nine public and private gardens in the Como neighborhood that prove making pollinator preservation a priority doesn't sacrifice beauty. Plus, learn how to improve your landscape for bees, butterflies and more. You can get an online or downloadable map at www.ComoFest.org. The tour is free.

ComoFest is here

The Ice Cream Social and Garden Tour are part of ComoFest – the annual amalgamation of affordable, family-friendly fun for everyone. You can get more details at www.ComoFest.org. A quick rundown:

- Saturday, July 13: ComoFest Art Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lakeside Pavilion.
- Friday, July 19: Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival, 2-8 p.m., 1415 Almond Ave.
- Thursday, July 25: North Dale Summerfest, 5-7:30 p.m., 1414 N. St. Albans.
- Friday, July 26: Northwest

Como Movie Night and Campout, 6:30 p.m., 1550 N. Hamline Ave. The featured movie is "Smallfoot."

- Saturday, July 27: Community Appreciation Picnic, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., TopLine Federal Credit Union, 976 Lexington Parkway. Como Park's "shortest marathon" begins at 1:15 p.m.
- Saturday, July 27: Gabe's Mini Mingle, 1-5 p.m., Gabe's by the Park, 991 Lexington Parkway.

Protecting the lake

Bring your canoe or kayak – or rent one while supplies last – as neighbors once again pull together to pull trash from Como Lake. If you don't want to be on the water, join us by walking the shoreline and picking up litter there. District 10 will provide clean-up supplies, coffee, and really good doughnuts. We'll see you Saturday morning Aug. 3, between 9 a.m. and noon at the docks outside the Lakeside Pavilion. (If you can't make it Aug. 3, put Oct. 12 on your calendar – we'll do it again.)

Upcoming District 10 meetings

- Como Community Council Board: Tuesday, July 16 (special presenter: Ward 4 Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson)
- Neighborhood Relations Committee: Tuesday, Aug. 6
- Land Use Committee: Tuesday, Aug. 7
- Environment Committee: Wednesday Aug. 14.

All meetings typically begin at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton. Renters, homeowners, and other community members are always welcome to attend and participate. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the "Board News" section of District 10's website.

Don't miss out

Keep up to date on the latest designs for the proposed Como Avenue Bike Trail. Find out how the city plans to cope with climate change. Stay in touch with what's going on in District 10 by getting our weekly email newsletter. You can see and do this all at: www.district10comopark.org.

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St. Andrew's was designed by St. Paul's first architect, Charles A. Hausler. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

Judge deliberates over restraining order for TCGIS

Save Historic Saint Andrew's asks that school not be allowed to tear down former church

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN
tesha@monitorsaintpaul.com

Save Historic Saint Andrew's (SHSA) members continue their fight to save the 92-year-old church building that many feel is a community anchor by taking the discussion to the Ramsey County District Court.

Judge Jennifer Frisch began hearing testimony on Monday, July 1, 2019 from both sides, SHSA and property owner Twin Cities German Immersion School which plans to tear the building down and construct a new three-story gymnasium and classroom building in its place.

SHSA filed a suit under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA) seeing a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction against tearing down the building.

TCGIS indicated in court that they are anxious to proceed with demolition, and expect to have a demolition permit in a

matter of days.

The hearing ended mid-afternoon on Wednesday, June 3 and attorneys had until Monday, July 8 to file their final briefs. The judge was expected to rule within 5-7 days, and had not by press time.

The city's Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) both recommended historic designation, and SHPO asked the State Board to find the church eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

However, the city council voted against designating the church as a historic preservation site on Wednesday, June 5, and approved both the site plan and the three variances requested by the school with various conditions to address impacts of the school's enrollment growth regarding noise, traffic, and more.



Right Track interns Madison Price (left) and KaDeane Smith (right) in a budgeting class at St. Paul College. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

On the Right Track with jobs for youth

Continued from front page

work-readiness training before the internship and ongoing training while employed; orientation and training for workplace supervisors; and on-site job coaching

and mentorship for interns as needed.

These organizations provided Right Track internships last year: [https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media Root/Parks %26 Recreation/YJ02_em-](https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Parks%26%20Recreation/YJ02_em-)

ployer_logos_1_websiteImage.PNG

For information on becoming an intern in 2020, contact Right Track at 651-266-6363 or RightTrack@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Free sleep apnea treatment with oral appliances on Sept. 12

The first annual "Sleep Saves Lives" event is coming to Saint-Paul on Sept. 12, 2019. An annual outreach project of the International Academy of Sleep, Sleep Saves Lives offers free sleep apnea treatment to patients who fit the required profile for care.

The local Sleep Saves Lives project is being organized by Dr. Nathaniel Cogswell, who works at Saint Anthony Park dental (2278 Como). He is also the owner of Hibernation Sleep, a company that helps treat sleep apnea. Sleep apnea can be treated in many ways, explained Cog-

swell. Most people are familiar with is a CPAP, which doesn't work for everyone. Also, many dislike using it so then they don't when they should.

Hibernation Sleep treats patients with the use of oral appliances instead, and many seem to prefer that method, according to Cogswell. This is treatment is usually performed by a dentist. The oral appliances may be covered by medical insurance or paid for out of pocket.

"The whole point of this event is to screen patients that would prefer using a oral ap-

pliance rather than a CPAP and we would like to give a few away for free to those in need," said Cogswell. "Our goal is to get people who have sleep apnea treated in the best way possible. Sleep apnea can lead to a whole other set of medical issues, and many people who have sleep apnea already have underlying health problems."

An estimated 20 million people have undiagnosed sleep apnea. For more information, call 651-888-4680 during business hours or email info@hibernationsleepmn.com.



HAMLIN HEADLINES

sharing campus events with the neighboring community

Sweet summer treats

Hamline University neighbors are invited to attend a **free** community ice cream social!

When: Thursday, August 1, 5-7 p.m.

