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What's
INSIDE

Feature3



Cable show
visits Tin Cup's

News4



Central Corridor
deadline looms

News8



Hamline Church
seeks historic status

Feature14



Como to build
two new projects

Light rail, vacant housing and the economy top issues for City Council candidates

By JAN WILLMS

Voters will be faced with choices in most of the City Council elections Nov. 8.

Incumbent Melvin Carter in Ward 1 is competing with three other candidates: Johnny Howard, James Michael McEiver and Anthony Fernandez.

Curtis Stock is challenging Ward 4 incumbent Russ Stark.

Lee Helgen is seeking his third term in Ward 5. Also vying for that seat is Amy Brendmoen.

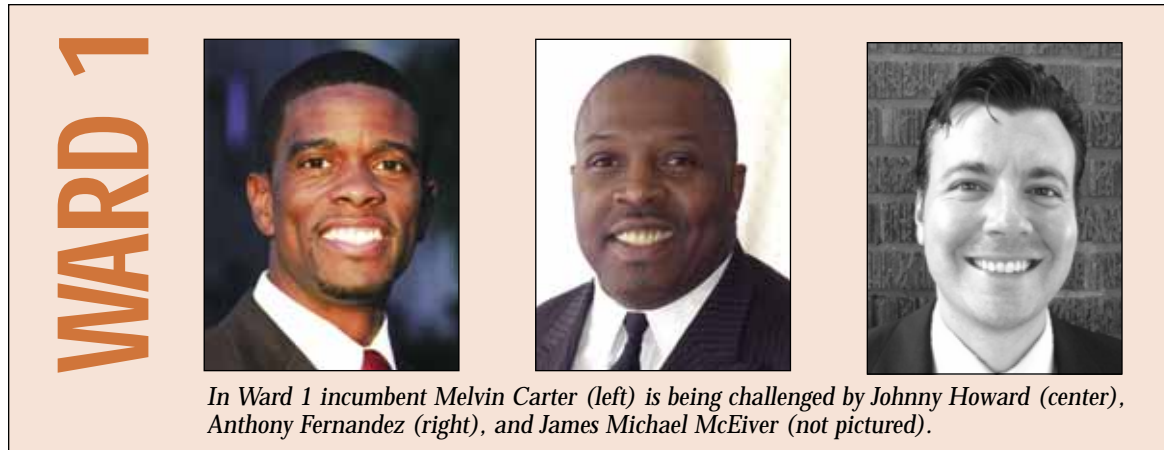
Carter said he sees closing the achievement gap as a major issue facing St. Paul at this time.

He said that although St. Paul and the Twin Cities region have one of the best education systems in the nation, there are significant disparities in educational outcomes for students of color attending inner city schools.

"I firmly believe that building partnerships that ensure our students, their families and their teachers have the resources and support necessary to achieve academic success is the key to prosperity," Carter said.

"St. Paul continues to grapple with the fallout from the collapse of the housing market," Carter continued. He cited the concerns of vacant and abandoned houses in the community.

Carter said he has several primary goals if elected: maintaining safe, vibrant neighborhoods; driving community-based education reform; continuing to promote economic development and grow jobs and keeping high



In Ward 1 incumbent Melvin Carter (left) is being challenged by Johnny Howard (center), Anthony Fernandez (right), and James Michael McEiver (not pictured).

quality city services.

He is proudest of his work in coalition-building that has grown into the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood, a cradle-to-career pipeline of support for children. Carter said the City budget will continue to present the most significant challenge.

Ward 1 candidate McEiver said his main reason for running is to give transparency, honesty and confrontation to the current council.

Among major issues facing St. Paul, he cites the light rail. "The vast majority of people did not want to see this project come forth, yet nonetheless, it somehow evolves," McEiver said.

Stopping government waste will be his primary goal if elected.

"The money spent on these projects could so very easily be used to produce jobs for the community rather than to install a light rail system when the pre-

vious system was working just fine," McEiver said.

He said his biggest challenge would be helping other City Council members to ask themselves who elected them, and if they are truly meeting their needs or the needs of hidden agendas for future paybacks.

Challenger Howard said he is running because Ward 1 residents need a strong, effective leader who can fight for resources. He said as founder and director of the Thomas Dale Block Clubs, he helped neighbors plagued by drug dealers, prostitution and neglectful landlords.

He sees housing, jobs and safety as the most significant issues in the ward.

"There are currently 270 registered vacant buildings in Ward 1," Howard said. He said vacant houses steal value from surrounding homes, cutting into the wealth of families that are al-

ready struggling.

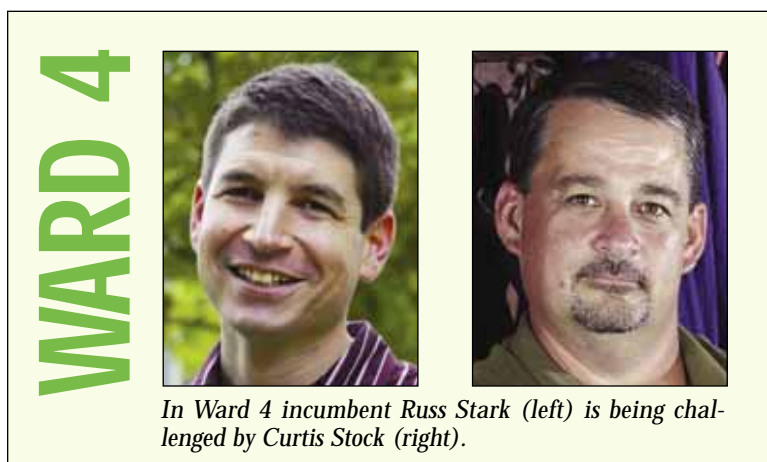
His primary goals are to make certain light rail works as well as possible; working with local CDCs, government agencies and quality investors to get numerous vacant properties reoccupied; building the wealth of families by developing more job training and education opportunities and improving public safety.

"The biggest challenge is the sense that the problems are too big, resources too limited, and that nothing meaningful can be done. I reject this thinking," Howard said.

Fernandez, the final candidate in Ward 1, said St. Paul needs someone who is determined to bring employment and stand behind the business community and residents of the city.

He sees job creation and an expanding tax base as the major

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



In Ward 4 incumbent Russ Stark (left) is being challenged by Curtis Stock (right).



In Ward 5 incumbent Lee Helgen (left) is being challenged by Amy Brendmoen (right).

monitor

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Council candidates

Continued from page 1

issues. "I will bring development and provide more opportunity for the residents of Ward 1 and St. Paul to be employed," Fernandez said.

"I will stand behind residents and business owners who might be negatively impacted by light rail," he added. He also said he would bring a more thoughtful and transparent process to development and addressing the needs of constituents.

He said his primary goals if elected will be to create jobs for residents, turn vacant housing into owner-occupied properties and make sure the existing business owners along LRT are not displaced during and after construction.

"Foreclosure, unemployment and crime are the biggest challenges," he said.

Ward 4 incumbent Stark said he sees wrestling with the budget and building the best light rail project as the major issues facing the city. Stark said some examples of projects he has worked on to create a more resilient St. Paul include sponsoring a new Green Building Policy and energy efficiency workshops.

"My office works every day with constituents to improve neighborhood livability," Stark said. He said he has passed a social host ordinance, which holds

people accountable who knowingly host underage drinking parties.

"We are working to find creative solutions to maintain affordable space for artists, artisans and small manufacturers," Stark added. He said the best economic development strategy is to invest time and resources in the children.

"The greatest challenge will be continuing to navigate the desire to keep property taxes and fees at reasonable levels while maintaining high quality services and infrastructure," Stark said.

Curtis Stock, also running for the Ward 4 seat, said he wants to provide representation for all Ward 4 citizens and utilize their ideas and input. "St. Paul has been touted as the most livable city in America, and I believe what makes that true are the people who live here and their dedication to the neighborhoods that make up this city," he said.

Stock said a major issue is the reduction or elimination of local government aid and how that relates to budget and the issues. He also cited the Central Corridor Light Rail construction project as a major issue.

His primary goals are to represent all citizens; promote a more efficient, cost effective means of providing city services while maintaining the high level of safety, protection and attractions that taxpayers deserve; and to develop a favorable environment for business development and local job growth.

