

monitor

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Mike's Auto Care lives out dream

After 11 years, Pastor Greg Renstrom pulls up anchor from Hamline UMC

By TREVOR MAINE

On June 22, after 11 years of service, Pastor Greg Renstrom will step down as pastor of Hamline United Methodist Church on Englewood Ave. and step into retirement.

Hamline Church has been his home—an anchor. For Renstrom, there's a calming quality to the sanctuary in that place—a place of worship he believes is one of the most beautiful in the Twin Cities.

A lesson that he has been slowly learning alongside the congregation, he says, is that, though beautiful, the actual building that is Hamline UMC is in need of some serious work. The task of keeping that space alive and healthy is one he believes is necessary for the church to remain vibrant and benefit the community most. And while the actual building is important, it's evident that Renstrom believes that the community that has called it home with him these last 11 years (and for the 116 years before he came there) is really what makes Hamline Church unique.

"A lot of the things that we've done the last 11 years is kind of work on who we are as a congregation in terms of our infrastructure," Renstrom said. "Hamline Church has a wonderful history of outreach to the community. During my 11 years here we've kind of begun to address those things which will let us serve even more."

That service has already begun to sprout outside the floors, walls, and roof (which is in need of considerable repair) of Hamline Church and out into the community and the world. During Renstrom's time as pastor, Hamline UMC has rekindled a nine-

teenth century tradition of taking interfaith offerings along with Twin Cities mosques, synagogues, and churches. Last year, this offering was given to help rebuild a water treatment plant in Iraq.

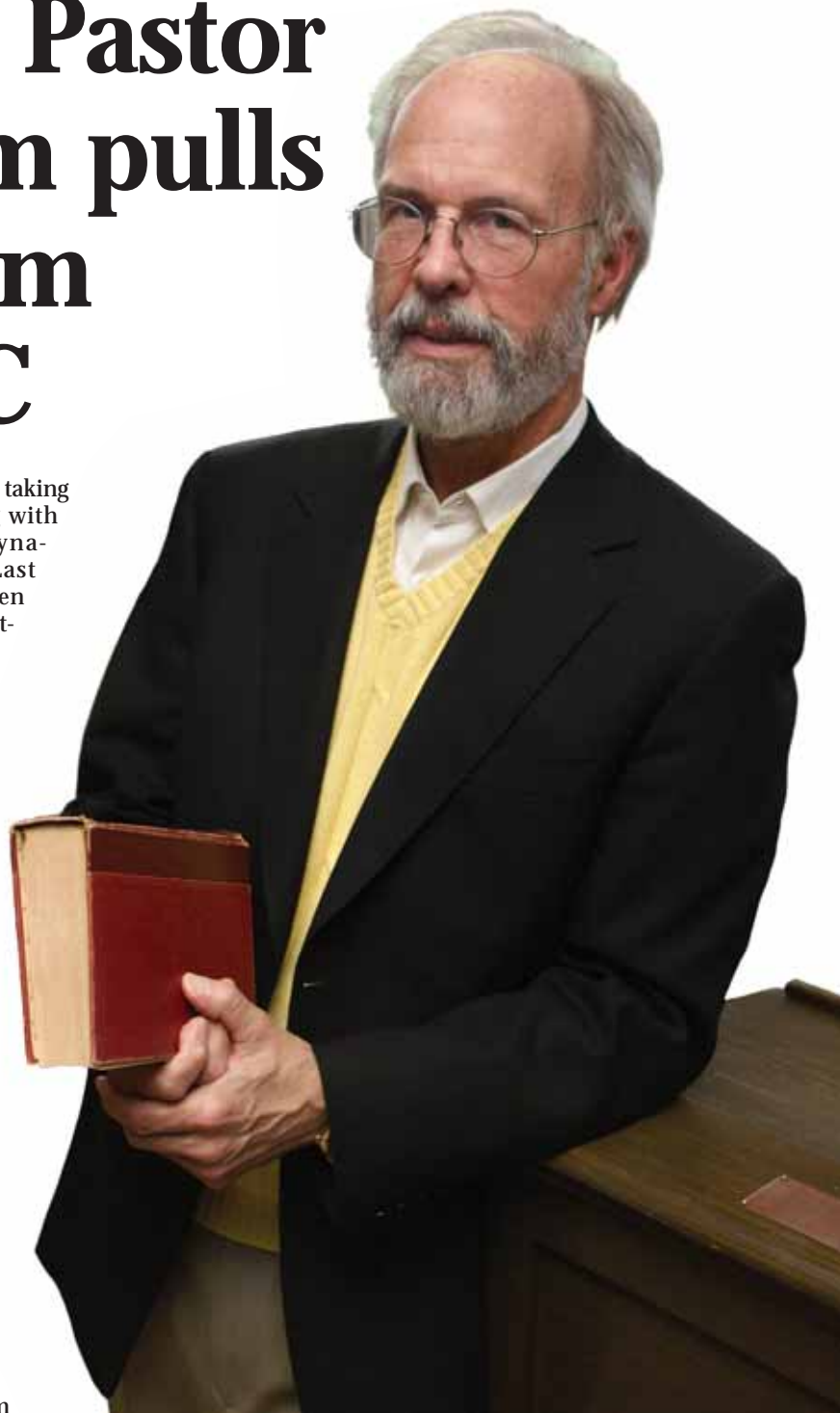
With the help of several members of the Hamline University community, Renstrom also organized a service to honor nuns, rabbis, imams, priests and pastors who have gone unrecognized.

This year the church will begin a new initiative with Hancock-Hamline University Collaborative Magnet School wherein the church will help facilitate and organize volunteerism for the school's programs and projects.

"It's just a great way for the church to become active in the schools—and St. Paul schools are outstanding," Renstrom said. Renstrom was, himself, a graduate of Saint Paul Central High School.

In addition to these programs, the church will also partner with several students from Hamline University to host a new Campus Kitchen.

"They wanted to partner with us because of the kitchen facilities but also the people. There was a connection there," Renstrom said. "That's the first time I can remember students actually coming from Hamline and saying 'Let's initiate



On June 22, after 11 years of service as the Pastor Greg Renstrom will step down as pastor of Hamline United Methodist Church on Englewood Ave. and step into retirement. (Photo by Terry Faust)

a program together,' which I find really encouraging."

That sort progress in the church and in the community is what gives Renstrom his "all will be well" attitude. He admits that leaving will be difficult for him, as the church has been his home and his anchor for these past 11 years, but it's time for him to move on and to let the church move forward, he says. The current of the community is changing rapidly, and as the church's largest neighbor, Hamline University, plans its expansion, what lies ahead for Hamline UMC has yet to be seen.

"It's been a huge priority for me to nurture [the] relationship (between Hamline UMC and Hamline University), so I see it as

still having a tremendous promise and potential, and it's being realized as we go. There are things that we've done the last 11 years that I find extremely fulfilling," Renstrom said.

The university's master plan, which was unveiled this March, made almost no mention of Hamline UMC—a peculiarity, because the plan revealed the school's intention to expand south, directly where the church now sits. One iteration of the plan even proposed the removal of Englewood Avenue from Snelling to Pascal, which would effectively strand Hamline UMC within the campus.

"There are things that we've done the last 11 years that I find extremely fulfilling."

- Hamline Church Pastor Greg Renstrom

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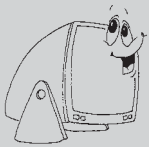
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Monitor in a Minute

Minnehaha Mall set for major redevelopment

The Minnehaha Mall, a retail mainstay in the Frogtown-East Midway area for many years, will be redeveloped by the St. Paul Port Authority. The purchase of four acres of the mall property was announced after the Port Authority's May meeting.

Minnehaha Mall is on Minnehaha Avenue at Milton Street. It occupies much of a city block. Its largest tenant is one of St. Paul's few remaining bowling alleys, Minnehaha Lanes. The bowling alley property was purchased by the Port for \$1.8 million and an industrial development district created for the entire site. The bowling alley is now closed.

Other mall tenants in recent years include or have included Family Dollar, grocery stores, drug stores, restaurants, office uses and a cosmetology school. But the 11-acre mall has suffered much business turnover in recent years.

The bowling alley's business has been greatly impacted by the city and the statewide smoking bans.

Plans call for tearing down Minnehaha Lanes and replacing it with a 60,000 to 75,000 square foot light industrial building, to create about 60 full-time jobs. The long-term plan would be to purchase and then redevelop the rest of the mall.

The mall was built in the 1950s, with the bowling alley constructed 50 years ago. Long-time area residents say that part of the mall property was a swamp, and later a dump. That means the site will require testing and environmental remediation.

Over the past several years a number of prospective developers have eyed the Minnehaha Mall property. Shiloh Missionary

Baptist Church looked at redeveloping the site for its church before moving to a North End site. The Salvation Army also eyed the proposed when it considered locating a \$62.5 million center in St. Paul. Those redevelopment plans not only stirred community debate in recent years they also made it harder for Minnehaha Lanes to attract and retain bowlers.

The plans to redevelop Minnehaha mall do not include the site south of Minnehaha Avenue, the longtime campus of the Wilder Foundation. Wilder will be selling that property in the future, now that its new facility at Lexington Parkway and University Avenue has opened its doors.

City's battle against vacant housing takes step

The City of St. Paul's ongoing battle against vacant and foreclosed-upon housing took another step forward May 28 with adoption of ordinances meant to encourage property owners to get buildings rehabilitation and back into occupancy.