Where: Anderson Center, outside patio
774 Snelling Ave. N., Saint Paul

Rain location: Anderson Center, inside

For more information, contact HUNAC@hamline.edu.

Hamline Nights at the Saint Paul Saints Games

Pitch Perfect Night

Thursday, July 18, 7:05 p.m.

The Saint Paul Saints play the Kansas City T-Bones. Baseball, free kazoos, and the world's largest kazoo ensemble!

Hamline Heroes Night

Saturday, August 10, 7:05 p.m.

The Saint Paul Saints play the Gary SouthShore RailCats. Baseball and superhero capes—unlock your Piper power!

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Flying Pig Thrift Store owner Melody Luepke said, "The memory of my sister Heather has guided the vision for this place, where donated treasures find new homes, and worthy non-profits benefit. We're choosing to operate as a cooperative, with profits shared equally among participating non-profit partners that focus on social justice and reducing gun violence. Donations are welcome during business hours." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Flying Pig Thrift Store opening in Midway

Two benefits: 1) Shoppers use and re-use what is already here, and 2) Proceeds benefit local non-profits

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Melody Luepke had a long, satisfying career as a special education teacher in Cleveland, Ohio. Now at an age when most people are thinking about retirement, she has jumped into a second career instead: as sole proprietor and CEO of the Flying Pig Thrift Store at 722 Snelling Ave. N.

The organizational skills Luepke honed as a teacher and lifetime member of the National PTA have come in handy.

Along with family, friends, and volunteers, she is transforming the former Hamline University Bookstore into an attractive destination for people interested in reusing, recycling, and shopping local. With donations, in Luepke's words, "pouring in," a well-stocked, well-tended thrift store is starting to emerge.

The Flying Pig is a way for Luepke to honor the memory of her sister, Heather Valdez, a children's librarian and thrifter extraordinaire. Valdez died of pancreatic cancer last year.

Luepke said, "Heather was a free-spirited woman with a generous heart. She loved to shop at thrift stores, and always knew how to find the perfect gift for someone. Her greatest gift may have been that she was able to accept people for who they were. Heather lived with cancer for two years, and enjoyed thrifting before her chemo treatments right up until the end."

A grand opening celebration for the Flying Pig is planned for Saturday, July 20 from 3-7 p.m.,

with a short program at 5 p.m. Live music will include Melvin Carter Sr. and Friends, the band Zoe Says Go, and more.

Starting July 25, the store will be open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Monday, staffed by volunteers. When asked to describe her ideal volunteer, Luepke said, "Someone who is willing to come on a regular basis, is reliable, fun, and dedicated to our mission of social justice. For more information on volunteering, email cerdocielo@gmail.com.

Luepke will use her own yardstick for measuring the success of her new business. She said, "After we meet the minimum needed to pay our lease and related expenses, we will donate all proceeds to four local charities. These organizations are Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration, St. Paul Almanac, and Black Truce Peace Organization. We'll have information on-hand about these organizations, so people can learn while they shop. We're especially interested in supporting non-profits that are underfunded, working on social justice issues, and serving the local community."

The site at the northeast corner of Snelling and Minnehaha avenues was chosen because of its easy access to public transportation, and high level of incidental foot traffic. Luepke said, "It had also been on the market for

Continued on page 9

Study re-opens conversation about rehabbing bridge for bikes and peds while still carrying trains

Extend the Midtown Greenway into St. Paul?

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Engineering feasibility studies usually don't have people sitting on the edge of their chairs but last month, supporters of the Midtown Greenway Coalition did just that.

More than 60 bike enthusiasts gathered on June 6, 2019, at the Hamline Midway Library to hear the results of the Extend the Greenway feasibility study, and to discuss the possibility of extending the Minneapolis bike trail into St. Paul.

The study involved in-depth structural analysis of the 100-year-old Short Line Railroad Bridge across the Mississippi River (east of 27th St. in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis).

Midtown Greenway Coalition executive director Soren Jensen explained, "With the support of our 35+ Extend the Greenway partners, and donations from hundreds of people on both sides of the river, we hired engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates to determine if

the bridge could be rehabbed to safely support bikes and pedestrians. We are pleased to announce that the results are in –and it can!"

This isn't the first time that the Short Line Bridge has been studied. Jensen said, "Hennepin County conducted an engineering study in 2006, and concluded that the bridge was just too old to be used as a connector. At that point, the conversation kind of died. For our study, we re-framed the question to be, 'What would it take to strengthen the bridge to make it structurally sound?' Kimley-Horn's report outlined several options for rehabbing the bridge to make it safe for bikers and pedestrians. No matter which one is chosen, structural redundancies will have to be built into the bridge to make it usable."

Jensen continued, "The idea isn't to have all the answers right now, but to spark interest in re-examining the idea. The easiest thing would be if the train didn't run, but ADM says they're still investing in its use while the

"The idea isn't to have all the answers right now, but to spark interest in re-examining the idea." ~ Soren Jensen

Atkinson Mill on Hiawatha Ave. operates. Almost all of our options involve sharing the bridge with the train, and could include building a replica bridge or adding a second story above the tracks."

The existing 5.5-mile-long Greenway Bike Trail was built in three phases and, if everything works out, the expansion across the Mississippi River would be Phase Four.

Jensen said, "It's important to remember that transit projects take time. This one would have a complicated funding structure pooling federal dollars, support from both Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, business and non-profit sponsors, and individ-



What would it take to make the Short Line RR Bridge east of 27th St. on West River Parkway structurally sound so that it could continue the Midtown Greenway trail across the Mississippi River from Minneapolis into St. Paul? (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

ual donors. What we hope to do is get the conversation started."

Looking ahead, if the Greenway were extended as far as Cleveland Ave. in St. Paul, there would be safer bike and pedestrian access to Alliance Field, the State Fair Grounds, the Green Line LRT and more. Another advantage would be connecting the Somali communities at Skyline Towers in St. Paul with Cedar Riverside in Minneapolis via bicycle.

