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# monitor

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# Midway's Avalon School takes State Academic Decathlon

By JESSICA FLANNIGAN

Avalon School won the State Academic Decathlon last month creating triumph out of grief for one high school student and adding a team presence to this small school located in Midway.

Avalon, sponsored by Hamline University and located at 1745 University Avenue, earned their spot to compete in the first-ever small school National Competition that will be held on April 27-28. Avalon will be the only team representing Minnesota in the small school division. They will compete against one team from each of the 50 states.

Earning points for eight team-members in a nine-person competition, Avalon scored 28,046.1 points after forfeiting all 10,000 possible points a ninth team-member could have earned. Avalon edged out the second place team by just 56 points.

"We had to forfeit the points of a ninth student because of the loss of one teammate to illness," said Avalon teacher and coach Jo Sullivan, who came to Avalon after a 20-year career with 3M and time in the international health-care field in Brussels. "But these students love to learn and took this competition to the next level, despite being shorthanded as a team."

The competition tested students' knowledge in art, economics, interview, essay, language, math, music, science, social science and speech.

"This competition is very hard and very intense," said Sullivan. "Avalon is a school of independent thinkers, so these students took what the Academic Decathlon program offers and just ran with it."

Among those who came home with individual gold was Avalon senior David Kraft of St. Paul. Kraft struggles with the symptoms of Asperger's syndrome, often referred to as high-functioning autism, and recently lost his sister to leukemia.

"David and Anne were very close," said Mary Pat Roberts, Kraft's mother. "He spent a lot of time with her in her last two years."

Kraft won in the speech portion of the competition on the topic of perseverance in which he focused on his 12-year-old sister



Among those who came home with individual gold was Avalon senior David Kraft of St. Paul. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Anne Elizabeth's four-year battle with leukemia. Anne Elizabeth Kraft died last spring.

"My sister's perseverance through her disease inspired me to be a success despite the struggles I face because of my learning disability," said Kraft, who finds that Asperger's Syndrome makes timed tests tough. "Even though it's my best subject, the math test was very challenging because of time and difficulty focusing."

Although Kraft found timed tests strenuous, he still managed to score 4897 points for his team including many points for his gold medal speech.

The loss of Kraft's sister is

just one of the challenges he has faced and overcome in his years at Avalon.

"David was once disorganized and fixated on one activity," said Geri Connelly, Academic Advisor and Art Specialist at Avalon. "He is now getting himself involved and being successful."

Kraft now participates in Drama and works hard to organize his time.

"David really overcame huge personal obstacles in this last year," said Sullivan. "He pulled himself together and was nominated for the Kristin Caperton Memorial National Award, which honors courage, determination

and dedication, because of his hard work and success in this competition."

The award winner will be announced just before the National Competition. "I think David has a really great shot at winning this National award," said Connelly.

"David got a lot of recognition from Avalon students and from the entire school," said Connelly. "This win showed him what he is capable of. David is a different kid."

Thanks to inspiration from his sister and this program, Kraft hopes to join Americorps and attend college for "psychology or teaching so I can impact kids the way Avalon staff have impacted me," he said. This self-described "eclectic geek" finds great satisfaction in Avalon's team and individual successes in Academic Decathlon.

"Academic Decathlon has really made David much more comfortable in social situations," said Connelly. "David really stood up straighter. His physical character changed in a way and he is a much more confident, proud student."

Fellow teammate Eowyn Ward, senior from South Minneapolis, is proud of Kraft and the small team from this school of only 120 students.

"Avalon really gives us the liberty to do what we want and the responsibility to follow through on our education," she said. "This culture and this environment allowed everyone to work really hard for Academic Decathlon. The team was great and this is something we're really proud of."

Avalon advisor Paul Carlson is excited about the team presence at Avalon that exists because of this win.

"We had an all-school meeting to celebrate the team's return and everyone was enthusiastic about it," he said. "This is a big deal at Avalon as we finish out our fifth year."