"The biggest challenge is handling the issues created by the Central Corridor Light Rail construc-

tion project," Stock said. "It will be essential to promote the current businesses and provide adequate support to maintain a viable business environment once transit service begins."

"Another challenge will be figuring out how to best solve city budget issues," Stock said.

Lee Helgen, who has served as Ward 5 council member since 2003, said a major issue facing the city relates to the overall financial stability of the City's budgeting process. "The state's approach to reducing Local Government Aid has resulted in shifting the burden of funding to local property taxes and has created uncertainty with budgeted amounts fluctuating from one year to the next," Helgen said.

"We must remain focused on maintaining and improving the quality of life throughout our community," Helgen said. "My primary goals if elected are neighborhood stabilization, economic development, community investment and public safety."

He said while in office, working with community partners, great progress has been made on revitalizing the Rice Street Corridor and the area around Como/Front/Dale by supporting investments in local businesses and bringing hundreds of living wage jobs into the area.

"Moving forward, as a city and a region, we must create a stronger, more cohesive approach to economic development that results in real job creation and improves the overall economic health of our region," Helgen

said.

Brendmoen, also running in Ward 5, said residents are sick of "business as usual" and Ward 5 needs a bold, respected leader and problem-solver.

"The economic recession and slow pace of recovery have left St. Paul with declining revenues to support the public services and infrastructure residents have come to expect," Brendmoen continued. She said the major issue for St. Paul is being forced to reduce services and raise taxes at a time when homeowners can least afford it.

"In the midst of economic crisis, Ward 5 has added challenges due to the area's limited development anchors," Brendmoen said. "I am ready to work with stakeholders to overcome these obstacles and leverage city initiatives with the goal of making Ward 5 a destination in St. Paul."

Those challenges, according to Brendmoen, include the budget. She said her business and nonprofit management experience differentiates her from her opponent.

"I will seek out creative revenue streams such as nominal parking fees at the well-visited Como Park," Brendmoen said. "We need to get creative, and that is exactly what I bring to the table."



Ranked voting makes its St. Paul introduction

By JAN WILLMS

Ward 1 will provide voters with a new opportunity to use ranked choice voting (RCV) in the Nov. 8 election. Voters will be able to rank up to six different city candidates in order of preference, and Ward 1 offers four candidates vying for the post.

Voters cast their vote for their favorite candidate knowing that if he or she doesn't gather enough votes to win, their vote will count toward their second choice. In a single-winner election, votes cast for the least popular candidate are not "wasted," but rather redistributed to more popular candidates, based on the voters' second choice,

until one candidate wins with a majority of votes.

"My goal is to educate people of St. Paul on what ranked voting is," said Brian Kimmes, who was hired in August to work with FairVote Minnesota, an organization that supports progressive voting systems.

"I have been going to various events this summer, holding mock elections and explaining what ranked choice voting is," Kimmes explained. "A lot of people have heard of it, and I try to explain it to those who haven't."

Jeanne Massey, executive director of FairVote Minnesota, said she believes the current voting sys-

tem has led to polarization in today's society.

"There is a fear by people of voting for the candidates they really want," she said.

"With ranked choice voting, we can eliminate the primary in city elections," Massey said. "We can combine the primary and general and give voters more choices in November general elections." She said 5 per cent of the voters will not be making the decision for the other 95 per cent.

"All the way around, it's a real boost to voters," Massey stated.

Kimmes said RCV was used in 2009 in Minneapolis.

"St. Cloud State University

conducted a study, and 95 per cent of the people thought it was simple and very easy to use," he said. RCV is not a new concept. It has been used in various states and throughout the world, in Australia, Scotland and London, England.

Massey said the system opens the door to more voices, eliminates a low-turnout primary and saves the taxpayers money by having one election instead of two.

Ranked choice voting will not be used in the school board election. The traditional voting method will be used.

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'Lucifer Juicy Lucy' draws Man v. Food Nation to Tin Cup's and Rice Street

By JAN WILLMS

It's been a ride in the fast lane for Gidget Bailey and Joan Knippenberg, new co-owners of Tin Cup's at 1220 Rice St. in St. Paul.

The establishment is called Tin Cup's because of the nickname of Rudy Tschida, the original owner. Following his lengthy tenure and ownership by several others, Bailey and Knippenberg took over on June 1, and in early July received a call from New York. The popular cable show, Man v. Food Nation, wanted to film a food challenge on the restaurant's Lucifer Juicy Lucy, a combination of ground beef, Pepper Jack cheese and jalapenos topped with Diablo

sauce, on a bun.

The filming was set for July 27, the day before the Rice Street parade.

"It was a very full week," recalled Bailey. She said the 14-hour day of filming was followed the next day by the Rice Street festival parade. Tin Cup's was also sponsoring several ball teams during that event.

"We were doing all this, and we had only been here a few weeks," Bailey said.

But she and Knippenberg, who both grew up in the Rice Street area, are taking everything in stride.

Bailey had been a bartender

and worked in the charitable gaming industry, as did Knippenberg. Knippenberg had also been an employee of Northern Screw Machine.

"We had always wanted to own our own bar, and Tin Cup's was available," Bailey said. "We came in, talked to the previous owner, and all of a sudden we are here. We literally blinked our eyes and we were here—did this really happen?"

Bailey, a graduate of St. Bernard's, and Knippenberg, a Como High graduate, have found that growing up in the area has been a big plus. When they filmed "Man v. Food Nation," the majority of the audience were Tin Cup's regulars from the North End who had received tickets to come and be a part of the filming.

"We closed for the day, and passed out \$5 gift certificates to customers who came and had to be turned away that day," Bailey said.

The challenge taken up by Jon Wolf was to eat two of the one-pound Lucifer Juicy Lucys and two pounds of French fries within a 45-minute time-frame. Adam Richman, the host of the TV show, served as coach.

"How are you doing? Is it good? Is it hot? Pace yourself."

These were the encouragements Richman gave to Wolf as he met the challenge and downed the



It's been a ride in the fast lane for Gidget Bailey and Joan Knippenberg, new co-owners of Tin Cup's at 1220 Rice St. Bailey and Knippenberg took over on June 1, and in early July received a call from New York. The popular cable show, Man v. Food Nation, wanted to film a food challenge on the restaurant's Lucifer Juicy Lucy, a combination of ground beef, Pepper Jack cheese and jalapenos topped with Diablo sauce, on a bun. The challenge was very exciting, a lot of work, but Bailey and Knippenberg say that their hard working core of staff members, that they consider like family, made it all happen. Above, Brittani Bailey (owner's daughter), Adam Richman (Man v. Food Nation host), and Gidget Bailey, Tin Cup's co-owner, pose for a photo during the filming of the show.

food within the time limit, according to Bailey.

"It was crazy," Knippenberg said. "It was a very hot and humid day, and everybody here got to see what it takes to film an hour episode for TV."

"Our faces were shining," she continued. "We were all working overtime, and everyone was excited to see how it would all turn out."

Tin Cup's held a red carpet

night Oct. 5 for customers to come in and watch the episode as it aired on the Travel Channel.

Bailey said Man v. Food Nation representatives had called them because Richman was going to be in the area and wanted to film a challenge.

"They pick an area they are going to and look at the restaurants

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



The challenge taken up by Jon Wolf was to eat two of the one pound Lucifer Juicy Lucys and two pounds of French fries within a 45-minute time-frame. Adam Richman, the host of the TV show, served as coach.

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VOTE NOVEMBER 8

Prepared and Paid for by Al Oertwig, 509 Fred St., St. Paul, MN 55130

Central Corridor construction targeted to be wrapped up for winter by November 30



Central Corridor construction is supposed to be wrapped up for the winter by November 30. By that date street surfaces, sidewalks, curbs, pavers and traffic signals are to be in place. Traffic on University needs to be able to travel two lanes in each direction. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

By JANE MCCLURE

Central Corridor construction is supposed to be wrapped up for the winter by November 30. By that date street surfaces, sidewalks, curbs, pavers and traffic signals are to be in place. Traffic on University needs to be able to travel two lanes in each direction. Some of the station platform work is also to be completed. But Mayor Chris Coleman and some business owners are worried that work on University Avenue between Emerald Street and Hamline Avenue won't be completed by then, and that a winter of traffic delays is ahead.