The Extend the Greenway Partnership also supports the

proposed Min Hi Line in South Minneapolis, which would connect the Midtown Greenway to Minnehaha Falls Park.

Jensen said, "All organizations that share our vision of extending the Midtown Greenway are welcome to join us. The Extend the Greenway Partnership includes neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations and businesses from both Minneapolis and St. Paul. For more information, contact Soren Jensen at soren@midtowngreenway.org.

Flying Pig Thrift Store opening

Continued from page 8

more than a year, and that made the price 'friendlier.'"

Luepke has contracted with Job Corps students to create both interior and exterior signage for the Flying Pig. At Job Corps, low-income youth aged 16-24 work toward their GED while learning a trade, such as making commercial signs for businesses.

The Flying Pig will feature the work of two local artists for the grand opening: Paul Johnson and Mark Nelson (and the artists will be on hand, too.) Johnson and Nelson both use found materials in the creation of their artwork, underscoring the basic message of thrifting – that it makes sense to use and re-use

Shop to benefit...

- 1) Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
- 2) Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration
- 3) St. Paul Almanac
- 4) Black Truce Peace Organization

what is already here.

Did Luepke ever imagine she would be opening a thrift store at this point in her life? "I suppose anything's possible," she said, "when pigs can fly."

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11-state camping adventure

44 students from the Marine Corps JROTC (MCJROTC) at Como Park, accompanied by three chaperones, underwent Cadet Leadership Orientation Camp from June 15-23. The camping adventure included travel across 11 states, six national parks, and covered over 4,000 miles on a coach bus.

Sergeant Major James Kirkland organized the travel that started with activities at Korkow Ranch Ministries in S.D., including visits to Mt. Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and a seven-mile hike to Harney Peak.

From there, camp sites and destinations extended to the Grand Tetons in Wyo., Yellowstone National Park and Old Faithful, Utah, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon in Arizona, and Garden of the Gods in Colorado.

The cadets took on challenges such as military-style bivouac camping under the stars, often physically exerting themselves in challenging weather, both in the heat and also the cold at high altitude. "The misery the cadets endured together increased our JROTC camaraderie, zeal, and teamwork," Kirkland said.

The opportunity to see and experience the western states and the awe-inspiring geographic features created memories that will last a lifetime, while building character to strengthen their high school experience in their immediate future.

Teacher studies cooking

Como teacher Ms. Courtney



News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

MCJROTC road trip, summer learning, coaching award

Gbolo participated in the 2019 ProStart Summer Institute at Daytona State College in Florida from June 23-28. Topics of the week included food safety, menu costing, preparation of stocks and sauces, and food preparation using dry and moist cooking methods.

The ProStart Institute for Culinary Arts teachers from across the country was made possible by a grant Gbolo received from the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. Gbolo also earned a scholarship through the St. Paul Fund for Teachers that will sponsor her study at Le Cordon Blue in Paris, France from July 20-Aug. 5!

State Coach of the Year

Girls' Basketball Head Coach Alexis Gray-Lawson was selected the All-Metro Girls' Coach of the Year by the Star Tribune in an awards ceremony held at U.S. Bank Stadium on June 25. The newspaper's prep sports staff chose Gray-Lawson for her leadership of the Cougars both on and off the court.

Gray-Lawson guided Como to a program-best 23-3 record this past season as the team won its fifth consecutive St. Paul City Conference championship. In



Students from Como's Advanced Choirs traveled to New York City for five days over the Memorial Day weekend and performed at Carnegie Hall as part of a large ensemble group under the direction of Maestro John Rutter. The concert included the accompaniment of a professional orchestra, and was well received with a standing ovation. (Photo submitted)

the classroom, the Cougars have increased their cumulative GPA with the majority of players on the "A" Honor Roll this past academic year.

Brand lab

Eight current Como Park Academy of Finance (AOF) students are busy with paid internships this summer. Abdulaziz Ahmed, Leonce Corder-Campbell, Aleeyar Keh, Lisa Saechao, Shar Too, Ong Vang, Paul Vang, and Pang Dao Xiong all earned placement in their positions through the Brand Lab, which matches promising students in marketing and advertising companies.

Construction update

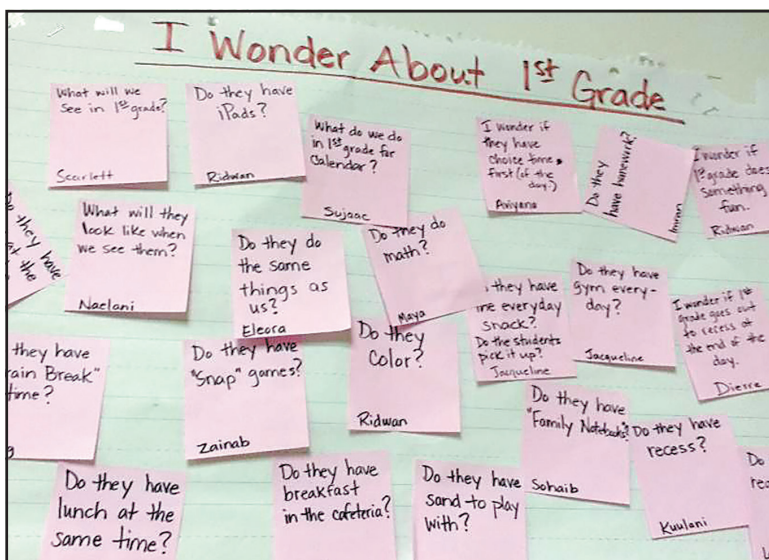
Como head custodian Adam Szymanski reports that building construction is in full swing this summer with lots of busy workers, walls coming down while others are going up, and flooring being completed or resurfaced. As the contractors build and remodel, the custodial crew is cleaning finished areas and working hard to get rooms ready for students in September.

Sports mentors

Boys and girls from the Cougar soccer teams are facilitating fun on the field for young players in the community. Under the direction of boys' coach Jonah Fields, Como players lead youth ranging from ages 4-11 on four Tuesday evenings during the summer.