According to the Minnesota Academic Decathlon website, this ten-event academic program strives to foster a greater respect for knowledge and further develop student communication skills. "Jo Sullivan and the Avalon team really demonstrate the

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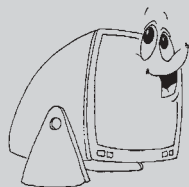
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## Midway Como in a Minute

### Dedicated park space discussed April 19

A proposal that would require residential development plans to include either dedicated park space or a payment toward a parks fund will be the focus of a St. Paul City Council public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19 at City Hall. The park land dedication ordinance was recommended for approval in February by the city's Parks and Recreation Commission. It is supported by parks advocacy groups including the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, as well as some of the city's district councils. Lexington-Hamline Community Council was the latest group to lend support, voting to do so March 27.

But the ordinance has raised concerns in the development community and with the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. The proposal has also prompted questions in the city's Planning and Economic Development (PED) Department. Interim PED Director Tony Schertler said that such an ordinance would add more costs to residential development projects, which could be passed on in the form of higher per-unit costs for home buyers. Another issue PED staff must look at is how such an ordinance would affect city subsidies for housing projects.

The ordinance would use a formula based on project acreage, number of dwelling units, density and property value to determine the amount of land or money to be dedicated. All of the park land dedication proposals would go through a review at the parks commission and City Council.

The St. Paul proposal would only apply to new residential development projects that have result in a net increase of housing units. Rehabilitation of existing units and residential projects that have already been approved wouldn't fall under the proposed ordinance.

The proposal includes a dedi-

cation formula of .008 or eight thousandths of an acre within the proposed development. It would cap the amount of park land to 14 percent of a development's footprint. The park land itself would have to be in or near the development site. The ordinance includes stipulations that the park and open space land not be a storm water, drainage or roadway easement; land in a protected wetlands or flood plain area and land "which is unusable or of limited use."

The ordinance would also give a developer the option of providing a cash payment, of up to \$4,000 per dwelling unit.

Many Twin Cities suburbs already have park land dedication ordinances. Minneapolis is considering similar development requirements. Because Minneapolis has a separate park board, any change in that city has to be in the form of a state law as well as local regulations. Minneapolis' park land dedication bill has been introduced at the 2006 Minnesota Legislature.

### St. Paul studies local property regulation

A study of how St. Paul regulates properties and enforces its property codes got underway March 28-29 with two community meetings. Comments received at those meetings will become part of an upcoming report. The report, which should be completed by late spring, will factor into any reorganization decision made by Mayor Chris Coleman and the City Council.

Right now six city departments play a role in property code enforcement, said Dave Baker. He chairs the city's Business Review Council (BRC). The BRC has been among the groups pushing for changes in property code enforcement.

The six departments are Neighborhood Housing and Property Improvement, Fire Prevention, Citizens' Service, License, Inspection and Environmental Protection (LIEP), Police and Public Works.

Coleman has asked that an ad hoc committee be created to study housing code enforcement and

find ways it can be improved and streamlined. Representatives of several city departments, plus landlords, community groups, business organizations and the BRC will serve on the 23-member committee. The St. Paul City Council passed a resolution calling for creation of the committee March 15.

The City Council is asking that the report from the ad hoc committee be completed by July 31.

BRC is involved because it is seen as a neutral group, said Baker. "We need to determine what the best location is for property code enforcement and how those services will be delivered," Baker said. He said public comments will be critical to making those decisions.

St. Paul's property code enforcement has taken its lumps in recent years. Over the past 15 years where code enforcement is based has been moved from city department to city department.

With different departments in charge of different functions, there can be confusion. For example, buildings with three or more dwelling units are inspected by the fire marshal's office. Single-family and duplex rentals are inspected by Neighborhood Housing and Property Improvement (NHPI).

Under former Mayor Randy Kelly, NHPI was led by Andy Dawkins. Dawkins was hailed in some neighborhoods for a get-tough attitude with problem property owners. But he was vilified by others who said his tactics were discriminatory. There are three federal lawsuits pending against the city over code enforcement, claiming St. Paul's practice were discriminatory.

There is no separate director of NHPI under Coleman's administration. Instead, LIEP Director Bob Kessler is also overseeing that department.

The initial March 28-29 meetings attracted more than two people, including district council representatives, landlords, property ownership groups and private citizens. They were able to discuss their concerns in confidence with the meeting facilitators. Their anonymous comments will become part of a report that will go to the ad hoc committee, said Barb Deming. She and Tom Helgeson

were the Minnesota Department of Administration employees who facilitated the two meetings.