City officials including representatives of Coleman's administration and Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark met September 22 to discuss the concerns. Business owners on a light rail advisory committee planned to attend a meeting that same day and demand that contractors not get bonuses.

The \$957 million, 11-mile light rail project is to be completed and ready for operations in 2014. Construction is underway this year in the University of Minnesota area, on part of University, near the state capitol and in downtown Paul. The project has hit the 20 percent completion point.

At the September 14 meeting

of the Central Corridor Management Committee, Coleman said he'd like more detailed information on project schedules. He'd also like to get more information to business owners on what is happening. "I'm concerned," said Coleman. He questioned whether it was taking longer to do some sections of street than others. The mayor, City Council members and county commissioners also said they are hearing worries that this year's work won't be done on time.

Central Corridor Project Office staff members Kevin Ryan and Dan Soler said the project is moving ahead and that they are working closely with lead contractor Walsh Construction to keep things moving. "University Avenue work is moving forward," said Soler. This summer work shifted from the south side of the street to the north along much of University. Last week work was to continue on the south side to Hamline.

But Soler said that everyone needs to keep in mind that Central Corridor is long project. After Labor Day, "it becomes a very delicate balance for us. Many things depend on other things."

Contractors will bear financial penalties if work isn't done on time, said Ryan. This summer Walsh didn't get its full bonus af-

ter complaints about construction. But that didn't mollify Coleman.

"I'm concerned," he said.
 "We're concerned as well," Ryan replied.

Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter, who also serves on the committee, said she, too, is hearing questions from business owners and residents. One complaint she has heard is that while Hamline was announced as the end of the University Avenue construction area, the street detours and closures extended east for two blocks. "We need to communicate with people very clearly," Carter said. "We told people that the end of the project would be Hamline and it actually exceeded Hamline."

Members of University Avenue Betterment Association (UABA), a group that has lobbied hard for business mitigation during light rail construction, are especially unhappy about the length of time construction has gone on in front of their businesses. They have complained about messes left behind by workers. Another objection is that storefronts have been blocked by construction fence for weeks at a time, while no work is going on out front.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



October 21–November 6, 2011

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St. Paul Schools, Ramsey County and City of St. Paul search for ways to trim tax levies

By JANE MCCLURE

With maximum 2012 property tax levies set, St. Paul Public Schools, Ramsey County and St. Paul city officials are now looking for ways to trim those amounts. St. Paul School Board was the last of the three groups to set its maximum levy, voting September 20 to levy a total of \$126,072,576 in 2012. That is a 3.6 percent or \$4,328,038 increase over what was levied in 2011.

Setting of the levies allows Ramsey County officials to start preparing truth-in-taxation statements, to let property owners know what their estimated taxes will be next year. The amounts will hinge on the levies as well as increases or decreases in property values, and shifts and changes in rates. One major impact will be the end of the Homestead Market Value Credit program.

Of the three local units of government, St. Paul Public Schools is the only one not setting a levy that affects the 2012 budget. Because the school district fiscal year starts on July 1, the property taxes levied in 2012 will go toward the 2012-2013 budget.

Minnesota schools have until October 7 to certify maximum levies and submit that information to the Minnesota Department of Education, said St. Paul Public Schools Chief Financial Officer Michael Bauman. Setting of school levies statewide was impacted by this summer's state government shutdown. St. Paul School Board members discussed the levy at a September 13 workshop but didn't have final numbers until the September 20 vote. Schools use detailed information from the state, including a levy ceiling amount, to

set levies.

The maximum allowable levy for St. Paul Public Schools totals \$127,884,998. That figure includes \$84,503,412 for the general fund, \$3,447,465 for community service and \$39,934,121 for debt service. That would have meant a 5 percent levy increase, up from the \$121,744,538 levied for 2011.

But a lower levy was recommended and adopted. The \$126,072,576 includes \$82,690,990 for the general fund, \$3,447,465 for community service and \$39,934,121 for debt service. Bauman said that level of funding is adequate for the budget that is recommended.

A number of factors drove the levy increase, including insurance and pensions, as well as health and safety increases to address physical building needs. The state has placed more of a focus on health and safety needs in recent years, urging districts to address issues ranging from asbestos removal to air quality problems.

The board vote September 20 was unanimous. At a September 13 board committee meeting Board Member Jean O'Connell expressed concern about the increase. Keith Hardy abstained from the vote because at that time the district didn't have final numbers.

St. Paul public Schools' public hearing on the 2012 levy is 6 p.m. Tuesday, November 29 at 360 Colbourne. The board is expected to certify the levy December 13.

St. Paul City Council unanimously adopted its maximum levy September 14. The 2012 maximum levy is a 6.5 percent or \$100.758 million increase over the amount levied in 2011.

The proposed 2012 city budg-

et is \$556.2 million, including library services. The 2011 adopted budget amount was \$553.7 million. The city would levy \$100.758 million in 2012 if Coleman's budget is adopted. That compares to \$94.609 million for 2011. The increase is \$6.149 million.

Council members agreed they will look for ways to trim the levy and proposed city fee increases by year's end. But they noted it would be challenging. At this time the only key increase that appears to be on the chopping block is a proposed \$22 fee hike for curbside organics recycling. The program, which has been discussed for several years, doesn't appear to have enough votes to be adopted in 2012.

"Obviously we're in very difficult times due to Local Government Aid (LGA) cuts," said Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark. "We've got a lot of work to do over the next few months and I hope we can reduce the impacts."

The council, meeting September 14 as the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, also approved an HRA levy of \$3.17 million. This would mean the 2012 levy is the same as it was for 2011 and 2010.

St. Paul will cut its workforce by 55.9 full-time equivalent positions, from 2,945.7 FTE's in 2011 to 2,889.8 in 2012. About 20 employees have received layoff notices, effective January 1. The budget includes more than \$6 million in cuts to a number of city services.

The City Council will adopt its final levy December 14.

The Ramsey County Board was able to trim its maximum levy September 13. Commissioners adopted a 1.7 percent levy in-

crease, which would bring in \$271.79 million for next year's county operations.

Commissioners will adopt the final levy December 13. Commissioners host a public hearing on the levy and budget at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 28 at Roseville Area High School.

The County Board had considered a 2.7 percent levy increase or a \$274.7 million levy.

Commissioners wrapped up their departmental budget hearings and an initial public hearing this month and were able to make a number of budget cuts and

changes to lower the levy. Like the city, the county is looking at a loss in state funding and federal grants, of about \$14 million.

The levy will support a 2012 budget of \$575 million, a \$15 million or 2.6 percent decrease from the current year.

Commissioners acted on two other levies September 13. No funds will be levied for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority in 2012. The commissioners, acting as the Regional Rail Authority Board, will not increase that levy from the 2011 amount, at \$19.94 million.

Como Curb Cleanup October 15 through October 22

Residents living in the Como neighborhood are invited to take part in an organized, neighborhood effort to reduce the phosphorus sources flowing down street storm drains and into Como Lake and the Mississippi River. In Fall there are many tons of leaves and other organics that collect in our streets where they are easily washed by rain or blown by wind into the storm drain and carried to our local waters, untreated. In the Como neighborhood, stormwater flows to Como Lake or to the Mississippi River.

Organic debris is a major phosphorus source - it is essentially compost. And excessive phosphorus in our local waters causes an explosion of plant growth - noxious algae being the most harmful - that destabilizes our lake, harms aquatic life, and threatens downstream waterways. The good news is residents can help combat this major water pollutant by preventing it at

the source.

If you live in Como and you'd like to take part, here's what you do:

Between the dates of Oct. 15 and Oct 22, rake and bag the organic debris - leaves, grass, soil - that's accumulated against the curb and in the street in front of your home. Next, take your bags of "curb" debris to Duck Point parking lot (corner of Lakeview/East Como Blvd) to add them to the Como community totals.

On October 22nd the Como Lake Neighbor Network will count the bags of "curb" debris filled by Como neighbors and calculate how many pounds of phosphorus the community has prevented from Como Lake and the Mississippi River. Afterwards, a thank you celebration will take place.