Hamline Elementary

By JESSICA KOPP



Adventure awaits first graders (Photo submitted)

As Hamline kindergartners were wondering about first grade at the end of the school year, The Hamline Elementary community - staff, friends, and family - honored this year's fifth grade class with a small celebration sharing memories, well-wishes, and cake! Hamline is so proud of their good work and kind hearts and we wish them well on their next adventure. And keep on wondering, incoming first graders

- more adventure awaits you at Hamline!

If you're still looking for a school to call home, check out <http://www.hamline.spps.org> to learn more about Hamline and the wonder-filled, inquiry-based program model and community partnerships that make it one-of-a-kind in St. Paul. Contact the Saint Paul Public Schools Placement Office at 651-632-3700 for registration information.



The Murray Middle School e2 program visited Wolf Ridge, building their repertoire of outdoor skills including hiking, orienteering, tree identification, and, most importantly, they met the important people of the U.S. Forest Service who work in northern Minnesota. They learned about forest fire/fuels, recreation/wilderness, aquatics/fisheries, wildlife, silviculture/timber, and environmental education. After visiting these six stations and meeting women and men that work in these fields, there was a question and answer session. The students found out what it would take to get into these fields, the opportunities they offer in travel and pay, and most importantly, the importance of the work these men and women do. (Photo submitted)

Training offered for Black male youth to enter job market

New Lens Urban Mentoring Society and Right Track St. Paul have partnered together to ensure that black male youth in Saint Paul are given the opportunity to not only join the workforce but succeed in it.

Every year it offers 10 positions in total, five of the youth will take up landscaping while the other five will take a position at a partner East side radio station, WEQY 104.7 FM. Both positions are essential to the development of a well-balanced individual. The position at the radio station teaches and refines the simple but intrinsic skill of communication and what that truly means. In addition to host-

ing their own show, youth in New Lens radio will learn sound text, song editing, recording drops, and the overall makeup of a radio program.

The Landscaping position instills a sense of self determination in our black male youth, a mindset that is mandatory for success. The main goal for youth landscapers will be to develop a Soundgarden on Selby Ave. in the row legendary Rondo neighborhood. This work is to build a sense of self, ownership over land, and patience.

The black male youth employed over the years have all shown to have tremendous improvement in their everyday lives

after attending the program. Forty-five percent of black men are jobless in the Midwest. As the job market continues to grow, New Lens is working to expose black male youth to additional avenues of income.

In 2013 Gayle Smaller founded New Lens Urban Mentoring, a cross-generational mentorship program serving black boys who attend the Saint Paul public schools. New Lens Urban Mentoring works to both address and approve mental, physical, and social development.

For more information check out <https://newlensurbanmentoring.org>.

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Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew School to participate in literacy partnership with Groves Academy

Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew School has been selected by Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) as one of 18 Catholic elementary schools to participate in a literacy partnership with Groves Academy.

CSCOE helps Catholic elementary schools enhance educational excellence and increase their enrollments, and Groves Academy advocates for evidence-based literacy instruction for all students in the state of Minnesota.

"We are excited to be one of the 18 schools selected to pilot this unique partnership between CSCOE and Groves Academy and we thank CSCOE for their generous support to make this happen," said Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew School Principal Maggie Quast.

The Groves Literacy Framework™ is a comprehensive, three-year program for reading and spelling instruction designed to prevent reading problems using evidence-based practices supported by scientific research. Weekly classroom coaching, monthly team meetings and other teacher supports are key to the Framework's success.

"Our goal is to have each and every child in our Catholic elementary schools be fluent readers and spellers by the end of third grade. The Framework not only helps the typical student excel, it can identify students who struggle and provide them with the support they need to be successful," said CSCOE presi-



Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew School student Morgan Nguyen hard at work. (Photo submitted)

dent Gail Dorn. "We believe that the Groves approach is the best and most successful in the country and we want to partner with the very best!"

The remaining 17 schools in the partnership will be brought on in year two and three. Criteria for selection included: school size, location, student demographics, leadership capacity and 100 percent teacher buy-in.

About Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew School

Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew School in St. Paul serves students in grades Pre-K - 8. "We celebrate and pride ourselves

on 65 years of educating students in the beautiful and historic Como Park neighborhood," said Quast. "Our mission: In answering the call of Jesus Christ, Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew Catholic School is dedicated to providing a Catholic education that develops the unique God-given gifts of each student. In partnership with engaged families and a supportive parish community, the school provides an environment that inspires and upholds academic excellence, spiritual growth, service, and social responsibility."

CSCOE is a nonprofit organization with a two-part mission: to help Catholic elementary



Maternity of Mary - St. Andrew School student Emma Theis practices her reading skills. (Photo submitted)

schools enhance excellence and to increase student enrollment.

ABOUT GROVES ACADEMY

Groves Academy is a nonprofit organization that serves students with dyslexia, ADHD

and similar learning disabilities through their school and learning center. Groves also partners with schools in the community to share the Groves Literacy Framework™, their evidence-based approach to literacy instruction.

Classifieds & Service Directory

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by July 29 for the Aug. 9 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@monitorsaintpaul.com, or call 651-917-4183.

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St. Paul Public Library celebrates Jody Huber as Volunteer of the Year

Perhaps you have been to Hamline Midway's monthly POV documentary series or stopped by Merriam Park to peruse Jody's Quick Picks shelf?