"It's no secret that there are a lot of complaints about property enforcement in St. Paul," said Helgeson. He said that having a new mayor and city administration in place provides a fresh opportunity to look at what has been done in the past and what needs to be improved.

### Neighborhood groups discuss light rail

Eight area district councils and one Minneapolis neighborhood organization are joining together to work on issues related to the planned Central Corridor transit project. The District Councils Collaborative of St. Paul and Minneapolis formed to help area residents and business owners have a say in the transit project.

Central Corridor is a proposed light rail line or busway that would connect downtown St. Paul to downtown Minneapolis and the Hiawatha light rail line. Its route includes most of University Avenue, meaning it affects a number of neighborhoods.

Area district councils involved in the collaborative include Summit-University, Snelling-Hamline, Lexington-Hamline, Merriam Park, Hamline-Midway and Summit Hill. The group is working with University UNITED, a coalition of business groups and district councils along University, to hire a staff member. However, the group is independent from University UNITED, which is focusing its efforts on transit-oriented development along Central Corridor.

Co-chairs of the collaborative are Anne White, Merriam Park, and Frank Schweigert, Hamline-Midway. White said it's critically important for everyone affected by the Central Corridor to be able to have a say in the project. The district councils are involved because they serve as the backbone of the city's citizen participation system and have considerable experience working on local land use issues

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April 17 grand opening celebrates project...

# Newly renovated Griggs Rec transformed from 'shack' to 'cozy' center

By DEBORAH BROTZ

When Hamline Midway resident Dot Bentfield was a Girl Scout leader with a large troop finding a place to have meetings in the neighborhood was always difficult. So, she jumped at the chance to be on the planning committee to remodel Griggs Recreation Center, located at 1188 Hubbard Ave.

"I'm so delighted we finally got it," said Bentfield. "It looks just like the plans we made. It was fun being on the committee."

On April 17, Griggs will celebrate its grand opening. The \$780,000 project, which began construction in 2005, added a multipurpose room, which can be divided into three smaller rooms. The existing building was renovated both inside and out, adding a kitchen and providing a new warming room and office space.

Prior to the renovation, Griggs Recreation Center had not received some of the funding the larger centers were getting for improvements.

"It was a tiny little cement block shack," said Bentfield. "It was a warming room with benches and one little office off to the right."

Very little of the original building is able to be seen except for two cement block walls.

"It's much, much bigger, and it's warm and cozy," said Bentfield. "Very little is the same. It has a beautiful entryway and kitchen and the hallways are very adequate."

In Jan. 1997, when the proposal to renovate Griggs was put in to the CIB (Capital Improvement Budget) committee, there was no specific design in place. Triesta Brown, a neighborhood activist and former CIB committee member, suggested that the neighborhood group apply only for design funds so they would have a better chance of getting funded.

"They got \$50,000 to do a complete design," she said. "Now, it's typical for groups to do that."

The Design Committee met for a long time to plan the renovation.

"We met for about two years before we got everything down pat," said Bentfield. "Then, the mayor didn't want to build it. \$750,000 had been appropriated by the CIB committee. But, Kelly was not for it. He sent a request that the money be put into the Lexington Library."

At the end of 2003, the five members of the Design Committee each did a presentation to the CIB committee.

"I was so upset," said Bentfield. "I was just livid. It took 10 years to get the money. I said, 'We have a dinky little cement block shack. It's just a shame the mayor thinks it's right to take our money.'" When it came to voting, the CIB committee voted for us to keep our money."

Having a mayor try to transfer funds from one project to another is rare.

"The CIB process is a very fair process," said Brown. "This was the first time I recall a mayor wanting to take funds from a final approved budget. This was unique. It was already planned, designed, and put out to bid. It was bad."

Having a multipurpose room suits Griggs needs.

"It's like having three meeting rooms," said Bentfield. "The original plan was for different groups to be able to have meetings at different times. Each group can have a spot to do their own thing. But, if they want to teach dancing, there's one big room."

Built in 1959, Griggs used to be a little spot with benches to warm up for skating.