The council unanimously adopted ordinances that:

- * Create a detailed process for vacant building remodeling. One intent of this ordinance is to encourage property owners to rehabilitate vacant buildings, yet not do demolition and then leave the house gutted and uninhabitable for long periods of time. The ordinance calls for a city inspection following completion of the demolition phase of a total remodeling project. This will be done through signed agreements with city inspections staff.

This not only makes sure the demolition permit is followed but also gives city officials a chance to list other code compliance requirements before remodeling begins.

- * Includes a fee schedule to cover the costs of inspections. Fees increase from \$138 to \$475

for a single-family dwelling code compliance inspection and from \$172 to \$595 for a duplex.

*Increases the vacant building registration fee to \$1,000. City licensing staff had suggested increasing that to \$500 from the current range of \$250 to \$500, but the council decided to increase that amount to \$1,000.

Because the fee increases are more than 300 percent, the city will phase the inspection fees in in 2008 and 2009. The vacant building fee increase takes effect in 2008.

St. Paul has more than 1,700 vacant registered buildings. Because not all property owners register their buildings when they become vacant, it is believed that number is actually much higher. That in turn means the city is facing skyrocketing costs for building inspections, as well as exterior maintenance needs ranging of boarding up buildings to cutting grass and shoveling snow.

No one appeared at public hearings May 21 to speak for or against the changes.

CommonBond looks for rezoning approval

A vacant Lexington-Hamline nursing home could be reused as supportive housing for single adults and be linked to a new headquarters for the non-profit agency CommonBond Communities, if a site plan and a required property rezoning win city approval. The plans for the site at Lexington Parkway and St. Anthony Avenue were reviewed by the Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee in May and the full district council will be forwarding its comments to the St. Paul Planning Commission and other city officials.

CommonBond develops and operates various housing projects throughout the Twin Cities, including the Selby-Dayton Apartments in Summit-University neighborhood and Skyline Tow-

ers at 1247 St. Anthony Av. The non-profit operates low-income housing and well as housing with supportive services for residents.

CommonBond has acquired the former Lexington Health Care Center, a now-shuttered plastic surgery clinic and a house next to the clinic building. Lexington closed more than three years ago. Its building would remain but would be remodeled into apartments. The house and clinic building would be torn down to make way for a new 30,000 square foot CommonBond corporate headquarters. The new building would be 30,000 square feet and would front on Lexington. It would have a connecting walkway to the converted nursing home. The headquarters building would have underground parking. The former nursing home has a surface parking lot.

The development site needs to be rezoned from residential and commercial uses to allow for traditional neighborhood or TN zoning to be used there. This type of zoning is used to promote more density and mixed-uses, such as housing and commercial use on the same property.

Different proposals have been made for the nursing home site, including a halfway house. But those proposals were opposed by former Ward One Council Member Debbie Montgomery, Lexington-Hamline Community Council and neighbors.

Advisory panel studies Rock-Tenn options

The community advisory panel studying energy options for the Rock-Tenn paper recycling plant is entering the home stretch of its months of work. After many meetings and presentations on a wide variety of energy options,

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Bug expert invites visitors to get feet wet in Como Lake

By ANDY FINKEN

In an attempt to showcase the methods used to test water quality in local lakes, bug expert Brandon Burns and Capital Region Watershed District (CRWD) invite any and all to come get their feet wet this summer as they search Como and Loeb lakes for microinvertebrate wildlife – a telling indication of water quality.

On June 12 and 26, Burns, a high school teacher in Fridley and experienced biologist, will display common water testing methodology for those in attendance at an event the CRWD is calling “A Bug’s Night Out.” Using dip nets to gather samples of the lakes’ ecological composition, Burns will determine the presence of microinvertebrates – little backboned insects – that reveal overall water quality; the greater the diversity of these creatures the healthier the body of water.

“This event is primarily an educational opportunity for the kids, and adults too I guess,” said Elizabeth Storey from Capital Region Watershed District. “As awareness is heightened, we hope that people will be more interested and willing to support projects or do what they can to help.

CRWD is a local government conservation agency serving to promote, manage and improve water resources in the local met-



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ropolitan area. Watershed districts, unlike county or city organizations, have a slightly more nuanced area of governance as bodies of water criss-cross and weave in and out of other perfunctory boundaries as they traverse the landscape, according to Storey. The CRWD jurisdiction could loosely be thought of as the Saint Paul/Falcon Heights greater area. She said that CRWD has held

similar events in past years; however, they have traditionally taken the form of festivals. This year, instead of grouping everything together in one afternoon, they hope to increase participation and retention by offering a number of events at different times that are more narrowly focused.

“We’re going to try and catch some bugs and talk about what they are and what they say about

the water,” said Burns. He said that after they sift through a lot of mud they will be left with a white tray with water and various types of bugs, hopefully.

“We’ll introduce them to the idea that different types of bugs indicate different things, he said. “Backswimmers are tolerant of large amounts of pollution while dragonflies need higher oxygen levels and fewer pollutants.”

Events like “A Bug’s Night Out” are quickly becoming indicative of the direction in which the social and political landscape has been moving over the last year, according to Burns. He said current energy issues are bringing a wide range of environment concerns out of the woodwork.

“I don’t think these issues have suddenly become more important, there’s just recently been a greater awareness,” said Burns. “The idea that we should be doing things on an individual level is fairly recent.”

He said the common person is just now being made aware of little things she or he can do to decrease pollution. For instance, he mentioned that washing cars on the lawn instead of the driveway and keeping fertilizers off concrete areas will prevent runoff into sewers and eventually lakes.

Burns wealth of environmental knowledge is part academic

and part experiential. Since graduating from Colorado College in 2000, he has studied marine ecology in Mexico while also working as a dive guide. He said guiding tourists around under water reefs afforded him a rare opportunity to talk about conservation issues abroad and at home.

“We would talk about how even the watershed here (Saint Paul) affects the Mexican environment,” said Burns. “Our water goes in the Mississippi which goes into the golf of Mexico where it can affect the reefs.”

After Mexico, Burns moved to Arizona to conduct research on Bald Eagles, and then found himself in Northern Wisconsin forests doing carbon budget research – measuring and documenting the amount of carbon a forest ecosystem takes out of the air.

In 2004, Burns moved to the Twin Cities to work as a wetland health field coordinator for Hennepin County. It was in this capacity that Burns received most of his training on identifying and classifying microinvertebrates. As a field coordinator, he trained volunteers how to appropriately monitor wetlands. It is this experience that will inform those attending his June events.

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U of M's desires for Central Corridor could derail the transit project

By JANE MCCLURE

Where Central Corridor light rail should go through the University of Minnesota east bank campus is an issue that has threatened to derail the long-awaited transit project. Months of debate over the Central Corridor's route ended May 28 as the Central Corridor Corridor Management Committee voted 11-1 to halt studies of the northern alignment, which would send light rail trains through Dinkytown and the northern part of the East Bank campus.

The committee's decision, which was unanimously affirmed later May 28 by the full Metropolitan Council, puts the trains at-grade for five blocks of Washington Avenue, a proposal University officials have raised a number of objections to. It would turn Washington into a mall for pedestrians, buses, trains and emergency vehicles. The U originally wanted a tunnel below Washington, but that option was dropped in February due to high costs.

University of Minnesota Vice President Kathleen O'Brien cast the lone no vote on the Corridor Management Committee. Officials from Ramsey and Hennepin counties, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Minnesota Department of Transporta-

tion (MnDOT) and Metropolitan Council supported the Washington alignment.

The sometimes harsh debate between U of M officials and the Metropolitan Council over the chosen alignment raised fears about the light rail project's future. Officials close to the project worry that the divisiveness may not be looked upon favorably by the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), which needs to provide half of the project's construction funding. The Metropolitan Council hopes to submit the project's detailed plans and request for funding to the FTA in September. One argument is that other communities seeking the same dollars would be able to present a more united front for their projects.

U of M President Robert Bruinicks indicated in a letter to Metropolitan Council Chairperson Peter Bell that the U can't support anything other than the northern alignment. That has prompted Bell and other officials to say that such a position could kill the project.

At the May 21 management committee meeting, Bell expressed concern that the Central Corridor project "is in a very tenuous place right now." He said the ability to meet the time frame is already a

worry. Bell said while he respects the U of M, their requests to continue studying the northern alignment could mean a delay of two years for the project. Every year of delay could add \$40 to \$45 million to the project costs.

Even state legislators have gotten involved in the debate, with State Representative Alice Hausman and Minnesota House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher speaking before the management committee in recent weeks. Kelliher's message was one of asking the groups to respectfully end their differences.

Hausman was more blunt in her comments May 28, expressing unhappiness toward U officials. Hausman has spent much of her legislative career working on the Central Corridor project.

Under the best-case scenario, construction of Central Corridor would stay in 2010. Trains would start running the 11-mile route in 2014. However, the U of M asked whether that timeline is overly aggressive and claims that the FTA could very well ask that the timeline be adjusted or delayed.

The debate pitted the U against county city and state officials. Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin said the

decision to support Washington Avenue isn't a choice between a good alternative and a bad alternative, but a matter of weighing risks. He said that during the months of studies, Washington has emerged as the better alternative.

"We've spent an enormous amount of time on one spot on this long line," said Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. The U of M does pose a number of unique issues, he added. It is the largest point source of traffic in the Twin Cities and it is bisected by the Mississippi River.