For details, go to the website of the Como Lake Neighbor Network: CLNN.org

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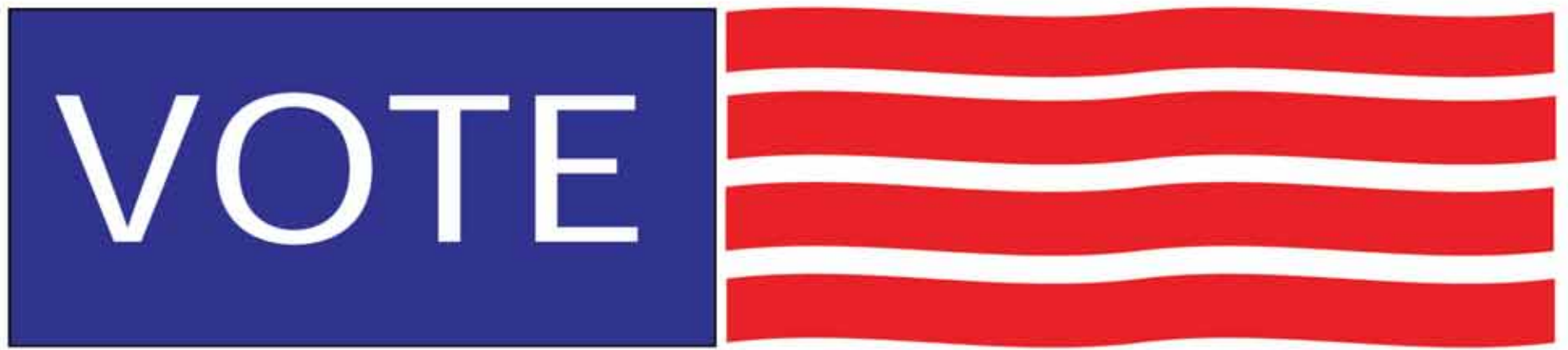
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School Board candidates vie for four open seats

By JAN WILLMS

Nine school board candidates for the St. Paul Public School District vying for four at-large open positions addressed issues at a forum held Sept. 29 at Rondo Library.

Incumbents Keith Hardy and Ann Carroll, former board member Al Oertwig, and new candidates Kevin Huepenbecker, Pat Igo, Lizz Paulson, Mary Doran, Louise Seeba and Devin Miller all addressed issues of importance to students, parents and the community at the forum. Tiffany Fearing is also a candidate, but was unable to attend the forum.

Huepenbecker said his oldest daughter began kindergarten eight years ago, and he made a decision then to become involved with his children's education. He said he is concerned that the current school board has its minds made up when making a decision, and only after that decision is made do board members listen to the community.

Hardy, who has nearly completed four years of his first term, said he had people yell at him the past weekend and tell him where he could go.

"But a couple days ago I observed high school classes and talked with the teachers," he continued. "They told me what is working well and what could be improved."

Oertwig said there is a need for a board that is concerned and

leads, rather than reacts.

Paulson, who identified herself as American Indian and white, said she grew up learning to acclimate. As a reading tutor at the East Side Learning Center, she said she is in the classroom every day, helping meet the needs of children.

Miller, who said he has spent the past 21 years working to make a difference with kids in various programs, said he is concerned there is no direction coming to help black kids. He emphasized that the board needs to have the superintendent accountable to it, and not the other way around.

Carroll, who is running for re-election, said her role on the board has been to ask a million questions. She added that the current board has brought the community in more than any other board in the past 150 years.

Seeba commented on her own experience with Head Start, and how that benefited her. "We need to focus our resources on early education," she stated.

Her desire to put her passion for education into action is what has driven Doran to run for a board position. She explained that she has volunteered over 300 hours at her children's school and has helped work extensively on SPPS budgets.

Igo said he, his children and grandchildren have all attended SPPS, and he believes in a participating democracy. He also em-



From left to right, top row: Mary Doran, Devin Miller, Al Oertwig, and Louise Seeba. From left to right, bottom row: Pat Igo, Keith Hardy, Ann Carroll, and Kevin Huepenbecker.

phasized the need for parents to participate in their children's education. "The school board and teachers can't do it alone," he claimed.

The need for involving the parents and the community was voiced by many of the candidates. Huepenbecker called for community leaders and college kids to come into the classroom and serve as tutors.

"We should hold all adults

accountable who are part of a child's life," Hardy stressed. "And we need a curriculum implemented with integrity."

Oertwig told audience members at Rondo that everyone should be angry about the unemployment rates in the African American community and the level of poverty concentrated in Minnesota.

Paulson recommended master teachers skilled in their sub-

ject as the most important part of a classroom.

Doran said she wants to see money shifted to early childhood education. She also wants to identify students who are falling behind.

Seeba said that more funding, wisely spent, is needed for the district. "We can't cut our way to the top," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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Hamline Church United Methodist's quest for a place on the National Register of Historic Places is en route to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for consideration November 1. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) unanimously recommended approval of the designation request September 15.

Hamline Church seeks status on National Register of Historic Places

By JANE MCCLURE

Hamline Church United Methodist's quest for a place on the National Register of Historic Places is en route to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for consideration November 1. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) unanimously recommended approval of the designation request September 15.

The nomination was prepared using state Legacy grant funding.

Part of the HPC review included suggestions on how the report could be made stronger, to help make the case for National Register status. HPC members did suggest that the nomination include more detailed information on the church's unique stained glass windows, as well as pictures of the windows themselves. They also suggested more information on the building's

Gothic Revival style structure.

"It's a very strong design and there are things that could have been said about it that need to be said," HPC Member Robert Ferguson said.

St. Paul HPC comments on all National Register nominations in the city. That's because it is considered a certified local government agency. The HPC has four members who are architectural historians or historians. They review the National register applications.

HPC Member Steve Trimble said the church building is good candidate for the National Register. "The church has a long history in the neighborhood and the building has been well cared for," he said. "It also has many interesting architectural features."

"The congregation feels very strongly about the building," said church historian and archivist Mary Bakeman. Historic status would give the church more prominence and would allow the congregation to put more of a spotlight on its design and features.

"We'd like the greater community to know more about the church in terms of its artistic features," Bakeman added.

Other groups in St. Paul have used National Register status to obtain historic tax credits, which are available at the federal and state levels. The credits can be used to help finance building improvements or redevelopment, as is happening currently at the former Schmidt Brewery. The developers of the Carleton Lofts near University and Raymond also used their historic status to obtain the credits.

The Hamline congregation can trace its roots to 1880, when worship began in the chapel at Hamline University. The church incorporated in 1885 and dedicated its first building in 1900. That building was destroyed by fire right after Christmas 1925.

The church building was built in 1926-1928, for about \$250,000. Its slate roof was recently replaced recently, at a cost of about \$400,000.

The church is a Gothic style,

and seats about 1,040 people.

A building addition was erected in 1929, and a larger administrative/education wing added in 1955.

The church was dedicated on April 1, 1928. Its architect was Fred Slifer, who learned his craft from noted architects Cass Gilbert and E. L. Masqueray. Slifer's family was active in the congregation. His daughter Lorna was the model for the angel statue between the church's front doors. She was paid with a box of chocolates.

Contractors J.S. Sweitzer and Son and Gustav Anderson and Son were church members. The church is built of Bedford limestone.

The stone work on the building was done by Carlo Brioschi and Adolph Minuti, as well as by the St. Paul Statuary Company. Brioschi and Minuti were trained in Italy and had a studio on University Avenue.

One distinctive feature is the church's stained glass windows, which were designed as a set and completed over a period of many years, between 1928 and 1960s the windows were all designed and executed locally, with Norwegian artist Andreas Ruud Larson completing the earlier ones and Gaytee Glass Studio, Minneapolis, completing the later windows. The windows tell a variety of Bible stories. The church distributes pamphlets detailing the story told by each window. Bakeman said efforts are underway to raise money to restore the windows.

The church's steeple, which features gargoyles, is another of its most unique features, Bakeman said. The gargoyles are designed to spout rain away from the building.

The church still has the molds that were used to make the gargoyles. HPC members said they like the details on the steeple and the way that the steeple lines up with the spire of Old Main at nearby Hamline University.