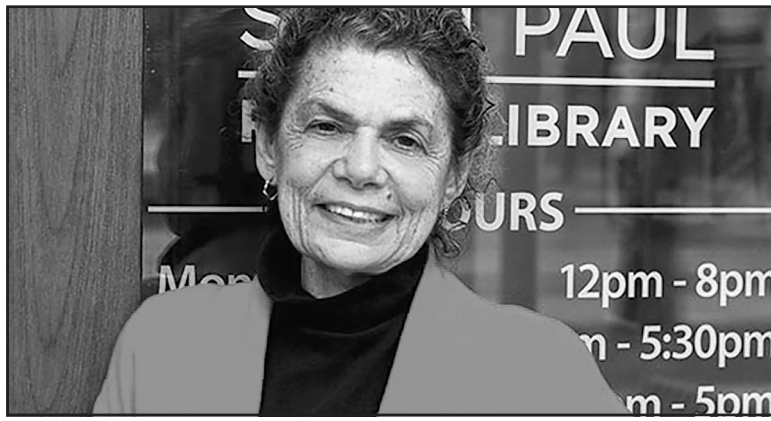
The woman behind these popular programs is volunteer Jody Huber.

Huber has been recognized as Saint Paul Public Library's Volunteer of the Year for her dedication in promoting the library's values of learning, curiosity, connection and belonging.

Huber started volunteering at Merriam Park around 1993 where she carried out various tasks. Through building relationships with staff it became clear that her expertise and knowledge of film, art and literature could benefit the library in a more substantial way.

Thus began Jody's Quick Picks at Merriam Park.

Huber curates and main-



Because she promotes the library's values of learning, curiosity, connection and belonging, Jody Huber has been honored as volunteer of the year by the Saint Paul Public Library. (Photo from Monitor archives by Margie O'Loughlin)

tains this popular collection throughout the week and at the end of any given day, the shelf is mostly empty. The titles that Huber chooses are often inde-

pendent films, quirky TV shows, and books that are acclaimed but not necessarily on the best seller list. The high circulation of these items is a direct credit to Huber's

dedication in pushing them forward onto the display and into customer's curious hands.

Huber also uses her affinity for film in a popular monthly series at the Hamline Midway branch called Jody's Documentary Series. Partnering with the PBS POV series and spending at least 15 hours a month researching and preparing, Huber is able to screen the show and conduct a lively community discussion after. This is a cherished program that welcomes all community members to discover and connect through the power of human story and conversation.

The library is not the only lucky institution to have Huber as a volunteer. She also contributes her time at the Minnesota Jewish Theater Company as an usher and as a docent at the Weisman Art Museum. Her many years experience as a docent at

the Weisman has created yet another unique contribution to the library. The past three years Huber and Merriam Park's children's specialist, Margo Bock, have developed a program called Art It Up! Collaborative and interactive, this program connects a children's book to artwork. Families receive a free copy of a book, read it together, and then meet at the library to discuss before heading off to the Weisman where Huber leads them through a museum adventure.

"This innovative approach to collaboration and volunteerism exemplifies Jody's contribution to Saint Paul Public Library," said Merriam Park's volunteer supervisor Caitlin Kempainen. "It is really exciting that people who may regularly check out a DVD from Jody's shelf will now know just how much she has given to our community."

Neighborhood organizations hoping for STAR grants, others out of running

By JANE McCLURE

Four neighborhood organizations are in the running for Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grants and loans, including Co-Motion Center for Movement, New Vision, Community Involvement Programs-ALLY People Solutions, and the Playwrights' Center.

The St. Paul City Council is poised to approve the 25 proposals totaling \$2.603 million in July. The Neighborhood STAR Board made its recommendations in May.

The funding breakdown for recommended projects is \$1,618,472 in grants, \$985,433 in loans and \$13,923,574 in matches.

Twenty-six projects didn't make the cut and two others were withdrawn. The total of all requests topped \$6.5 million.

The Neighborhood STAR process funds brick and mor-

tar projects. Projects must have set "life span" and must have a match of dollars, sweat equity, materials or a combination of those items. The city used to fund a smaller Neighborhood STAR round but now runs only one round of grant and loan applications each year.

Everything from factories to playgrounds can be in the mix for the funding, which is derived from a half-cent sales tax enacted in the early 1990s.

Under Mayor Melvin Carter, there is more of a focus on projects that create jobs and small businesses. A focus is also on the city's numerous cultural districts. No *Monitor* area cultural district asks are recommended for funding, but more than a dozen in other parts of the city are in line for grants and loans.

The top-ranked project city-wide is a \$50,000 grant and

\$30,000 loan for a White Bear Ave. deli renovation.

Details on local projects

The *Monitor* area's top-ranked project came in fourth overall. The Co-Motion Center for Movement at 655 N. Fairview Ave. is recommended for a \$40,000 loan and \$40,000 grant, with a \$180,000 match. The fund would be used for building improvements by Element Boxing & Fitness.

Ranked 11th is a request for 860 Vandalia St., for the nonprofit New Vision's headquarters in St. Paul. A \$105,424 grant will be matched with \$105,424 to build out the facility, which also houses the Tech Dump electronics recycling program.

Coming in close behind at 14th is a new headquarters for the merged Community Involvement Programs-ALLY People

Solutions agencies at 1515 Energy Park Dr. The merged social service agencies, which serve people with disabilities, will bring 150 jobs to Energy Park. A \$100,000 loan and \$50,000 grant will bring a \$150,000 match.

A new Playwrights' Center finished 23rd, with a request for a capital campaign for a new facility at 711 Raymond Ave. The center obtained a \$100,000 grant and \$50,000 loan, with \$7.625 million match to convert an old warehouse into a playwrights center.

Other requests missed the cut. Junior Achievement, which recently moved to 1745 University Ave., wanted a grant to tuckpoint and repair the east wall of its building. Replacement of a mural was also planned.

Midway-based African Economic Development Solutions also missed out on its request for a grant for its small business re-

volving loan fund. The goal was to focus on North Snelling's Little Africa area.

The Ain Dah Yung Center for homeless Native American young people at 771-785 University Ave., saw its ask for a loan to add a cultural facility turned down. The cultural facility would have been part of a housing project that is currently being built.

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., and Hamline Midway Elders, had hoped for funding to add an accessible entrance and lift and install an accessible bathroom. The church houses many food and wellness programs. That request was also rejected.