"It's an incredibly complicated place, and we have to spend time on it," Rybak said. Yet a decision needs to be made so that engineering studies can be completed.

St. Paul and Ramsey County officials said the Central Corridor studies should move ahead, saying their communities gave up additional stations on University Av-

enue and a Union Depot connection when

budget cuts were needed. They pointed out that there are still many unresolved issues on the St. Paul stretch of rail line, ranging from loss of parking for University Avenue businesses to the challenges downtown businesses could face.

A huge issue Mayor Chris Coleman cited is that of the Snelling and University intersection. Although city, county and MnDOT officials have studied the intersection and alternatives to move traffic through, there is no money in the Central Corridor project budget to address that issue. Coleman said the intersection and Snelling's capacity are "huge problems" that have yet to be addressed.

Coleman, who repeatedly interrupted the U of M's project consultants during the May 21 committee meeting, said Central Corridor is at "great risk" if it doesn't move forward. He was critical of the northern alignment, saying it "doesn't make sense."

Project staff and U of M consultants reviewed their studies in detail May 21. The project with the Washington Avenue alignment now stands at \$892 million, down from the \$909 million previously estimated. The reduction from various project changes, mainly reductions in proposed right-of-way purchases.

The alignments were compared in details, with debate over issues ranging from the need for environmental mitigation in spots along the northern alignment to the traffic impacts on East River Road that Washington could create. There was also extensive debate over how engineering had been done on the northern alignment and whether that route could parallel a set of railroad tracks as U of M officials had hoped. Another topic of debate was ridership and how U of M consultants did their calculations.

One key difference management committee members honed in on is that of ridership, with the Central Corridor with a northern alignment route having 36,000 riders each day. That's compared to 42,000 if Washington is used.

But the university stuck to its arguments. O'Brien said there are "opportunities and challenges" on Washington. The U of M has Central Corridor project staff have already compiled a long list of mitigation costs, totaling \$31.5 million. These costs range from \$11.1 million to reconfigure streets around the East Bank campus to \$4.4 million to mitigate the impact of light rail on nearby research laboratories. It's feared that light rail trains will cause vibrations and create electro-magnetic interference on sensitive lab equipment.





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Central Corridor plans chug through another series of hearings

By JANE MCCLURE

Concerns about the loss of University Avenue on-street parking, pleas for added stations and worries about impacts on adjacent communities continue to be heard as the Central Corridor light rail route plans go through yet another series of public hearings. More than 70 people attended a May 29 public hearing at the Midway Goodwill/Easter Seals building, with more than a dozen submitting testimony. It was the first in a series of hearings on the rail project's plans and supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS). The hearings continued through the first week of June.

State law requires that cities, counties and regional rail authority boards hold hearings and accept comments on the Central Corridor light rail plans. These groups can then vote to accept the plans or can oppose them. If for example the St. Paul City Council had an objection to aspects of the rail plans, it would have to explain that objection. Project planners would then have to determine if changes could be made to address the objections.

The design plans show some – but not all – features of the planned light rail line. The general

dimensions and layout of the line, station locations, traffic lane configurations, access for persons with disabilities and other physical features of streets themselves. Information isn't available yet on physical design of stations, public art, streetscape improvements, construction phasing and utilities relocation.

The May 29 hearing was the first in a series of hearings on the project's preliminary design plans. It was hosted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Hennepin and Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority boards. Minneapolis, St. Paul and Ramsey County held their hearings after Monitor deadline. The final public hearing is at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17 at the Hennepin County Government Center, 300 6th St.

Ramsey County and St. Paul will accept written comments until June 12. Minneapolis will accept comments until June 9, with Hennepin County's comment period ending June 23. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will accept comments until June 12.

Details on the project, including information on where to submit comments, is at the Central Corridor web site, at

<http://www.centralcorridor.org> Or you may call 651-602-1645.

After the public hearing series concludes, Central Corridor planners will take the comments and finalize work on the light rail plans. Another public hearing will be held in July.

The plans will then be voted on by the Metropolitan Council August 27, with submission to the Federal Transportation Administration in late August or early September.

The first hearing ended almost an hour earlier than expected. Community activists involved in the project said they weren't sure why more people didn't turn out for the hearing. During the recent push to site future rail stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues, hundreds of people and dozens of community groups became involved. One focus May 29 was on getting those stations built.

Some question whether the months of debate over the project are taking a toll on public interest. Others said the hearing's 5 p.m. start wasn't conducive to business participation, or for citizens who couldn't leave their jobs early.

Most speakers May 29 said they are pleased to see Central Corridor moving ahead. The light

rail project has been on the drawing boards for more than two decades. The advocacy group Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) had several speakers supporting the project.

Only one person, Scott Halstead of Shoreview, spoke against the project. He has analyzed Central Corridor and existing bus line travel times and said. "This is going to be a very slow transit system that's not going to be expandable."

Other speakers continued to focus on the controversial alignment through the University of Minnesota East Bank campus, although the decision on that route was made May 28 by the Metropolitan Council. Most of these speakers agreed with the decision to site light rail at-grade on Washington Avenue, rather than on an alignment through Dinkytown and the northern part of the East Bank campus.

Additional comments centered on now-familiar concerns about the light rail project – the push to add three stations in St. Paul, accommodations for bicycle riders who need to travel through the area and the need to help University Avenue businesses replace lost on-street parking.

Carolyn Gay, a Summit Hill

resident representing the faith-based group ISAIAH, said the group wants project planners to protect small businesses that will be affected during construction and by loss of parking. Gay said the project needs to do "as little harm to businesses as possible."

The coalition University UNITED is also concerned about the loss of parking. UNITED executive Director Brian McMahon said there need to be serious efforts to compensate businesses for the lost parking and other economic impacts.

Peter Vang of the Hmong Business Association and Vang Dental Clinic also raised parking concerns. He said the plans need to do more to help businesses during construction and after parking is lost to the rail line.

Another issue McMahon is that the light rail design drawings, which are posted online, are difficult to read. UNITED a coalition of organizations and businesses along University Avenue, operates a community planning office called U-Plan. U-Plan has prepared simplified drawings of the route and station areas.

"You should not have to read a page of codes and instructions before you read a page of the plans themselves," he said.

Bug expert

Continued from page 3

In fact, "A Bug's Night Out" is just one of the ways in which the CRWD is currently targeting water quality improvements.

"We're interested in reducing non-point source pollution in local bodies of water," said Story. Non-point source pollution is pollution whose source cannot be fully determined. One of CRWD's methods of targeting non-point source pollution is, of course, to cut down on point source pollution.

Of the tactics CRWD uses to decrease non-point source pollution, policy requirements that target sites of construction and development, exemplifies the organization's overall efforts. Balk barriers, or envirologs, composed of dirt and sand composite often boarder construction areas to retard pollution attempting to escape with rain water and wind. Filters are

placed between storm drains and manhole covers inside the envirolog boarder for the same reason.

Methods of preventing water-harming pollutants from escaping the site via construction vehicle tires are also employed by way of a Stabilized Entrance Route. Large gravel particles or rocks coat the area's exit points to shake the clinging sediment from truck tires. The gravel is rough enough to vibrate the pollution free yet not damage the construction vehicles, as its tires are of a heavier grade.

Also, under a permitting program that was passed in 2006, before any new building can begin on site, the construction company must file a permit with CRWD that includes conservation considerations similar to those above.

The CRWD board then approves, denies or makes recommendations on the permit to ensure that adequate preparation is made to control pollution.

"This is policy that works," said Storey. "The difference is measurable."

Storey agrees with Burns that the common person has a role to play as well. She said that homeowners can make significant contributions by raking leaves and taking measures to hold their rainwater on their property, possibly through the construction of a raingarden.

In addition, CRWD offers a stewardship grant program to residents, nonprofits, government agencies serving the CRWD, businesses within the CRWD and public and private schools located

within the CRWD. Eligible projects include raingardens, rain barrels, green roofs, pervious pavement, projects that reduce soil erosion, shoreline restoration, and water quality education activities or programs.

All of the CRWD's efforts fall under the umbrella of simply improving the overall quality of the area's water, something Burns anticipates will become a large part people's lives in approaching years.

"Water is likely to become the issue that energy is right now," said Burns. He said that he anticipates seeing more individual environmental action for the good of the community rather than top down initiatives through federal, state or even the local watershed district. He feels the same

way about energy.

"I think energy will become a more localized phenomenon," said Burns. "I think we're all going to become consumers of our own energy source or preference. Wind in the Midwest, solar in the Arizona area."

As for today, however, Burns said he is content to continue wading through swamps in search of microinvertebrate insects.

Bugs' Night Out on June 12 at Como Lake will run 6:30 to 8 p.m., and then repeat on June 26 but at Loeb Lake, 6:30-8 p.m.

All watershed events, including Bug's Night Out, are free to all CRWD residents. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elizabeth Storey at Capital Region Watershed District at 651-644-8888 or Elizabeth@capitolregionwd.org.

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University wants to grow...

Hamline University's Board signs off on 20 year master plan

By ANDY FINKEN

The anticipated growth of Hamline University became a certainty on May 9 as the board of trustees signed off on the university's 20 year master plan.

The acceptance of the plan comes just one year after the board of trustees approved the university's five year strategic plan, wherein, among many other initiatives, enrollment is expected to expand by 500 students.

The master plan is divided into five year increments. The first increment has been designed to accomplish the physical change necessary to implement the strategic plan.