The church steeple rises 80 feet above the roof and 160 feet above the ground.

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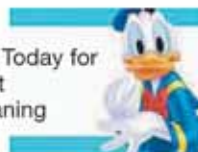
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Vote November 8

Prepared & Pd by Al Oertwig, 509 Fred St., 55130

City examines changes to Griggs Street for bikers

By JANE MCCLURE

Griggs Street between Summit and Minnehaha avenues already functions as a north-south bike route for many commuters, students and leisure cyclists. Making improvements to the street is the focus of a St. Paul Public Works study underway this month. If agreement can be reached on street improvements, changes would be made in spring 2012.

Almost 20 people attended an Oct. 3 workshop on the Griggs project, held at Dunning Recreation Center. Public Works planned a bike tour of Griggs Oct. 9 and a final community meeting October 11. Ideas then go to the city's Transportation Committee Oct. 17 and the full Planning Commission Oct. 28. The plans would need Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) approval by

year's end.

Public Works wants to hear what residents of the Lexington-Hamline and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods want to see on Griggs before deciding what improvements to make, said Emily Erickson, sustainable transportation planner for Public Works. "We need your input. That's the bottom line."

"We'd like to use various design features and traffic calming measures to encourage sharing of the road space on Griggs," she added. Ideas include signs, street markings or share the road "sharrows", medians, bumpouts or traffic circles.

No one at the meeting said they opposed street improvements to promote biking and walking, but some people raised concerns about the potential loss of on-street parking. City officials did mailings to Griggs res-

idents, and property owners within a block of the street. They also used district council and neighborhood listservs and Wards 1 and 4 listservs to publicize the project. Most people at the meeting supported the bike boulevard idea, although there was some disagreement on what should be implemented. Concerns were raised about everything from bicyclists who disobey traffic laws to snow removal and its impact on street widths.

At this point it doesn't appear there is support for any kind of striped bike lane, especially anything that would take away on-street parking. Lexington-Hamline residents already compete with Central High School and Concordia University events for on-street parking.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Hamline U plans excavation

The Hamline University Anthropology Department and the Hamline Midway History Corp invite anyone interested in neighborhood history and archaeology to join our excavation at "Old Main" on Hamline University. You can come and watch, ask questions, or even help dig. We have opportunities for participants of all ages (including an art project). Children are particularly welcome, although we ask they be accompanied by an adult.



Old Main is in the center of Hamline campus (with the clock tower). We will be digging on the west side of the building where we are searching for evidence of the first campus building, University Hall, destroyed by fire in 1883. Our excavations at the site have already uncovered artifacts from the 1880's that could be from this first building.

The open dig is scheduled for Saturday, October 15th between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Participants wanting to dig (or help with the art work) should wear clothes that can get dirty. We'll provide gloves and all other excavation equipment.

For more information contact Professor Brian Hoffman (651-523-2891; bhoffman@hamline.edu). You can follow the dig at Old Main and other sites in the Hamline neighborhood on Hoffman's blog, "Old Dirt - New Thoughts" at <http://olddirt.wordpress.com/>.



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In Our Community

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at Tin Cup's!

On November 12 from 1-6 p.m. join the Rice Street Festival Royalty for a delicious spaghetti dinner at Tin Cup's located at 1220 Rice Street. The cost for the event is \$10 (Children under 5 are free)! With each ticket purchased you will be entered into the drawing for the evening's door prize: a 32" TV!! Raffle tickets for other prizes will be sold throughout the evening as well! Join us for an evening of fun! Tickets are available at Tin Cup's as well as from the Rice Street Festival Royalty. All proceeds made from this event will go to support the Rice Street Festival and Royalty program.

Church dinner held every Wednesday

All are welcome at Jehovah Lutheran's weekly community dinner at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, prepared by Pastor Bob Benke himself. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. Entertainment is by the congregation's musicians — and they do rock.

Bible study follows at 6:30 p.m. — for men on Oct. 5 and for women on Oct. 12, alternating thereafter. The choir also welcomes new voices. If you have a busy schedule, come and sing when you can—particularly during the upcoming Advent season in December.

Dinners continue through Nov. 16 and resume Feb. 22 for Lent. Call the church office at 651-644-1421 or e-mail jlc_dawn@msn.com for more information.

To find out more about choir, contact Elizabeth Wegner at 651-353-4272 or e-mail blabweg@hotmail.com. The church is at Thomas and Snelling.

Getting green with God?

Adult Bible class meets at 9:30 a.m. Sundays for coffee, fellowship, prayer and study at Jehovah Lutheran Church, Thomas and Snelling.

"Together with all Creatures," a six-session study offering an in-depth look at caring for God's creation from a Christian perspective, begins Oct. 9 at Jehovah Lutheran Church. The hour-long Bible study begins at 9:30 a.m.

The series will take a one-week recess Oct. 30 when member David Lumpp, a theologian at Concordia University in St. Paul, will offer a special presentation for Reformation Day, the Lutheran observance of the Protestant Reformation.

All are welcome. Jehovah Lutheran is in St. Paul at Thomas and Snelling.

'Rock' musical at Central Lutheran November 18

What do fifty 4th-8th grade students, a gym, great food, and great music have in common? Our "Rock around the Clock- A Nostalgic Look Back" musical of course! On Friday, November 18th, the talented children of Central Lutheran School, under the direction of Elizabeth Wegner, have come together to create a fun, exciting production of singing and dancing. Come see a great show, have some good "diner-type" grub, and enjoy your favorite hits from the '50's and '60's.

Tickets for the dinner theatre are \$8 (\$7 seniors). Please call Central Lutheran at 651-645-8649 for directions, tickets, and more information. Tickets to the general public will go on sale November 9th. Central Lutheran School is located at 775 Lexington Pkwy, just north of Minnehaha and Lexington.

Turkey Bingo planned at St. Columba November 12

Save the date and your appetite for Turkey Bingo, Sat Nov. 12, at The Church of St Columba, 1330 Blair Ave. Adult tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the event and include a delicious Turkey Buffet Dinner plus 2 bingo cards per game. Following Dinner Bingo play runs about 2 hours with chances to win turkeys as well as special prizes and drawings. Doors open after mass at 5:30 p.m. with dinner then Bingo starting around 6:30 p.m. This is a truly a great evening so bring a neighbor, enjoy the food and have some laughs with us. All proceeds support youth activities. For tickets please call 651-646-4419 or 651-645-9179.

Celtic and Traditional American Music

"Celtic and Traditional American Music" will be performed by Larry Greenstein through a fiddle show and sing-along on November 8 at 1514 Englewood Avenue. A free-will donation lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and the presentation begins at 12:15 p.m. For more information call Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542. HM Elders arranged services to help seniors live well in their homes.

Community Forum Oct. 20

"Making a Difference in The Community," a public forum will be held on Thurs, Oct. 20 from 10:30 -11:30 a.m. at the Hamline Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Hear how citizens can re-ignite their commitment to making communities thrive. Workshop is co-hosted by Hamline Midway

Elders and VAN, the Vital Aging Network. To register call HM Elders 651-209-6542.

Drop-in, No Cost Exercise Classes

Exercise at your own level every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 - 3:00 until November 17 at 1514 Englewood Ave. Instructors have been trained through the MN Arthritis Foundation. For more information call HM Elders 651-209-6542.

Breastfeeding difficulties discussed November 8

The Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, November 8. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Zion holds Spaghetti Dinner November 17th

A Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the church's boiler will be held on November 17th; from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 1697 Lafond Ave.

Bethlehem Lutheran holds Fair October 22

Bethlehem Lutheran Church would like to invite everyone to our Craft Fair on Saturday Oct 22, 2011. We will have a good variety of crafters, holiday items, lunch and a bake sale. We also have a great a Raffle, Winner drawn at 2:30. We are at 436 N Roy's St (1 blk South of Unv & Snelling) 651-646-6549.

Zion Lutheran holds Haunted Church

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond, is putting on a Haunted Church on Friday, Oct. 28 and Saturday, Oct. 29 from dusk to 8 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Proceeds go to support our children in the Midway community. Kids are invited to get help with their home work on Tuesday Nights between 6.30 p.m. till 8 p.m.