Finishing last overall among ranked projects was the Twin Cities German Immersion School, 1031 Como Ave., for a grant to pay for a 430-foot long, seven foot tall, gabion stone fence along its eastern border.

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Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

Visit your neighborhood library at 1558 West Minnehaha Ave. to enjoy programs for all ages and check out books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs, all free with your library card.

Programs for families and kids

Preschool Storytimes in English happen Fridays from 10:30-11 a.m., with upcoming storytimes on July 12, 19, and 26 and Aug. 2 and 9. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. They're a great way for caregivers to bond with children and build social skills, listening comprehension, and letter and number recognition while creating a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Children of all activity levels are welcome!

On Saturday, July 13, 1-1:45 p.m., the library will host the puppet show "The Adventures of Juan Bobo" with Open Eye Theatre. The world is upside-down in this tale inspired by Puerto Rican folk stories, performed in Spanish and English.

Wednesday, July 17 is Math and Science Day at the library from noon-8 p.m. Tinker with robots, build with PVC pipes, practice coding, play games, and more. All ages welcome to explore!

Circus Manduhai performs on Saturday, July 20, 3-4 p.m., presenting a dazzling array of acrobatics, juggling, balancing, and more. This event, part of the library's Summer Spark program, is geared to preschool and school-age children and their caregivers, but all are welcome.

The Summer Spark program challenges kids and youth ages 0-18 to have fun, stay active, and keep learning all summer. Kids and teens can attend free programs at the library and earn prizes by completing reading and activity challenges. Talk to a librari-

an or go to <https://spl.org/summer-spark/> for more information.

Lifelong learning for adults

On Wednesday, July 31, from 1-3 p.m., Jody's Documentary Film Series will feature "Happy Winter", a delightfully odd documentary about Palermo's summer beach community of tiny huts, each custom-decorated and outfitted by their owners. Come enjoy the movie and free refreshments, then stay afterward for a discussion facilitated by Jody, the library system's 2019 Volunteer of the Year.

This event is co-presented by the Hamline Midway Coalition and the Hamline Midway Elders.

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Saturday, August 3, 1-2 p.m., to discuss good mystery novels. This month's book is Jane Harper's *The Dry*. Contact volunteer G. Balter for more information at gerribalalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570.

Local authors read their work

On Wednesday, Aug. 7, 6-7 pm., the library will present the first of two Local Voices Author Talks featuring authors from the Twin Cities homeschool community.

Tim Hereid, author of the middle-grade novels *Dry Valley* and *Our Best Selves*, will share his experiences as a teacher in the homeschooling community and read from his newest book, *The Beast on Button Up Hill*.

Benjamin Oaks, a homeschool student, will read from his fantasy *Wizard Frogs and Flying Gnomes*. Kathy Oaks, author of *Homeschoolers Are Not Hermits*, will share insights about mindful parenting and flexibility from her book.

Handel's 'Rejoice:' Baroque workshop

Jehovah Lutheran Church at 1566 Thomas Avenue will host its eighth annual baroque summer worship service Sunday, Aug. 4. Choir and orchestra organized by congregation member Ben Wegner for the event will perform Handel's "The King Shall Rejoice" at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, free and open to all. Community singers are welcome to participate but must attend remaining rehearsals, all at the church: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10; 2-4 p.m. Saturday, July 13; 6:30-8:30 p.m. July 17, 26 and 31; and dress rehearsal 2-4 p.m. Aug. 3. The score will be provided. More information is available from director Wegner, benjaminwwegner@gmail.com.

Giveaways, music at National Night Out

The Hamline-Midway neighborhood and beyond is invited to Jehovah Lutheran Church's National Night Out celebration in the church parking lot from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6. The free event features live music and free hot dogs, drinks and treats. Visits by firefighters and police are expected. Attendees can help themselves to a free giveaway table with gently used clothing, books, household items and other goods. The church is at 1566 Thomas Ave., at the intersection with Snelling Ave. If you have clothing or household items in good condition to donate, please leave your items at the church's Donation Center, indoors to the left of the entry at 1566 Thomas.

Hand drums class

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

Mississippi River Paddle Share

The Mississippi River Paddle Share Hidden Falls Regional Park location is officially open for the season. Paddle Share is an award-winning, first-of-a-kind self-service kayak sharing system that provides everything you need to get out on the water in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. This program is ideal for people with some kayaking experience. Sixteen solo and tandem kayaks are available for \$25 or \$40, respectively, for three hours. Rentals also include paddles, life jackets, and maps. Kayaks can be rented Friday-Sunday and holidays during July and August, and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays through Sept. 29, weather permitting. Reserve a kayak online at www.paddleshare.org.

Free class: finance your hustle

If you are a business owner looking for financing or have a side hustle that you want to grow, attend this three-hour session hosted by WomenVenture Small Business Development Center. Dive into your business goals and hurdles you've run into, learn about aspects of a healthy business, and talk about attitudes toward taking on debt as a strategy for business growth. Sessions to choose from: Tuesday, July 23, 9 a.m. - noon or Thursday, July 25, 5-8 p.m. More at www.womenventure.org.

Lunch & Learn with WomenVenture

Attend *Buying a Business: Tips & Warnings* on Wednesday, Aug. 13, noon-2 p.m. Learn tips, tricks, and what to watch out for as you navigate the process of buying or selling a business. Lunch & Learns are held at WomenVenture (2021 E Hennepin Ave #200) and cost \$15.

Lunch is included from Breaking Bread Cafe.

Butterfly, insect survey walk set

Take a Butterflies & Other Insects Nature Survey Walk - documenting species in Como Woodland on Thursday July 18, 6 p.m. Meet at the Kilmer Fireplace, 1221 Wynne Ave (SW Como Park) St. Paul. The 2-hour free educational nature walk will be led by Britt Forsberg, Minnesota Bee Atlas Coordinator with the University of Minnesota Extension and longtime Como Woodland Advisor. The Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom in SW Como Park is a 17-acre site with several different plant communities, so a wide variety of insects could be seen. More at comowoodlandoutdoorclassroom.org. RSVP with committee chairperson: teri.heyer@gmail.com.