"The first five year increment (of the master plan) is more than a vision. This is what we're going to do," said Vice President for Finance Office Doug Anderson.

By 2013, according to Anderson, the plan calls for the construction of a new student center, or "University Center," on the corner of Snelling and Englewood, the addition of student housing adjacent to the existing Hamline Apartments – on the corner of Englewood and Pascal – and the renovation of the current student center. Construction of the university center is expected to take place in 2011 and the additional housing the following year.

He said all of these additions will take place on land that is currently owned by the University, minus one house in the vicinity of the Hamline Apartments.

At this point, it is not completely clear what exactly the campus will look like twenty years from now. It is certain, however, that the university plans to cover the entire three blocks directly

south of their current campus, making the southern border not Englewood but Minnehaha.

In their tentative 20 year plan, parts of Englewood and Simpson that intersect campus are completely closed. There will be construction of underground parking and additional green park-like areas will cover large portions of the campus. Additionally, housing will encapsulate a large share of the south and south eastern borders of the campus.

While preparing the master plan, planners met with the Hamline Midway Coalition, held a forum for immediate neighbors, Hamline United Methodist Church members and the Saint Paul mayor. They also invited any interested persons to weigh in at a campus planning road show that was held in February.

"Between the road show, the church congregation, town hall meetings and the board of trustees we have had close to 600 people involved in planning," Anderson said. "We are committed to and have been working hard to be a good community member."

During these community events, university students, faculty and staff and community members were invited to offer evaluative critiques and speculative suggestions. After reviewing the plans, Midway resident Krista Finstad Hanson found herself at odds with one aspect of the plan: The demolition of historic neighborhood buildings.

"I get frustrated when Hamline doesn't try to keep up their history," said Finstad Hanson. "It's not just neighborhood houses they're proposing to take down. They're taking down the history of

Hamline."

She specifically cited the plan's intention to remove the Hamline White House, the large home on the Hewitt side of campus that has historically accommodated the university's president.

Finstad Hanson said she considers herself an architectural historian by passion. She is a member of the Hamline Architectural History Core, a neighborhood group interested in connecting midway residents with the university and its students in an attempt to improve the neighborhood.

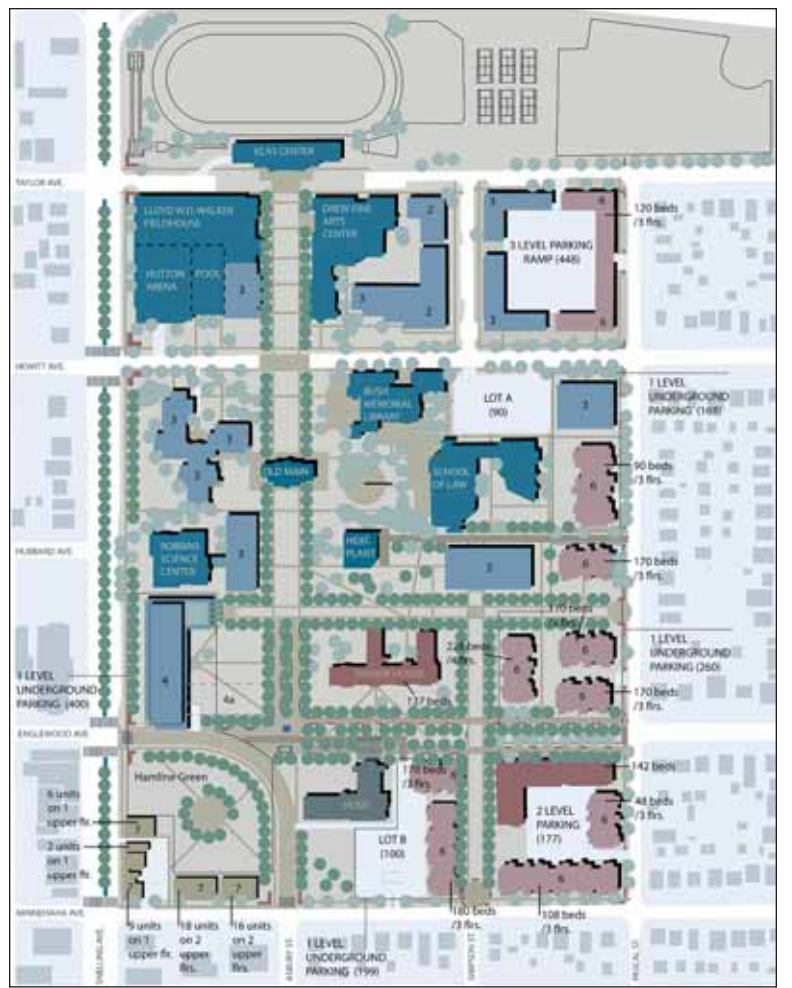
It is that group, for instance, that is responsible for organizing the "Paint the Pavement" art on the corner of Pascal and Van Buren. The group is in their third year and currently researching and compiling information on their website about the neighborhood.

"Hamline is the reason we are here," said Finstad Hanson. "The history of the neighborhood is tied to Hamline. The university is an integral part of the neighborhood, and really the whole city."

She said that the development of the neighborhood began because of the university and at a much earlier point in time than many other parts of the surrounding city. Many of the houses surrounding campus were built by retired Methodist pastors and Hamline University professors, according to Finstad Hanson.

In addition, Finstad Hanson finds fault with the university's approach to green expansion, especially, she said, in light of the fact that people are currently becoming much more cognizant of environmental concerns.

Referring to one of the speculative 20 year master plans, Finstad



The anticipated growth of Hamline University became a certainty on May 9 as the board of trustees signed off on the university's 20 year master plan.

Hanson said, "To tear down four dorms and three blocks of houses in order to build more dorms is not being green," she said. "The university should be saying 'how can we take existing buildings and reuse.'"

She said that in order to condone such plans, she would have to believe that the university explored the possibility of other adjacent locations, such as the Midway Motel, or other non-adjacent local satellite locations that could simply be converted into a usable space.

The trustees have tentatively agreed, however, that a southern expansion is in the overall best in-

terest of the university. In addition, the old homes on the Hewitt portion of campus are expected to be torn down or moved, according to Anderson. He said that the new buildings will not look foreign in the neighborhood; rather, they will be designed with a sort of town home semblance. He said that conversations regarding plans outside of the first five year increment are still very much ongoing and in no way final.

"Economically, it is a good time to do this," said Anderson. "There are low rates of interest and the university has been storing up our borrowing capacity. It's a great time to make these moves."

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I am newly back from my annual trek to the North Shore of Lake Superior. Every year I attend a conference at the beginning of May. It is held at a lovely resort north of Two Harbors. We splurge and rent a lake home more beautiful than our own home - complete with fire place, dishwasher, hot tub, and expansive views of that spectacular lake. The conference focuses on child and adolescent psychiatry. It is a beautiful setting in which to discuss a rather difficult topic.

I learned so much that I cannot share all of it in this article. But I do want to mention a few points that have stayed on my mind. This article will be about adolescent depression. At another time I will write about childhood depression.

One of the speakers emphasized that we clinicians teach parents how to know if their child has a fever, or is dehydrated, or has other symptoms of physical illness. But we don't teach parents how to notice if their child or teen is depressed.

Depressed teens often show different symptoms than depressed adults. Plus, teens normally have extremes in moods. So it can be difficult to know what is normal adolescent behavior, and what are signs of depression.

Cares and Cures

By JANE KILIAN, M.D.

Dealing with adolescent depression

If your teen is having trouble sleeping or is sleeping all the time, consider depression. If your teen's grades are slipping, consider depression. If s/he isn't spending time with friends, consider depression. Weight changes, poor hygiene, and changes in eating habits (in particular craving carbohydrates), can all be signs of depression.

Depression is a condition which affects three primary aspects of a person's life: their mood, their energy, and their cognitive (or thinking) abilities. One characteristic of depression is a person's inability to have fun, to enjoy activities that used to be pleasurable. This is called "anhedonia" from the word hedonism (which means fun). With the prefix "an" it means lack of fun.

An adolescent who is described as "having a bad attitude" is often suffering from depression and anhedonia. She is not having

any fun. Nothing brings him joy. So she isn't interested in participating in activities or he doesn't talk to anyone about anything.

Because thinking is disrupted with depression, your teen may react to situations in a very unexpected way because they lose some of their ability to have perspective on other's actions.

Here's an example. Imagine that depression very gradually turns someone's vision from clear to red. So each day the depressed person begins to see things in darker shades of pink or red. But the teen doesn't know this because it is happening so gradually, and the parent doesn't know this because it is not obvious to them.

So - a mom sees beautiful lemons at the grocery store. Knowing that her daughter has been sad lately, and knowing that her daughter loves lemons, the mom buys some of these luscious lemons for her daughter.

When she shows them to the daughter, who is depressed and seeing everything through red glasses, the daughter does not see lemons but sees oranges. And they are pretty crummy looking oranges at that (small, oval shaped, and a bit off color).

So no one is happy - daughter cannot appreciate the gift and mom wonders why she even tried because nothing seems to please her daughter anyway.

This is an example of the cognitive changes that accompany depression. Other examples are misinterpreting what friends say - so the teen ends up thinking that no one likes them, or that everyone picks on them all the time, or that teachers favor the other students. All of these examples deserve further exploration, but they could be signs of depression.