Volunteer tutors needed at Crossroads

One hour a week can make a world of difference in a child's life. The 'Believe and Achieve Tutoring Program' at Crossroads Elementary School is looking for

volunteers to make this commitment as a tutor for elementary-aged students during the 2011-2012 academic year.

As the Believe and Achieve Program embarks on its third year, the school, teachers and students are excited to welcome both returning and new volunteers to participate. The program offers one-on-one or small group tutoring to students during and after school. Volunteer tutors focus on helping students in kindergarten through sixth grade reach grade-level proficiency in reading and math.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, please contact Amy Kasch-Vanek, Tutoring Coordinator for the Science program via telephone (651-744-4636) or e-mail (amy.kasch-vanek@spps.org). Jeremy Zaucha, Tutoring Coordinator for the Montessori program, can be contacted at 651-744-4637 or jeremy.zaucha@spps.org.

Joint Friendly Exercise Classes

A new, eight week series of joint friendly exercise classes will begin Sept. 27, 1514 Englewood Ave., and will run each Tues and Thurs from 2:00 - 3:00 PM through Nov 17. There is no cost for the classes which are led by instructors trained through the MN Arthritis Foundation. For more information call HM Elders 651-209-6542.

Library hosts renowned photographer

On Wednesday, November 9, 6:30-8 pm, the Hamline Midway Library will host renowned photographer Wing Young Huie to discuss his University Avenue Project. The evening, part of the Hamline Midway Library Association's third annual Neighborhood Voices Series, will include an artist talk and slide show. Refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to all. The Hamline Midway Branch is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha; for further information, contact Carrie at cariepomeroy@tcq.net.

'God's Country' performed at Hamline this November

Hamline University Theatre will open its 81th season with its fall production, Steven Dietz's "God's Country." Directed by Carolyn Levy, this provocative production shows the inner workings of the White Supremacist group "The Order" during the 1980's and their subsequent trials. Thought provoking and challenging, this show also reaches to the present and examines the relationship between these groups and today's society. Because of the mature content within this

production, it is not recommended for younger audiences.

Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. The show opens Friday, November 4 and runs November 5, 10, 11 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, November 12 at 8:00 p.m. in Hamline's Anne Simley Theater. After the performance on November 10th there will be a Post-Show discussion with members of the American Civil Liberties Union, Jewish Community Action and Advocates for Human Rights. Advance reservations are suggested for this production, and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

Free Well Pet Checks

Well pet checks for animals belonging to Hamline Midway residents age 60+ will be scheduled during October. The checks are conducted by U of MN veterinary medicine students. For more information call HM Elders 651-209-6542.

Progressive Open House planned November 15

On Tuesday, November 15, from 5 to 8 p.m., four St. Paul public charter schools will join together to offer a progressive open house. We welcome you to learn more about public charter schools, all in one evening. Stop by one, two, three or all four schools for food, drinks, and to meet the fabulous students, parents and faculty of these small innovative schools. Come in any order you like to learn more about our public school, tuition free programs. You can find information on the websites of the following schools: Avalon www.avalon-school.org, Great River School www.greatriverschool.org, River's Edge Academy www.riversedgeacademy.org, and Twin Cities Academy www.tcahs.k12.mn.us/

Sauerkraut Supper at St. Stephanus

The Annual Sauerkraut Supper put on by the Mens Club at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church and sponsored by Thrivent will be held on Saturday, November 5, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the church, located at 739 Lafond (Lafond & Grotto). Adults: \$10; Children (5-12): \$5; (Children under 5 FREE); Family Household \$25. Supper includes pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, bakery bread, and dessert served family style. A traditional dinner served for over 50 years! Craft and Bake Sale will be held during the dinner. For further information, please call the church at 651-228-1486.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Hamline Midway Library plans fall season

The Hamline Midway library is busy planning a fall season full of community programming. Come to the library for computer help, storytimes, and more.

October is Teen Read Month at the Saint Paul Public Library! Teens ages 11-18 can read down their library fines at any branch through the month of October. Come into the library, sign up at the desk, and each fifteen minutes spent reading in the library earns a \$1 coupon toward your library fines. Ask library staff for more details.

Does your child love dogs? Paw Pals will be at the library on Saturdays, October 15 and November 19 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call

the library to register your child for this opportunity to build reading skills while reading with a therapy dog. Open to ages 6-12.

The library will host an open lab on Wednesdays October 19, November 2 and November 16 from 4-5:30. Patrons will be able to ask questions, get one-on-one computer help, and assistance with basic computer operations. This is a drop-in lab and patrons will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis.

Career Solutions, community-based nonprofit dedicated to providing hope and help to people in career transitions since 1974, will be in the library on Tuesdays Octo-

ber 18, November 1 and November 15 from 10 to 11a.m. to provide drop-in cover letter and resume-writing assistance.

Help celebrate Teen Read Week by attending the library's Leviathan party! This theme party is based on Scott Westerfeld's Leviathan trilogy. Come dressed as your favorite character if you like. There will be food, activities and prizes. Open to teens ages 11-17. Please call the library to register for this fun event.

Join Colleen Dooley, CMT-RYT, for a yoga class at the library, Tuesdays at 11 a.m. Beginners are welcome! This free class is open to the public and there is no registration required.

Saturday Club for Kids will be making corn husk dolls at the library on October 15 from 1-3 p.m. Join the fun at the library!

The library will host a puppet performance by Z Puppets on October 21 at 10:30 a.m. Recommended for ages 3 and up. The performance is funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Teens can join the Read-a-Thon on October 27 from 3-5 p.m. We'll have snacks and prizes, and the reading can count toward reading down your library fines. Open to teens ages 11-18.

The library will be hosting a Spooky Saturday event on October

29 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. There will be treats, games and fun for kids. Wear your best costume!

Join photographer Wing Young Huie, author of the University Avenue Project, for a very special Neighborhood Voices on Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Toddler and preschool storytimes are offered every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Bring your child to share in the joys of reading!

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

In Our Community

Continued from page 10

Financial workshop held October 15

A one-day workshop will be held on Saturday, October 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (lunch included)

to help you wisely manage your money throughout life's financial ups and downs... "Financial Foundations 4 Life" is a FREE, fast-paced, interactive workshop offering practical tips to help you wisely manage your money.

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Counseling Service at Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 Wheelock Parkway. For more information go to www.bethelstpaul.com Register by October 10 at blc@bethelstpaul.com or 651-488-6681.

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Budgeting: Budgeting requires questioning & citizen involvement - school site involvement in budgeting may be eliminated; - because Tom Conlon & I were asking too many questions, Anne Carroll lobbied school board members to block my appointment to the Minnesota School Boards Association Board of Directors. Debate at board meetings must re-start.

Superintendent Hiring: Superintendent hiring is an urgent task. Most superintendents move over the summer, but in 2009, the superintendent resigned in Feb., but the board waited to get help with hiring a replacement until summer had arrived.

- Rather than hiring a teacher, the superintendent is paid \$40,000 to move from Woodbury to St. Paul

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Proposed apartment building goes to Board of Zoning October 19

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposed 45-unit apartment building at the southeast corner of Marshall and Otis avenues goes to the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for needed variances October 19, following an October 3 public hearing and layover. The BZA is setting the matter aside to allow the developer, East River Development LLC, to have more time to discuss the project with neighbors.

The project has partial support from Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee. The committee voted September 20 to indicate support for the building design and design features including a courtyard. But committee members believe the building is too tall and would like one story or about 10 feet in height eliminated. The height issue is what neighbors and the developer will discuss.

Five neighbors attended the BZA hearing to speak against the height proposed and to raise concerns about parking and density.

The project at 2318 Marshall Av. requires two variances. One variance is for height. The zoning code requires that a building can exceed the maximum height of 35 feet if upper floors are set back from the side and rear setback line at a distance equal to the additional height. The proposed building would be taller in the middle than at its edges, in what some have described as a "wedding cake" design. With the setback, the maximum height allowed is 38 feet. But a height of 57.5 feet is proposed, for a variance of 19.5 feet.

A rear setback variance is needed from the south property

line. Six feet is required and is provided for most of the building. But an exterior concrete stairway projects two feet into the rear yard and requires a four-foot variance.