FriendChip Farm for kids on Saturdays

The FriendChip Farm free kids' program at the Saint Paul Farmers' Market in Lowertown has opened for the season and will take place on select Saturdays from 9:15-11:15 a.m. each month through September. The program is run by Julane Severson, a retired educator, who created FriendChip Farm to introduce kids ages 3-9 to fresh, wholesome foods by working them into fun, educational activities including scavenger hunts, a book club and other games at the Market, and a take-home guide to help kids continue learning at home. The guide includes recipes that kids can make at home, using fresh veggies and fruit that would be found at the Farmers' Market. Check it out July 13, 20, 27; Aug. 10, 17, 24 and Sept. 14, 21, 28. More at www.friendchipfarm.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? Email news@monitorsaintpaul.com

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Merriam Park Library

By AMY MAHNKE 1831 Marshall Ave., 651-642-0385

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Spend time sharing stories, songs, and rhymes with your child while building a foundation for reading success. Preschoolers, toddlers, and babies welcome!

Paw Pals with Katie and Kerry

July 11 and Aug. 1, 6-7 p.m.

Read to a friendly dog who loves to sit and listen to stories. For young readers ages 6-12. Please register by calling 651-642-0385 or stopping by the library's service desk.

Spark! Camps: Nature and Art

Mondays in July, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Drop in for our nature and art camps. Parents are welcome to join. Best for ages 7-11. Parents are welcome to join!

July 1, 8, and 15, learn about urban farming and sustainability with Spark-Y Youth Action Labs.

July 22-Aug. 13, learn about painting, ceramics, and more with hands-on workshops led by community artist Simone Spruce.

Summer Spark Performances

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

July 30, Schifelly Puppets. "Rapunzel, Rapunzel Let Down Your Golden... Stair? Or This Isn't a Mother Goose Tale Folks!"

Aug. 6, Cock-A-Doodle Zoo. Meet and learn about exotic animals! Possible animals include an

alligator, kangaroo, lemur, monkey, porcupine, skunk, hedgehog, coatimundi, cavy, fox, or kinkajou. Aug. 13, Dreamland Arts. Funny voices, sound effects and a hilarious storytelling performance of "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hatches the Egg" by Leslye Orr.

Board at the Library

Wednesdays, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Join us for board games such as: Apples to Apples Jr., Clue, Chess, Checkers, and more. Or, bring your own board games.

Open Lab for Writers

Thursdays, 10:30-noon

No instructor. This is an opportunity to meet, discuss, or work on whatever you're writing. All styles welcome!

Tech Help Clinic

Fridays, noon- 2:00 p.m.

Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Tech Help Clinics are for ALL tablets, smartphones, and laptops. Bring your questions, problems and concerns. If we can't answer the question, we'll find resources or organizations that can! No registration required.

Merriam Park Book Club

4th Monday of the month, 6:30-

7:30 p.m.

July 22, "Sympathizer" by Viet Thanh Nguyen

QPR - Suicide Prevention classes

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide - Question, Persuade and Refer. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. The QPR classes will be offered on July 15, from noon-1 p.m. and July 24, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave., W., in Suite 400. For information, call 651-645-2948 x198 or see "classes" at namimn.org.

Garden tour

On Tuesday, July 23, from 6:15-7:30 p.m., St. Paul Trash Lawsuit is holding an open community meeting at the Rice St. Library, 1011 Rice St. to inform, listen to, and update St. Paul residents about the latest developments in the lawsuit brought against the city arguing for a citywide referendum vote on the city's mandatory trash collection policy. More at stpaultrash.com.

Plein Air painting workshops

Attend a Plein Air Painting Workshops on Saturday July 20 and July 27, 8:30 a.m. at Gibbs Farm, (2097 W. Larpenteur Ave.). Registrations required; go to rchs.com or call 651-222-0701. Cost is \$40 per person per session. Participants may choose one or both sessions. Tom McGregor, award-winning plein air painter, will demonstrate tried and true plein air oil painting methods as well as give personalized instruction based on where you are as a painter. All levels welcome.

Midway Lutheran Rally is July 12-13

Partner congregations Jehovah Lutheran and Mekane Yesus will host a Midway Lutheran Rally for All Ages — especially kids! — from 9 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday, July 12-13. The event, free and open to all, will be at Jehovah Lutheran, 1566 Thomas in St. Paul. It will feature music, Bible study for adults, Bible stories for kids, puppets, snacks, crafts and other activities. To register and/or volunteer, sign up at worship Sundays or by contacting either congregation — Jehovah Lutheran at 651-644-1421 or jehovahlutheran@msn.com; and Mekane Yesus at 651-621-9866 or syderessa@gmail.com.

by bringing their EBT card to the Market's EBT booth where they'll be given \$10 in tokens to spend, plus up to \$10 in matching Market Bucks that may be used to purchase foods and plants that grow food. The weekend Market locations also have live music and other events throughout the season. More at stpaulfarmersmarket.com.

'The Floating Bethel'

Christine Podas-Larson will talk about the history of Saint Paul's "Floating Bethel," a refuge for the working poor that was docked off Sibley Street on the Mississippi for over 13 years on Thursday, July 25, 7 p.m. at the Roseville Library, (2180 Hamline Ave. N.) No reservations needed. Free and open to all. The grandmother of Podas-Larson, community leader and St. Paul resident Eliza Newport developed safe places to feed, shelter and help educate the poor and transient of the city, culminating in the Floating Bethel, a riverboat hotel & bathhouse on the Mississippi River. The legacy of the Floating Bethel lives on today through the Bethel Hotel, a transitional housing program for men run by Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities.