What's a parent to do? First of all - be involved with your

child's life. Know their friends. Become familiar with their interests. Eat meals together. Plan physical activities as a family. Talk with their teachers about school performance and behaviors.

And watch for signs of depression. If you are concerned, talk to your son or daughter. Schedule an appointment with their health care provider. Most family practice doctors and pediatricians are familiar with adolescent depression and can help with both the diagnosis and the treatment of this illness.

Depression is fixable. Teens can recover, go on to have fun, do well in school, engage in good relationships. But only if someone notices that they are depressed and guides them to help.

(Dr. Kilian is a family practice physician who lives and works in the Midway Como community. She believes that good medicine means caring for people as well as curing diseases. We want to address your health concerns so please let us know what topics you would like to see in future columns. If you have suggestions or questions, write to the Monitor c/o 1885 University Avenue West, #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Or e-mail denisw@aplacetoremember.com.)

Funding for Central Corridor, Polar Bear Odyssey restored to State budget

By JANE MCCLURE

Things didn't end as badly as expected. That's the assessment of the 2008 legislative session that St. Paul and Ramsey County leaders share.

"It could have been a lot worse," said Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen, who chairs the City Council's Ad Hoc Legislative Committee. "There's not much we can do when we're dealing with a governor who wants to play political games and veto our projects."

Helgen praised the city's legislative delegation for its efforts to work with local elected officials, during what at times was a very trying session.

As of late May city and county officials were continuing to scrutinize legislation, bill by bill. The City Council and the County Board will get detailed legislative summaries in June. Not long after that, they begin preparing for the 2009 session.

Probably the most high-profile project county and city officials were tracking was the quest for \$70 million for the Central Corridor light rail line. The allocation was line-item vetoed by Pawlenty, then restored in last-minute budget negotiations.

County commissioners, who shepherded Central Corri-



Despite seeing every St. Paul request in the original bonding bill vetoed, state lawmakers did restore \$300,000 to complete the Polar Bear Odyssey at Como Zoo.

dor for years under the auspices of the county's Regional Rail Authority, were pleased to see

the \$70 million restored. Not having that money in place would make it more difficult to

obtain the federal match for the \$892 million project.

County Commissioner Jim McDonough, who chairs the Regional Rail Authority, had predicted that if the money would be restored, it would happen at the last minute. Having the \$70 million put back in place allows commissioners to now focus on detailed engineering studies of the project, which will be wrapped up this summer. McDonough and other commissioners said they were pleased to see the \$70 million restored, so that the project can move forward.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Mike's Auto Care: living out a dream on Rice St. despite pinch of rising gas prices

By JAN WILLMS

It's a busy Saturday morning, and Ray Andresen takes a short break from working on a car. The phone is ringing, and a customer comes by to collect her auto. Andresen, who with his wife, Diane, owns Mike's Auto Care at 1174 Rice Street, takes it all in stride.

He is, after all, living out his dream.

"For the last 25 years, I have wanted a gas station," Andresen said. He put in 22 years at Merit Chevrolet, and in July 2000 bought the station on Rice Street, joining the many other automotive shops, car dealers and gas stations that populate the North End.

"My wife's uncle put me and Ed Rebas, the previous owner, together," Andresen said. Mike was Rebas's father, and Rebas encouraged Andresen to keep the name.

"If someone calls and asks for Mike, you'll know it's a salesman," Rebas told him, since Mike had been deceased for a number of years.

The station, built in 1952, was under the Texaco brand. However, since Texaco left Minnesota, Andresen has operated as an independent.

"Getting suppliers that will guarantee quality gasoline is a challenge," Andresen said. He said that one of his suppliers has a test kit, however, which enables him to test the gas.

"If I'm fixing cars, I need quality gas," he noted.

Besides pumping gas, Andresen provides all types of auto care and maintenance. He "sublets" major engine repair, recommending another service provider.

"If someone came in and filled up with poor quality gas, they would remember that. And when it came time to get car repair done, they would just remember the bad gas and go to another me-

chanic," Andresen said.

Andresen is well aware of the increasing cost of gasoline and the economic hardship being felt by customers.

"I hate the high gas prices as much as the next guy," he said. He cited the customer who pays \$4 per gallon for 30 gallons of gas, and talked about how much it costs him when he purchases two to three thousand gallons. "It hurts me as much as my customer, just on a larger scale," he said.

Andresen has six pumps at his station, and they are the old mechanical pumps.

"A huge difference between the old pumps and the new computerized ones is when you want to change prices," Andresen said. "With the new ones, you just type in price changes on a computer. I have to go out and physically change each number on each pump. Sometimes the prices change four times in a day, and I don't have time to change the numbers as often as I should."

He said that when the gas price drops, it drops, and he has no choice but to get out and change the prices.



Although Mike's Auto Care owner Ray Andresen has the option of replacing parts of his old pumps with numeric computers that will go up to \$9.99, he does not plan to do so anytime soon. (Photo by Terry Faust)



For his part, Mike's Auto Care owner Ray Andresen, 1174 Rice Street, said he thinks the automobile should be embraced. He would like to see more full-service stations, and also drive-in restaurants and drive-in movies.

"I just drag my feet when the price goes up so fast, because it is time-consuming," he said.

Andresen said four of his pumps only go as high as \$2.99 per gallon, and two only go up to \$3.99. "If gas goes higher, you have to do half gallon pricing," he said.

"When it gets busy, it's easy to make a mistake and charge someone \$10 for gas instead of \$20. And I have done that."

But in spite of the inconvenience, Andresen prefers his older pumps.

"People have less problems with the old pumps," he said. "They're not subject to weather

like the newer ones."

He said he likes the mechanical pumps because they are simple. "If something breaks, I can fix it. And it doesn't cost a lot to fix."

Although he has the option of replacing parts of his old pumps with numeric computers that will go up to \$9.99, he does not plan to do so anytime soon.

"My pumps are pretty much bulletproof, and can't go wrong," he said. The one addition he would like to have is the capability for his pumps to make a ding noise, as they did in earlier years.

Andresen reaches back in time to when he was growing up, watching Andy Griffith and other old movies and television, with the guy at the service station wearing a hat.

"I fell in love with that," he said.

He offers full service at his station.

"I like it that way," he said. "That's the way I was raised. My wife likes to say our station is pay-at-the-pump, the old-fashioned way."

"The full-service is more personal," he added, "and that's good PR. I don't just sit there and collect the money."

As far as today's high prices, Andresen said he had never thought prices would hit \$3 per gallon.

"I don't think the government will be happy until we're paying \$9 to \$10 per gallon," he said. "This is the United States of America. There is no reason we should be paying more than \$1 per gallon. We have the technology and resources, but the government is getting in the way of doing business."

He said there is much talk about the higher price of gasoline in other countries, but he wants to also hear about the countries that are paying much less.

"I believe it's social engineering," he said. "They'll get us on the light rail and buses when the gas goes up so high."

For his part, Andresen said he thinks the automobile should be embraced. He would like to see more full-service stations, and also drive-in restaurants and drive-in movies.

His passion for nostalgia is reflected in the Texaco memorabilia in his place of business.

There is a picture of a Texaco station on Route 66, circa 1947. Lights from Lionel Trains light the picture. An advertisement shows a woman in fancy dress, touting Texaco, from the World War II era. A gas pump from 1940 stands near the door.

"I love pumping gas," Andresen said. "The weather doesn't bother me, and it's nice to get out and greet customers and talk with them. I'd like to do this for a long, long time."

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IFP Minnesota is a place where the magic becomes reality

By JAN WILLMS

Film director Francis Ford Coppola claims that cinema, movies and magic have always been related.

"The very earliest people who made film were magicians," he said.

IFP Minnesota Center for Media Arts, 2466 University Ave., is a place where the magic can become reality.

IFP Minnesota is the Center for Media Arts that supports and promotes the work of artists who create screenplays, film, video and photography in the Midwest, according to its vision statement.

"We want to be considered a center for people to come together, learn, network, promote and exhibit their work—in general, a welcoming place to nurture their creativity," said Reilly Tillman, education director.

Through a series of mergers with earlier media centers, pooling resources to become one strong organization, IFP Minnesota opened its doors at its current location in 2005.

IFP Minnesota offers 30-35 classes per quarter on filmmaking, photography and creative software programs.

The space offers state-of-the-art darkrooms. Classes are held in the large darkroom, which has 16 enlarger stations.

A computer lab features almost every software program a filmmaker or photographer could want, such as Final Cut Pro, Pro Tools, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, After Effects and Flash.

"We're expanding the lab," Tillman said. He said the goal is to keep the classes small.

An LCD projection system was just installed.

Through a recently launched Youth Education Program, IFP MN has partnered with three public schools during the academic year, serving approximately 150 students in Minneapolis and St. Paul. IFP MN artist instructors bring high quality filmmaking education and exhibition opportunities to high school stu-



IFP Minnesota Center for Media Arts, 2466 University Ave., is a place where the magic can become reality. Above, Emily Goldberg speaks to Reilly Tillman about recent trends in filmmaking. (Photo by Terry Faust)

dents through residency programming, according to Tillman.

Youth photo classes and filmmaking classes are offered at IFP during the summer.

In collaboration with the Minnesota History Center, youth make a "minnedocumentary," a short film about some historical aspect of Minnesota.

"The History Center opened its doors, and the kids had access to archive photos and could interview certain curators," he said. They were able to go into all the restricted access areas."

IFP Minnesota classes are open to people from all communities and all ages.