Although the site has been vacant and used for neighborhood parking for many years, it once was home to a gas station. Tanks were pulled many years ago and the site was cleaned up. But there are still problems with fuel that is in underlying shale, and that is affecting building design.

This is the second development proposed in the past decade for the Marshall-Otis property. Lander Development and At Home Apartments would buy the site from Wellington.

The site was one of two Shadow Falls sites Wellington wanted to develop. The original Wellington development proposals were brought forward during a Twin Cities housing market boom and St. Paul's ambitious Housing 5000 program. But the proposals were dramatically affected by the region's housing market collapse.

Wellington Management had a condominium proposal for the property and for another site on Otis, which went through extensive neighborhood and city reviews in 2005-2006. The projects generated considerable controversy in the Shadow Falls neighborhood, as residents raised objections to the buildings' height and density.

Wellington's Marshall-Otis proposed building was a seven-story glass and stone condominium tower. The Otis development, which involved the demolition of a historic church, was scaled back a few years ago to include six three-

story townhouses instead of 18 condominiums in a three-story building. Part of that project has been completed.

The UPDC committee reviewed the Lander project recently with project architect Pete Keely. Keely also designed the building that Wellington wanted to build on the site.

The Lander project would be apartments and not condominiums this time around, to meet changing residential market demands. There would be 40 one-bedroom units and five two-bedroom units. The building would have four floors of apartments. It would also have two levels of enclosed parking with 56 parking stalls, as well as additional bike parking. The city would require a minimum of 43 parking stalls.

The property is zoned for traditional neighborhoods use so no zoning change is needed.

The developers are asking for variances because of the site's irregular shape and slope. They are also coping with some soil conditions that need to be addressed. According to the developers there is shale beneath the site that has to be addressed. The presence of the shale means that the building cannot be lowered into the ground any more than it is.

If the site didn't have an irregular shape, the developers note that they could move the building 15 feet to the north and meet the height requirements. Or the building could be shifted to the west. But the site's sloping condition and other factors led to the decision to site the building where it is on the site. One reason for the

building placement is to minimize height closer to the river. Another reason is to have the building more in line with neighboring buildings, and to not adversely affect light and air access to neighboring properties.

Keely had also suggested modifying the building courtyard to bring the proposed structure more in compliance with the zoning code. But the developers want to keep the courtyard as a means of breaking up the building mass. District council members also indicated that they like the courtyard and want it to remain.

Keely had also indicated that the developers wanted to consider live-work units as part of the development, but that that idea has been set aside.

UPDC committee members

said they like the building design but are worried about the height impacts and potential parking problems. UPDC Board member Tim Faust lives in Shadow Falls neighborhood and recalled the ongoing controversy over the Wellington developments.

"People in the neighborhood would like to see something built there that is not out of scale with the rest of the neighborhood," Faust said. There are also worries about the number of units and possibility of more building density in an already very dense area of condominiums, apartments and single-family homes. Parking can be very tight in the neighborhood already.

"It looks like a very nice building, but there are questions about the parking need," he said.

October events planned at Rice Street Library

The Rice Street Branch Library has many fun and educational events planned for October. Please stop in and visit us!

Z Puppets will present A La Carte: In a Fool's Kitchen on Thursday October 20 at 2 p.m. Drop in and watch this highly physical, playful, interactive comedy which features puppets, clowns and a few unruly vegetables.

The North End Book Club will discuss Undomestic Goddess by Sophie Kinsella on Monday, October 24, from 12:45-2:30. For more information or to register, please call Sandy at 651-744-3072. This group is offered in partnership with the Community Education Senior Program.

The English Language Conversation Circle will meet on Mondays

from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. The Circle is for adults interested in improving their English speaking skills. Sessions are free and open to the public.

Computer coaching will be available on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Library staff will assist you with learning more about the Internet, e-mail or Microsoft Word.

The Computer Gaming Club will meet on Tuesdays 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. Try Runescape, Wii, Scratch or other computer games and programs. Bring your friends!

Family story times will be offered on Friday and Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Join Rice Street's storytelling experts for stories, finger plays, rhymes, and songs.

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Bikers

Continued from page 9

"If we decrease the amount of parking available, it will really put a burden on the neighborhood," said Lexington-Hamline resident Lynn Anderson.

Several cyclists said they'd welcome improvements on Griggs, because of the area's lack of north-south bike routes. They especially liked the idea of a connection to an off-street route paralleling Lexington, which would tie into the project. Hamline-Midway resident Gregory Pursell said he ends up riding on sidewalks rather than try to bike on Lexington Parkway. "I'm excited about this and think it could be a good thing," he said of

the project.

Griggs has been eyed as for bike and pedestrian improvements since a Central Corridor light rail bike-walk action plan was developed in 2008-2009, said Erickson. The plan was adopted by the St. Paul City Council in 2010. The street has also been the subject of a bike audit, to check what features could and couldn't be included.

The project has \$400,000 in federal Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program funds from Transit for Livable Communities (TLC), which is administering the money. The project would also tie into other projects that are already underway. One is safety improvements near the Skyline Tower apartments at 1247 St. Anthony Av. New sidewalks, lighting and

signs are planned, as are changes to the approach to the Griggs Street bike/pedestrian bridge over Interstate 94.

As part of the light rail project, a pedestrian/bike signal is planned at Griggs. While the details haven't been fleshed out, Public Works has been told by rail project staff that the signal will have video detection for bikes and pedestrian, to activate the light.

A third project that has the potential provide a connection all the way to Como Park, would link Griggs via Minnehaha to an off-street path near Lexington parkway. The city has federal funds for that project, which would include a bridge over Pierce Butler Route and the BNSF Railroad tracks.

The bike audit of Griggs, done

at the behest of Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark, raised a number of issues. Improvements are needed to improve crossings at Summit, Selby, Marshall, Concordia, St. Anthony, University and Minnehaha avenues. Another problem area is through Dunning Park, where bikes must share the sidewalk with park users.

The park surrounding the center is one of the stretches along the route that needs to be addressed, said Emily Erickson, sustainable transportation planner for the city. Cyclists must share sidewalks with park users. The park also lacks lighting for people who bike or walk through at night.

Another issue is the width of the Griggs Bridge over I-94, which was replaced a few years ago. Ham-

line-Midway resident Paul Nelson, who was among citizens on an advisory group during bridge planning, wanted a 16-foot bridge, rather than the 12-foot bridge that was built. The bridge may need signage to slow cyclists down.

People at the meeting did express support for adding traffic circles in residential areas. There was less support for corner bump outs, due to issues of snow plowing.

Information about the Griggs project can be found on the city's website. Go to www.stpaul.gov, go to the Public Works tab, and then click on Bicycling. That will lead to the Griggs project and other projects, including detailed information and a survey monkey to weigh in with ideas.

Tin Cup's

Continued from page 3

and challenges in the area," Bailey explained. "They do website searches, and the Juicy Lucy stuck out, so they checked all the places offering Juicy Lucy challenges and picked us. The deciding factor was a number of articles written by Kathie Jenkins in the Pioneer Press food critics section."

Bailey said two other people have met the challenge.

"If someone wants to try it, we need one day's advance notice because we have to get larger buns," she noted. If someone can eat two pounds of Lucifer Juicy Lucy in 45 minutes, he or she will receive a t-shirt proclaiming "I won Tin Cup's Juicy Lucy Challenge."

Tin Cup's offers a variety of Juicy Lucys and has introduced Mini Tinis, miniatures of the six choices offered on the menu.

"We have also kept the fried chicken, which Tin Cup's has been known for," Knippenberg said. "More than any question, we get asked if we have the same fried chicken, and we do."

Bailey said they plan to add hot dagos and spaghetti to the menu, also.

Both owners said there are challenges to running your own business.

"There are long hours, and dealing with broken down equipment you have to get fixed immediately," Knippenberg said. "And there is a constant juggling of everything—work, home life and family. But our employees have become family."

Bailey agreed.

"Not everybody gets the op-

portunity to follow a dream, and it's well worth it," she said. "I love these employees as if they were my family, and not a day goes by we don't thank them for all their hard work."

"We purposely looked for people who are willing to work and want to be here," Knippenberg added. "We are very lucky to have a core staff that's phenomenal."