Get to know NAMI

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold a free Get to Know NAMI class on July 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave., Suite 400, in St. Paul. Meet NAMI staff and volunteers and hear firsthand how NAMI's work directly affects the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families. Learn about education and support programs and how to advocate for better mental health policies. RSVP to: Kay King, 651-645-2948 x113 or kking@namimn.org.

Farmers' markets open for season

The downtown Market location in Lowertown is open Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (through October 27). In keeping with its commitment to making local, fresh, healthful foods accessible to all, the Saint Paul Farmers' Market downtown and neighborhood locations offer the Market Bucks program for SNAP recipients. Shoppers can double their first \$10 in EBT with \$10 in Market Bucks (once per day)

MNUFC groups support local fund

The four largest MNUFC Supporter Groups (Dark Clouds, True North Elite, Red Loons, and Dark Glitterati) have come together to support the Neighbors United Funding Collaborative.

The Neighbors United Funding Collaborative will work with the neighborhood on improvements ranging from façade improvements at local businesses to public art that tells the story of neighborhood residents to sidewalk planters and benches that help create beautiful streetscapes and encourages foot traffic and vibrancy. Most projects will likely be award between \$5,000-50,000.

"Part of the mission of the Dark Clouds has been to build communities, around soccer," said Dark Clouds President Samantha Solberg, "and we feel that by supporting this fund both with our vocal support but also

financial support we are doing just that."

True North Elite President Drew Thesing added, "True North Elite and our volunteer arm, Keepers of the North, are in the community not just on matchday but also helping with clean-ups and other volunteer work. We pride ourselves on being part of this community inside and outside of soccer."

"The team and the businesses in Union Park and Midway have a huge opportunity here to step up and show the folks in this community they're in for the long haul," stated Bennett Hartz of the Red Loons.

Support of this fund will be a benefit to the team and fans coming into the community on matchday, as well as those who live and work in the area year-round.



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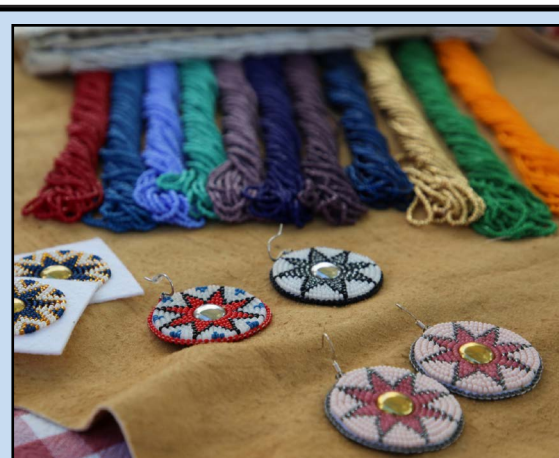
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Little Africa Fest expands to two days

Parade, booths, artists, and more celebrate diverse culture of many nations

By JAN WILMS

This year's Little Africa Fest is going to be bigger than ever, expanding for the first time in six years to two days.

A parade starting at Sherburne Ave. and moving forward along Snelling to Hamline Park at 1564 Lafond Ave. will be held on Aug. 3 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. On Aug. 4 the festival will continue at the park, with booths of artwork, performing artists, cultural items and food available. African music will also be showcased.

"We're trying to create visibility in the district and with businesses," said Brook Dalu, a business development specialist who runs the Little Africa program. He was present when the festival first began in 2014. It is put on by the African Economic Development Solutions.

"We just kind of let people know that Africa is bigger than what they think; it's not a country, it's a continent. And within the countries, there is a lot of diversity."

He said the importance of the African community around University and Snelling expanded following a study published in 2015 by Dr. Bruce Corrie, then an economics professor at Concordia University. The study reportedly found that Minnesota's African immigrants have a collective income of at least \$1.6 billion, half of which is concentrated in the metro. That includes roughly \$200 million in St. Paul and \$300 million in Minneapolis.

The neighborhood around



Attendees celebrate at the Little Africa Festival. (Photo submitted)

Snelling and University is rich with African businesses, and the festival celebrates the impact these businesses and their cultures have upon the Twin Cities.

Dalu said all of the cultural districts have more traction because of the Green Line. "Each wanted to create visibility, in spite of construction," he said. "That's how the fest came about."

He said the first fest, held in 2014, "gave us hope." There were sponsors and a couple of hundred people. This year the fest hopes to draw 10,000 visitors over the two days.

Action and movement

Many of the countries of Africa are represented by the artists participating in the festival, including Korma Aguh-Stuckmayer. She is a performing and visual artist. "I'm kind of in the wellness section and try to get peo-

ple involved. I try to share my Nigerian culture through dance," Aguh-Stuckmayer said.

"I try to get people on the dance floor and teach them a few steps. People in Africa have a lot of action and movement."

Aguh-Stuckmayer admitted, though, that getting people up and dancing can be a challenge. "It might take a minute or two, and I only have a 20-minute program."

Over 80 artists are expected to participate. A range of art from portraits to landscapes will be on view.

"There are a lot of dancers," Dalu added. "One fellow performs while he is painting, and he does things upside down."

A petting zoo is also planned. "The timing is good," Dalu noted. "A lot of the festivals are over so there is not so much competition."

He said they are still in the process of talking with MnDOT



The festival is free and fun for all ages. (Photo submitted)

to work out the logistics of the parade.

"We are going to have some speakers at the fest," Dalu said. "We have invited both mayors and the governor to attend. We are trying to get exposure."

Aguh-Stuckmayer said she is part of an advisory group that meets to plan the event. "Having the advisory group is a great idea," she said.

Family-friendly and free

Aguh-Stuckmayer said the fest is a very important part of the community now, and has

so much to offer. "This year I am hoping I get a chance to go around and visit the booths myself," she said. In the past, as a performing artist, she has not had that much of an opportunity to explore.

"People come and tell you where they are from and what they are doing," Aguh-Stuckmayer said. "The festival is educational in that way. Singers tell stories through songs, and people just want to have a good time."

"The festival is open to everyone, it is family-friendly, and it is free," added Dalu.

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