"Oftentimes, people who start taking classes when in their 30s, 40s or 50s become the more serious filmmakers," Tillman said. "For example, someone may have a documentary or narrative project already in the works, and we provided them the knowledge

and tools to make it a reality."

He added that he is also getting more and more parents calling, asking if it is okay if their 16-year-old is in a class with adults. He said the young student frequently turns out to be the most motivated in the class.

An access grant program from IFP offers up to \$2,500 toward equipment rental or facilities for an individual to work on a project. He or she writes a project proposal with a budget and timeline in applying for the grant.

"I was in the first round of people to get that grant," Tillman said. He did a documentary on the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps called "Madison on Tour." The two-time world championship group from Wisconsin had been performing nearly 70 years. Tillman, who plays with Minnesota Brass, said drum and

bugle corps performance has been a passion of his. His film was shown twice on public television.

Tillman said the program has been revamped for 2008 and is now called "Fresh Filmmaker Production Grants" in memory of Dennis O'Rourke. "He was THE movie sound expert who generously provided his professional services to indie filmmakers at below-market rates," Tillman said.

IFP Minnesota also offers four fellowships each year through the McKnight Foundation, two in screenwriting and two in filmmaking, offering \$25,000 to each recipient.

"These fellowships are targeted at mid-career artists who already have a body of work," Tillman said.

A 2007 fellowship winner is

Emily Goldberg, a documentarian best known for her transgender love story, "Venus and Mars," based on the transgender band, All the Pretty Horses.

An art history major in college, Goldberg planned on a career in archaeology.

"I found out it was not my thing; I needed to be around people," she said. She moved to the Twin Cities in her early twenties, and started working in public television. She moved into the arts and documentary filmmaking, which has become her great love.

"The last 10 years I have been freelancing and making independent films," she said.

She said she does video production to support her documentary habit.

Her McKnight award is helping her fund a documentary she is doing on an animal rights activist in Oregon.

Goldberg works out of a studio at 2402 University, Suite 600, with several others involved in video production. She also co-teaches a class on how to make a successful documentary trailer at IFP.

"A big part of making documentaries is getting others interested in funding or helping, and you need a 10-minute piece to show prospective funders. That's an art in itself," Goldberg said.

She said she finds IFP Minnesota a great place that brings together makers of all levels. "It's a great opportunity to learn from people who are already doing," she said.

She said that from her perspective as an instructor, she gets a lot out of it, looking at what is out there in the community. Her students range in age from 16 to mid-60s, a broad range of men and women.

"For people making their first films, you can see the light bulbs going off in their heads," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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In Our Community

University Avenue group meets June 19

The next meeting of the University Avenue Business Association is June 19, at 8:00 a.m. at Model Cities, 849 University Avenue, for a follow-up discussion on parking issues. The group will be presenting options for how to address the loss of most street parking because of the construction of light rail. A light breakfast will be served.

Please forward this notice to other business people as these should be very important meetings. For additional information call 651-647-6711 or visit www.universityavenuebiz.com

District 10 sponsors Tai Chi course

The District 10 Como Community Council is sponsoring a six-week Tai Chi course starting Saturday, June 21 at 9 a.m. in Como Park, southwest of the Pavilion. There will be no class on July 5. Tai Chi is a combination of movement, balance and meditation that pays special attention to the body and mind. The Sun Style course for beginners will be offered. Donations will be accepted. For more information, please see the District 10 website at www.comopark.org or call 651-644-3889.

Rice St. Branch Library offers June events

The Rice Street Branch Library has a wide variety of activities planned for June. A list of events: The library will offer an early-literacy-based preschool story time on Tuesday June 17 from 10:30-11:00 a.m. The Brodini Comedy Magic Show will perform on Tuesday June 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Free Job Search Assistance will be offered by a consultant from Goodwill-Easter Seals on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Stepping Stone Theatre classes for 3-1/2 to 5 year olds will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturdays June 14, 21, and 28. Using body, voice and imagination, students will explore different cultures in their community by bringing a different folktale to life during each class session. Register in person at the library or by calling 651-558-2223.

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between Lawson and Hatch. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12:30-9 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For more event information, please call 651-558-2223 or visit www.sppl.org.

New butterfly exhibit opens at Como Park



See hundreds of butterflies from Asia, North, Central and South America flying freely in a new indoor, temporary exhibit among tropical plants in a lush garden environment at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Como's Blooming Butterflies opened June 6 and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through September 7. Visitors can experience a spectacular butterfly garden where they are immersed in a lush butterfly habitat surrounded by hundreds of butterflies moving freely throughout Blooming Butterflies. Over 100 species from around the world will be exhibited throughout the summer, with each visit creating a different experience. At any given time up to 500 butterflies can be found in the habitat delighting guests through intimate interaction.

Jehovah hosts young organists

On Tuesday June 24 from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Avenue, will host an American Guild of Organists' (AGO) "Rising Young Stars" recital on the church's magnificent Van Daalen organ. This morning session features the "most brilliant young artists from across the country" says Jehovah's organist Dr. Kim Kasling. The concert is part of the National AGO 2008 convention being hosted by the Twin Cities chapter of the AGO from Saturday June 21 to Friday June 27 throughout the twin cities. More than 20 organ concerts and some 65 workshops will be held, newly commissioned works will be introduced and the International Year of the Organ will be inaugurated with several special events to celebrate The King of Instruments.

The "Rising Young Stars" concert at Jehovah is open by invitation only due to the large number of AGO convention registrants. Please call Dawn at 651-644-1421 if you are interested in attending.

Bake sale at Bethel Church June 21-22

Bethel Women's Fellowship Group is having a Bake Sale at Bethel Lutheran Church Saturday

June 21st 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday June 22nd 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bethel is located one block west of Dale Street at 670 W. Wheelock Pky.

Proceeds from the Bake Sale will benefit Bundles of Love, a charity which makes baby clothing and bedding for sick and/or needy newborns in the Twin City area. After the Bundles are prepared, they are donated to local hospitals, women's shelters and clinics where social workers give them to babies that need them the most.

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

St. Joseph's School holds open houses

St. Joseph's School of Music, 450 N. Syndicate St., will hold three open houses to introduce their new programs, Footprints and First Steps, to families of children birth through age 7. Tours of the school and demo/music classes will be featured. Dates and times: Tuesday, June 10 at 6 p.m.; Thursday, June 12 at 10 a.m.; Thursday, August 7 at 6 p.m. Call 651-690-4364 to reserve a spot or for further information.

Ice Cream Social June 30

An Ice Cream Social will take

place Monday, June 30 from 6:30- 8 p.m. on the northwest lawn of Hamline Methodist Church, corner of Asbury and Simpson. The event for for all ages will to celebrate seven years of Hamline Midway Elders, A Living at Home/Block Nurse Program, keeping seniors independent in their homes. Seniors, caregivers, families and potential volunteers are welcome to attend. In case of rain, the event will take place in the church fellowship hall (south door entrance). Questions or to request free transportation for a senior, call 651-209-6542.

Luncheon on health July 8

"The Road to Health is Paved with Good Intestines!" An overview of issues regarding the lower GI tract including colon cancer, irritable bowel and Crohn's Disease will be presented at a luncheon for Hamline Midway seniors on Tuesday, July 8 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 1514 Englewood Avenue. The speaker will be Virginia Schuster from the MN Gastroenterology Center. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations for the luncheon and request free transportation. If you are a senior, caregiver or neighbor and would like information about our services, visit www.blocknurse.org

Music of U2 featured at St. Timothy Lutheran

A unique new presentation of music with a message awaits visitors to St. Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Paul, where on June 21 the parish will hold its annual "Music on the Blacktop" and the first local "U2Charist" worship service.

The unique U2Charist will be fueled by the music of the band U2 and will raise visitors' awareness of the ONE Campaign, the global effort to combat poverty, hunger and disease, especially in the world's poorest countries and regions.

All revenue from Music on the Blacktop and all donations collected during the U2Charist will be donated to the ONE Campaign, Jorgensen said. Parishioners and supporters are donating time and materials for the annual street party. The band U2 allows its music to be used without licensing or royalty fees at worship services whose offerings are fully donated to non-profit, non-government organizations such as ONE Campaign that support the Millennium Development Goals.

The June 21 activities at St. Timothy start with Music on the Blacktop from 4-6:30 p.m. This annual street party is a community event that promotes meeting neighbors and enjoying live music and kids' carnival games on the street in front of the church. It has never been viewed as a fundraiser, Jorgensen said, but as a lively way to bring neighbors together. Whenever it has produced a profit, the funds were donated to charities such as Habitat for Humanity.

The U2Charist will begin at 6:30 p.m. inside the church. With the church's Celebrate Band playing the music of U2, visitors will learn not only about the scope of global poverty, hunger and disease, but more importantly, how they can get involved to lessen these problems.

Recycle old cell phones

The St. Paul Midway Lions Club, serving this area since 1940, has need for increased revenues to support its many charitable programs including helping Good Counsel Cancer Home, area foodshelves, and preventing diabetes and eye disease. Recycling your old cell phone helps the environment and now, your community Lions Club. The following St. Paul locations have Lions-marked drop-off boxes. For more information, call Lion Paul Smrekar at 651-646-4733.

Midway Family YMCA, 1761 University Avenue; Anchor Bank, 1750 Concordia and Snelling; Korte's Supermarket Store, 1326 Randolph; Lund and Lange Florist, 272 Snelling So.; Associated Hearing of St. Paul, 393 North Dunlap St. #115; Brewberry's Neighborhood Coffee Shop, Fairview and Randolph.