And in spite of the tough economy, Bailey said the community has been so supportive and keeps encouraging her and Knippenberg to keep striving.

"Our Tin Cup's shirts don't even stay on the shelves," she said. "I think Man v. Food Nation will also help with the sale of shirts. Everyone wants a shirt from a place that's been on TV."

She and Knippenberg mused about a new theme for T-shirts: "Livin' the Dream at Tin Cup's."

School board

Continued from page 7

In dealing with the achievement gap, Huepenbecker cited high test scores from Harvest Prep Academy in Minneapolis proved that kids from disadvantaged homes can succeed.

"There is no achievement gap," Hardy said. "That's a cop-out phrase. There's an educational inequality gap, and I want all of our students making progress."

"Are St. Paul schools better off today than four or eight years ago?" asked Igo. "I want to eliminate the achievement gap, and get rid of low expectations."

The candidates all agreed that all children have the same

ability to learn, regardless of family income or background. But they may not have equal opportunities.

Oertwig said studies revealed that low-income children know 1,000 fewer words at age 3 than their wealthier counterparts.

"Not one teaching style works for all," Miller said.

Regarding the problem of bullying in the schools, he said the root of the bully's actions must be addressed.

"We need to teach students the alternatives to bullying, and teachers need the skills to build relationships," Paulson said.

"We need to get bullies to respect themselves and make better choices," Carroll claimed. She added that suspensions are down in SPPS and expulsions are gone.

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Como to build new Gorilla Forest, enhance Japanese Garden in two new projects



By DEBORAH BROTZ

On most weekends, you can see cars parked back-to-back along the drive leading up to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. With free admission, the Zoo and Conservatory are one of the best entertainment values in the Twin Cities area. And it's about to get better with two new projects set to break ground this fall.

One is the Japanese Garden Experience, a \$2.5 million addition that bridges the Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden and the historic Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. The other is the Gorilla Forest, an \$11 million world-class gorilla habitat that features more outdoor and indoor spaces.

The Japanese Garden Experience project will consist of a two-thirds acre addition of landscaping and indoor space. There will be a new wing to the Conservatory, which will provide a new year-round enclosed pavilion for the Bonsai Collection to display it. There will also be an outdoor terrace, which will feature a three season display of Bonsai as well as views into the Japanese Garden during the winter when many maples are defoliated.

"Visitors will be able to see more of the Garden during the winter months," said Tina Dombrowski, horticulture manager for the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. "There will be year-round views into the Garden."

The entrance into the Garden will be redone.

"A gently sloping 6-foot wide ADA pathway will bring people down from the pavilion and terrace into the Japanese Garden," said Dombrowski. "There will be a couple benches along the pathway. We're calling it the Pine Grove Walk, which is a gentle walk through Scots Pines."

Groundbreaking will be taking place soon.

"We anticipate groundbreaking to be mid to late October," said Dombrowski. "They're beginning some site work and construction fencing."

struction fencing."

The \$2.5 million project is being funded with all private contributions.

"The project is being funded by Como Friends," said Dombrowski. "There is a nine to 12 month construction schedule, which depends on the weather. We plan to be open fall 2012 or early 2013, if there are any delays."

This new addition is important to the Conservatory because it will enhance exhibition space and year-round viewing of the Bonsai Collection as well as greater visibility and access to the Japanese Garden.

"We have a Bonsai Collection that is growing," said Dombrowski. "Our Japanese Garden is one of the top-rated Japanese

Gardens in America. Como is ranked 19 out of 25."

The new Gorilla Forest will have two outdoor exhibits, with an enriched environment of trees and shrubs, which is all naturalistic, and some water features. There will also be a new holding facility.

Presently, there is one outside and one inside exhibit with three holding areas what they call bedrooms. The new exhibit will have five holding bedrooms.

"The new ones will be larger and brighter," said John Dee, general curator for Como Park Zoo. "The floors will be heated, and the dayroom will have skylights that transmit UVB to make vitamin D."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Visitors to Como Zoo will soon be treated to the Japanese Garden Experience, a \$2.5 million addition that bridges the Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden and the historic Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. The other new project is the Gorilla Forest, an \$11 million world-class gorilla habitat that features more outdoor and indoor spaces.

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Construction

Continued from page 4

"We all have concerns that the work isn't going to be done on time," said Impressive Print owner Mike Baca. He is vice president of UABA. Work in front of his business at 1754 University was completed a few weeks behind schedule and Baca isn't happy about the quality of sidewalk and street construction.

"They also left a mess in front of my business and weeks after cement was poured, there's still duct tape on my business from where plastic sheeting was

placed," Baca said.

Midway Chamber of Commerce President Kari Canfield said that Chamber members are also following the construction closely. "We want to make sure that the work is done on time and we've tracking the project closely," she said. "If there are delays and the work isn't done on time, it could cause some real problems."

While the construction is moving ahead, project staff say that they are monitoring the work very closely. One area that is taking longer is the stretch of University between Cleveland and Fairview avenues, said Ryan.

But that was anticipated because of the need to lower the grade there and get trains beneath the Minnesota Transfer Railroad Bridge between the streets.

Crews have worked Saturdays since the project began and for the past several weeks, crews have also worked late into the evenings. "Construction has been ramped up substantially," Ryan said. He described the progress as double what has been done since the start of the project.

Ryan and Soler said project office staff are in almost daily contact with the contractors over project schedules. Metropolitan Council has the right to reject schedules

of ask for modification.

But one worry elected officials and business owners have raised is that winter weather could hit before November 30. Some cite the 1991 Halloween Blizzard, which shut down street and highway projects weeks

ahead of schedule. Ryan said that if it gets to the point that project staff don't think a section of street will get done in time, that street section won't be opened up to start construction. "We'll have to make decisions on that," he said.



While the construction is moving ahead, project staff say that they are monitoring the work very closely. One area that is taking longer is the stretch of University between Cleveland and Fairview avenues, said Ryan. But that was anticipated because of the need to lower the grade there and get trains beneath the Minnesota Transfer Railroad Bridge between the streets. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

New projects

Continued from page 14

The size of the outdoor exhibits will be three times as big as what they have now.

"Both exhibits will be totally enclosed in cable mesh so we can have another species of monkey in there," said Dee. "We may even add a bird species. Animals don't just live with their own species, they live with other animals."

The gorilla habitat will be world-class.

"It includes all elements now considered important for gorillas," said Dee. "It will have a sizeable space outside with all natural elements. The feature in the dayroom transmitting UVB light is a big deal. We apply all the science to know what animals need. In the dayroom, there will be several feet of mulch, not concrete. The temperature and humidity will be better controlled and energy efficient."

The current exhibit is about 25 years old.

"Standards have gotten elevated over time," said Dee. "People's thoughts about what is nec-

essary change also. In the last 25 years, we learned a lot about what's good for animals. We'll give them that in this exhibit."

In addition to the Zoo's two male gorillas, they will be getting three females. One of the males they presently have will become part of a family group, and they will also create a bachelor group. Then, they will have seven gorillas, the most they've ever had.

"This lets us participate in the survival of the gorilla species at a high level," said Dee. "We get to have a family group here."

With the addition of these two new exhibits, Como will continue to draw more people.

"We're hoping the numbers will go up just as when the polar bear exhibit opened," said Matt Reinartz, manager of marketing and public relations for Como Zoo and Conservatory. "Como Zoo and Conservatory are getting bigger and better. I see no reason why attendance numbers wouldn't go up."

The Gorilla Forest is expected to open the summer of 2013.

"We're just excited to finally break ground on these exciting projects," said Reinartz. "I look forward to having them open for folks to see."

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR NATIONAL ACCREDITATION EVALUATION

The Hamline University School of Education is preparing for accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

As a part of this review, Hamline is soliciting comments from the public regarding the university's educator preparation programs. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the university to:

callforcomment@ncate.org

or

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
2010 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite #500
Washington, DC 20036

Comments must address substantive issues related to the quality of Hamline University School of Education's professional preparation programs. Comments received will be shared with the university prior to the review. No anonymous testimony will be considered. Please share this opportunity for input with others who have direct knowledge of Hamline's educator preparation programs.

All comments must be received by December 31, 2011.