In a minute

Continued from page 2

the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) will hear more information about public health impacts at its meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, June 16. The group meets at the new Wilder Center at Lexington and University.

The task force includes representatives of area district councils, organized labor, the Midway Chamber of Commerce and the general public. Its members have worked with many consultants as they look at energy options ranging from continued use of fuel oil and natural gas to agricultural biomass and refuse-derived fuel or RDF. Thus far burning of fuels has proven to be the most controversial option. A group calling itself neighbors Against the Burner formed last year to oppose burning technology.

Starting in 1983 Rock-Tenn's power came from Xcel Energy's High Bridge Plant. A five-mile long steam line extended from the riverfront plant to the Midway. But when the old coal-burning High bridge facility was shut down last summer, the source of steam power went away. The new facility is fired by natural gas and wasn't built with the capacity to generate steam.

RCAP is currently looking at a number of energy options and received preliminary costs of building and operating various energy generation facilities June 2. The group also reviewed spreadsheets of what it would cost to produce fuels using some

of the proposed technologies. Fuel oil, natural gas, wood biomass and RDF were among the options discussed. The group is still looking at possible use of biogas, which could be produced through an anaerobic digestion or gassification process.

RCAP is also working on its draft report and recommendations on technology and fuel types. Later this summer area district councils and other groups could start weighing in on the choices. The issue will eventually go to the St. Paul City Council.

Detailed documents about the various technologies can be found on the RCAP web site, at www.rtadvisory.org

Target proposal wins Union Park support

A proposal to subdivide land north of the new Midway Super-Target store won the support of Union Park District Council May 7. But the council is also asking that any new structures in the area along University Avenue follow transit-oriented development guidelines, as Target officials promised when the store plans were approved two years ago.

Yet another request is that the city extend its zoning overlay restrictions for Central Corridor station areas to include the proposed Hamline station area. The restrictions, which the City Council approved last month, limit development around other station sites.

Hamline is not one of the station areas currently under



Target owns about 15.7 acres of property on University between Syndicate, St. Anthony and Hamline. Target would like to split off its store property and parking areas, with two smaller lots created along University.

study by a St. Paul Planning Commission task force. City staff have indicated that Hamline, as well as the Victoria and Western station sites, could be studied next year.

Target officials want to split what is now one parcel on University Avenue into three parcels for commercial or mixed-use development. This plan was discussed when SuperTarget went through the city approval process.

Target owns about 15.7 acres of property on University between Syndicate, St. Anthony and Hamline. Target would like to split off its store property and parking areas, with two smaller lots created along University.

The two lots along Universi-

ty are vacant and don't include a building that houses a video store and travel agency. The two lots would be developed as new retail uses. No specific users have been identified by Target. Union Park Land Use Chairperson Scott Banas said that when specific retail users are identified, plans would be brought back to the district council and city officials for review and approval.

A proposal to site a hotel on one of the parcels fell through last year.

When SuperTarget was built, some underground utilities were installed for future sanitary sewer service. Storm sewer connections and drainage plans will be planned when specific uses and plans come forward.

The properties are zoned for business use, which will not change.

Como property purchases parking lot

A Como Avenue rental property owner will be able to purchase a parking lot it has rented for more than 20 years. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and redevelopment Authority (HRA) agreed May 28 to sell land at Snelling and Como avenues to DeVine Management.

The land is a parking lot at the northeast corner of Como and Snelling. DeVine Management owns buildings nearby at 1563 and 1565 Como Av. The buildings contain eight commercial units and nine apartments. The company has leased the parking lot since 1985 but would like to own the property.

The land is owned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and was purchased years ago when Snelling Avenue was rebuilt. Because MnDOT cannot sell its land directly to a private property owner, the HRA had to act as a conduit for the purchase.

The property was put out for bids and DeVine was the only bidder.

The purchase has the support of the District 10 (Como) Community Council. No one appeared at an HRSA public hearing to speak against the purchase.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

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Proposal for redevelopment at Rice and Jessamine generates considerable debate

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposal to redevelop a site at Rice and Jessamine is generating debate in the North End. The plans call for tearing down a former fast food restaurant and building a three-story building on its site and on an adjacent parking lot.

A June 17 community meeting to discuss the project has been cancelled and the developers have had their application pulled by city staff. City staff can decide whether or not an application is complete or incomplete. The Planning Commission cannot act on an incomplete application. Staff decided there were questions on the conditional use permit as well as a parking variance and asked the developers to prepare new plans. Until those new plans are submitted, there is no issue before the Planning Commission and its Zoning Committee.

The proposal had originally been scheduled for June 5 but that Zoning Committee meeting had to be canceled when notices for eight pending zoning requests weren't sent out on time.

The Rice Street property has been considered a blight on the neighborhood for some time. It was a fast food restaurant for many years, popular with kids and senior citizens. Its last occupant, Hardees, closed almost a decade ago.

Since then the property has

been used for different businesses including a used car sales lot and a clinic. The neighborhood has rejected some redevelopment proposals for the site, which brought a threat of legal action from one prospective developer.

The issues that arise with site redevelopment include proximity to a residential neighborhood to the west, traffic on neighborhood

streets and in the north-south alley, and how a new development would fit into the surrounding area.

The development site is zoned for traditional neighborhoods use, so a rezoning is not needed. A conditional use permit is needed for the drive-through for a proposed coffee shop. It's not clear yet if the project needs other city ap-

provals such as variances. Other past projects on the site have needed parking variances but one intent of traditional neighborhoods or TN zoning is to ease what some see as overly onerous city parking restrictions.

The current project has been discussed for the past few months but some District 6 task force members said they want to see

more specifics. Committee members said that all they have seen is an artists' rendering, rather than detailed building drawings.

Lacking those specifics committee members recommended denial of the project's conditional use permit May 27. Committee members also indicated that the project could be brought back in the future and a new vote taken.

Another concern is the request for two curb cuts on Jessamine. Land Use Task force Chairman Jeff Martens said neighborhoods residents have fought for years to block the creation of curb cuts, a battle going back decades ago when a Burger Chef was built at the site. The fear has always been that curb cuts would send traffic into the residential neighborhood to the west.

"The neighbors said no then and the indications are that they'll say no now," Martens said. When Burger Chef and later Hardees operated at the site the restaurant drive-through lane traffic entered and exited from Rice Street.

Because Hardees' has been closed for many years and a new drive-through would be built, previous approvals for the old drive-through would no longer be in effect.

Frustration was also expressed about the lack of time to flier the community before the May 27 meeting. City planning staff didn't notify District 6 of the upcoming Planning Commission meeting until just before the Memorial Day weekend. That didn't allow time to get fliers out.

"I think people want to see a successful project built there," Martens said. "The site needs to be redeveloped. But there hasn't been enough information shared. The neighbors haven't been contacted, the adjacent businesses haven't been contacted."

Land use task force members also were unhappy when the developers didn't attend the committee's regular monthly meeting. Ward, who is on the District 6 board and the St. Paul Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, said he didn't attend due to a schedule conflict. He cannot vote on the proposal due to a conflict of interest, at the neighborhood and city levels.

Ward had notified District 6 he would not attend the meeting but the committee did expect his business partner to attend.



The Rice Street property at Rice and Jessamine has been considered a blight on the neighborhood for some time. It was a fast food restaurant for many years, popular with kids and senior citizens. Its last occupant, Hardees, closed almost a decade ago.

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Renstrom

Continued from page 1

Though he did admit that such a plan would have implications on the church, Renstrom was quick to point out that Hamline University's master plan is far from set in stone. It's already undergone considerable revision as community and faculty members alike raise concerns about the future of the university—one of which was the future of the school's relationship to the church that has been its neighbor for 127 years.

Renstrom said that he and the congregation he leads trust that relationship. After all, it may well be the oldest and longest standing institutional coupling in the state of Minnesota.

"[The expansion of the university] has potential for drawing us closer, which is always helpful. It gives us the opportunity to look at how we responsibly use land and space in ways that are creative and mutually fulfilling," Renstrom said. "I just find that a great opportunity for both the university and the church."

He'll leave the future of that relationship in the hands of his congregation and of Hamline UMC's new pastor, Patricia Hinker.



"I'm excited about the new vocation, and I'm really excited for Hamline Church's future."

- Pastor Greg Renstrom

Renstrom's real anchors have always truly been community and faith—his post at Hamline Church was just a way he lived them out.

Now, after 11 years in the Midway area, Renstrom will jump the river to the Seward neighborhood in Minneapolis.

"I'll be leaving the promised land and moving to the wilderness," he laughed.

In Minneapolis, Renstrom won't be simply messing about during his retirement. He plans to work with a Mennonite church that is active in social justice in the Twin Cities and beyond, spend time at the Birchwood Cafe, where he currently writes his sermons, and start his own publishing company, the St. Ninian Press (SNP). St. Ninian (of course) is the second great saint of Scotland, be-

hind St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, whose name is currently used by Renstrom's alma mater, the University of St. Andrews and their publishing company.

"I'm excited about the new vocation, and I'm really excited for Hamline Church's future. They've got a lot of wonderful things in store," Renstrom said. "I'm just so grateful for having been here, and every church I've served has been just a wonderfully good place to be a pastor."

"I will miss that."

Renstrom will lead his final service with Hamline UMC on Sunday, June 22.

He'll be succeeded by Rev. Patricia Hinker, currently of Owatonna, whose first service will be the week immediately following Renstrom's departure—June 29.

IFP

Continued from page 9

Goldberg said documentary work is always varied.

"I don't have a boring office job, and I get to meet interesting people and dip into their lives for a day, or a week, or five years—I love that. When I tell myself I must be crazy, I think of that."

Joining Goldberg in the video production studio as well as teaching the documentary class is Matt Ehling, who works as a freelance producer, editor and cinematographer.

Ehling said he has been in the communications business for 15 years, using his income as a living and a way to fund his documentaries.

"I focus largely on civil liberties, court of law and law enforcement," he said. He did a documentary called "Urban Warrior" that explored questions about the merger of military tactics with civilian police work.

"That ran in a lot of film festivals, on an indie film channel

and in lots of grassroots type screenings," he said.

His most recent work has been "Intent," a documentary that searches for meaning in the Constitution and has shown on PBS affiliates.

Ehling said he completed an independent degree in film production at Metro State, but started freelancing before he completed his studies. He also attended classes at Minneapolis Community and Technical College and got an internship at IFP Minnesota.

"IFP was how I got started in the business," he said. "I met a cinematographer looking for extra help on a film, and I got my first job through him. Subsequent jobs can all be traced back to him."

Ehling said the nice thing about the film community in Minnesota is that it is fairly tight and more cooperative than in LA.

"Teaching is part of that outreach in giving back to the film community," he said. "I am fortunate to be able to make a living at

it."

Leigh Erlandson, a senior at St. Catherine's pursuing a degree in journalism, is one who has benefited from classes at IFP Minnesota. She has taken screenwriting, intro to Canon Camera and most recently, intro to Final Cut Pro.

"I use IFP to supplement what I can't take at St. Kate's or St. Thomas," she said.

Erlandson has been working on a screenplay, a comedy that she hopes will give a realistic portrayal of a young woman.

"Journalism is a great skill set to have, but I want to pursue the screenwriting," she said.

Erlandson said that besides the classes, IFP offers great opportunities to meet professionals in the field at its annual conference.

"There are such good networking opportunities, and support too. You have an idea, and they ask how they can help you and what you need. I've never encountered an ego there," Erlandson said.

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St. Joseph's announces new appointment

St. Joseph's School of Music today announced the appointment of Madeline Cieslak as Director of School Programs. She will begin her new role by designing and directing all aspects of Summer Term 2008 which offers classes, camps, and workshops in vocal and instrumental music to youth and adults. Ms. Cieslak will also resume teaching voice lessons, as she did while a member of the voice faculty from 1999-2005.

Ms. Cieslak returns to her native St. Paul after performing with opera and theater companies in San Francisco and Boston. Last May she received her Postgraduate Diploma in Vocal Performance from the San Francisco Conserva-

tory of Music and performed the lead role of Tytania in Britten's "A Midsummer's Night's Dream." Cieslak has performed with the American Repertory Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, The Minnesota Opera, Opera for the Young, Opera in the Ozarks, and the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater. She received her Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Minnesota and is a cum laude graduate of Wellesley College. She graduated from St. Paul Central High School.

The school's 8-week summer term begins June 16, 2008. A catalog of program offerings will be available in mid-March at www.stjoseph-schoolofmusic.net.

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State budget

Continued from page 7

The Central Corridor was just one of two local capital projects restored to the budget. Despite seeing every St. Paul request in the original bonding bill vetoed, state lawmakers

did restore \$300,000 to complete the Polar Bear Odyssey at Como Zoo. That allows the city to complete the project and create a new habitat for the polar bears.

One key piece of legislation that will be studied closely in the weeks ahead is a proposed cap on property tax increases. How that will apply to the city and county is still being studied, in anticipation of upcoming 2009 city and county budget discussions. The bill

states that property tax increases are capped at 3.9 percent per year for the next three years.

Helgen said local elected officials need to understand the implications of the cap and what it means for budgets in both the short and long term. How a cap would affect a changing property tax picture is a big question mark. One city finance projection is that as a whole, the residential property tax base could see a

drop of as much as 7.3 percent for 2009. That compares to an increase in the residential base of an estimated 5.25 percent.

City finance office staff had estimated that the 2009 budget gap would total \$13.1 million. Of that amount \$7.7 million is from inflation, rising energy costs, health insurance and pension costs, and costs of living increases. A \$200,000 decrease in LGA had been forecast, and an additional \$5.2 million was seen as a need due

to one-time resources used in 2008. But it now appears that there will be an additional \$6 million in LGA going to the city, which in turn will reduce the \$13.1 million gap.

For the county, calculating what is gained and lost in aids typically takes a look through all of the various financing bills for human services, law enforcement, public health and other types of programs. Counties receive program-specific aids, rather than LGA.

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When I think of food, I don't just think of restaurants, I think about where I get my food. In this column I will cover the treasure trove of food-related establishments in the *Monitor's* readership area, bringing readers along on my quest to shop mainly at locally-owned, small businesses.

At least once a month I stop at Tschida (pronounced like "cheetah") Bakery located in the North End neighborhood at 1116 Rice Street. The classic, two-story brick commercial building built in 1902 has a faded morning glory mural on the side of the building. This is a real old fashioned, glass-case, creaky-screen-door-that-bangs-shut-behind-you sort of bakery. My hometown's Corner Bakery has been gone for nearly 20 years, but when I return home to Wisconsin, I stop at Tschida Bakery and load up on coffeecake and nutty doughnuts to bring to my grandma who misses her favorite bakery treats.

That nostalgia for bakeries long gone is what most people feel about Tschida Bakery. The store front windows are filled with seasonal displays. The interior is filled with the charm and scent of a bakery that's been in business for decades. The plate rail is topped with an assortment of plates, coffee pots, and vintage cake decorations. It's fun just to stand and take in the great aura of the place, while you're figuring out what to purchase.

Brian Anderson has owned the bakery since 1978, buying it from Hank Tschida, the son of the bakery's founder who started the business in 1923. Anderson is the main baker along with his son, and his sister-in-law Kathy (who's worked there for 17 years) and her

Local Bites

By KRISTA FINSTAD HANSON

Tschida Bakery: old-fashioned goodness



Long-time Tschida Bakery employee Kathy Luchsinger is just waiting to load up your bag with all the many bakery treats found at the Rice Street favorite.

sister Darlene run the store front, along with some young neighbor girls who help on the busy week-ends.

Anderson, who himself lives in the North End, says that customers do come from all over, including a guy from Boston who

comes in when he visits his daughter here and takes a couple of poppy seed coffeecakes home with him. Tschida Bakery has a steady crowd of regulars from around the Twin Cities and the North End. On a given day you'll see local workmen on a doughnut break, mothers with young children in for a "special treat," students from St. Bernard's stopping in after school for cookies, and anyone else inventing a reason to forgo their diet and load up on delicious goodies.

At 95 cents a piece you really can't go wrong with sampling a bakers' dozen (\$9.50) of doughnuts and picking your favorites amongst at least that many choices. My favorite is the raised doughnuts. None other than a proper bakery can get that combination of savory buttery layers and lightness in a raised doughnut.

My kids and I have long been taste-testing the cookies. We each have our favorites, and as cookies go, 60 cents a piece (\$4.50 a dozen) is a steal. The gingersnaps and toffee crunch are subtle in their ginger flavor and are the same thin crispiness as the peanut butter, the chocolate chip, and the M&M. But we are all wooed by the oatmeal raisin, which are soft, chewy, and taste home-made. However, our favorite is a tie between the chocolate chunk and

the monster cookie.

Regular customers come in weekly for their coffee cake, rolls, or daily bread.

Fresh bread varieties (\$2.75 a loaf) include buttercrust, plain white, sandwich bread, Vienna, Irish Molly, Rye, cinnamon, raisin, nut, and cream bread. The clover-leaf buns (\$2.75 a dozen) are my favorites, and the hot dog, brat, and hamburger buns are much more flavorful and fresh than any corporate grocery store brand.

My grandmother's favorite coffeecakes are the fruit ones; she loves the apple, cherry, prune, date, or apricot equally (\$5.00 a piece). If you can get there in time, you may snatch a poppy seed or apple strudel (\$7.50 a piece), and I am partial to the cream cheese but that's an occasional splurge for me.

Other goodies include crispies, éclairs, and turnovers at \$1.25 a piece. Seasonal treats include rosettes along with assorted Christmas cookies and hot cross buns at Easter. On a given morning you'll find cupcakes, but they may be gone come afternoon. Cakes must be special ordered two days in advance. Don't forget to check out the rack of day old treats where the prices will make you invent a reason to buy bags of assorted cookies or doughnuts to take home or bring in to work.

Tschida Bakery is open Tuesday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 6 a.m.-3 p.m.. The bakery is closed on Sundays and Mondays when owner Brian is likely out fishing.



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In July, Hamline will welcome 200-250 young people entering grades 2-9 to the Hamline All-Sports Leadership Camp, a positive multi-sport experience founded on a set of core leadership principles, known as "T-R-U-M-P-E-T"—teamwork, responsibility, understanding, motivation, perseverance, enthusiasm, and tenacity.

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Openings are available. Two camp sessions, July 6-10 and July 13-17, offer students day or residential camping experience at Hamline's campus and athletic facilities.

For more information or to register, contact Angel Leon, 651-523-2401 or aleon01@hamline.edu.

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