"They never even repaired the roof," said Bentfield. "If it was leaking, then they would patch it.

It was a little corner of the world that didn't mean anything to people at City Hall."

With families moving in to the neighborhood who had young children, there was no place for them to play close by. Half of the Hamline Midway neighborhood lies east of Snelling Avenue, which has traffic counts in excess of 35,000 vehicles per day, many of them heavy delivery trucks.

"We needed a playground in the area so the kids wouldn't have to cross busy streets," said Bentfield. "There were new playgrounds everywhere. All are palaces."

Having a kitchen is also a necessity for a rec center.

"It enables Griggs to do a lot more things," said Bentfield. "They can serve refreshments and sell pop. Before, there was nothing. Not even a sink to use. You can't handle food improperly."

Griggs is important to the neighborhood because of its location.

"The most important thing is about the safety of the kids not having to cross the streets," said Bentfield. "If they lived outside the area, they would have to cross busy, busy streets to get to the playgrounds. There were no rooms for huge groups. Now, we have a nice place to gather, and serve food and sell it."

Brown, who will be master of ceremonies for Griggs grand opening, looks forward to the long-awaited event.

"Now, the community has a wonderful facility," she said. "It's everything they wanted. The most exciting part about it is that the neighborhood fought and used the government process in the way it was supposed to be used and achieved success. It took dedication over years of people never giving up. The dreams they had can be achieved. Now, there's space to do it."



When Hamline Midway resident Dot Bentfield was a Girl Scout leader with a large troop finding a place to have meetings in the neighborhood was always difficult. So difficult that she jumped at the chance to be on the planning committee to remodel Griggs Recreation Center, located at 1188 Hubbard Ave. On April 17 Bentfield and others will celebrate the newly remodeled facility. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Next deadline: May 1  
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THE LEADER IN IMPROVING OUR URBAN COMMUNITY



My Midway neighborhood in St. Paul is very similar to the area where I grew up in New Orleans. The church bells tolling the Angelus and the pattern of clotheslines in backyards remind me of my childhood. We walked to Lake Pontchartrain from our house to fish, or crab, or sit on the seawall. My neighborhood, Gentilly, was wrested from the swamp after the war, and my house survived many hurricanes including Betsey in 1965 when I was nine years old. Now, the house looks solid from the outside, but it is listed as 90% damaged inside. The water line from the flood reaches to the roof.

I ask people to imagine, if they can, the Midway, Lexington-Hamline, Summit, Crocus Hill, Merriam Park, and Highland emptied of residents. The neighborhoods are dark and silent, the windows of homes like black eyes staring out. No one driving kids to soccer; schools, churches, and grocery stores boarded up; no sounds of voices, or lawnmowers, or birds; and all encircled with a black oily ring called the water line: this begins to represent the magnitude of destruction in New Orleans. Most of this area, 80% of the city, is still without power. 300,000 people are still displaced. Water pressure is so low that water has to be brought in by helicopter from the river to fight fires. This disaster is not over, and it is an American disaster.

There are those who think of New Orleans as a place outside of the U.S. and therefore have dismissed it from their minds. As a person from New Orleans I have often encountered a prejudice against the people who live there as being no more than drunken revelers, caught up in the moment, irresponsible and irreverent. It is a false and unfortunate view. People in New Orleans are like people everywhere in this country: trying to work, raise children, elect competent officials and enjoy life. In a political climate that finds reasons to hate the US, New Orleans has provided a unique culture, cuisine, and musical legacy that is beloved around the world. The fact that the population of the city before the flood was 75% African-American also allows people, perhaps unconsciously, to turn away from the disaster as though it happened somewhere far away. The Creole-African community of New Orleans is the heart of its cultural identity. New Orleans also continues to function as our busiest port and as the final destination of the River, two services it provides the country which contribute in large part to its fragility.

The people of New Orleans are beginning to rebuild and are willing to make compromises in order to do so, but they cannot rebuild without help. Many of them are scattered around the country, some at the end of their allotted time in hotels and apartments. They need to be given the opportunity to go back and participate in the rebuilding.

A bill requesting financing

## Guest Column

By SHARON LACOUR

### Memories of my New Orleans

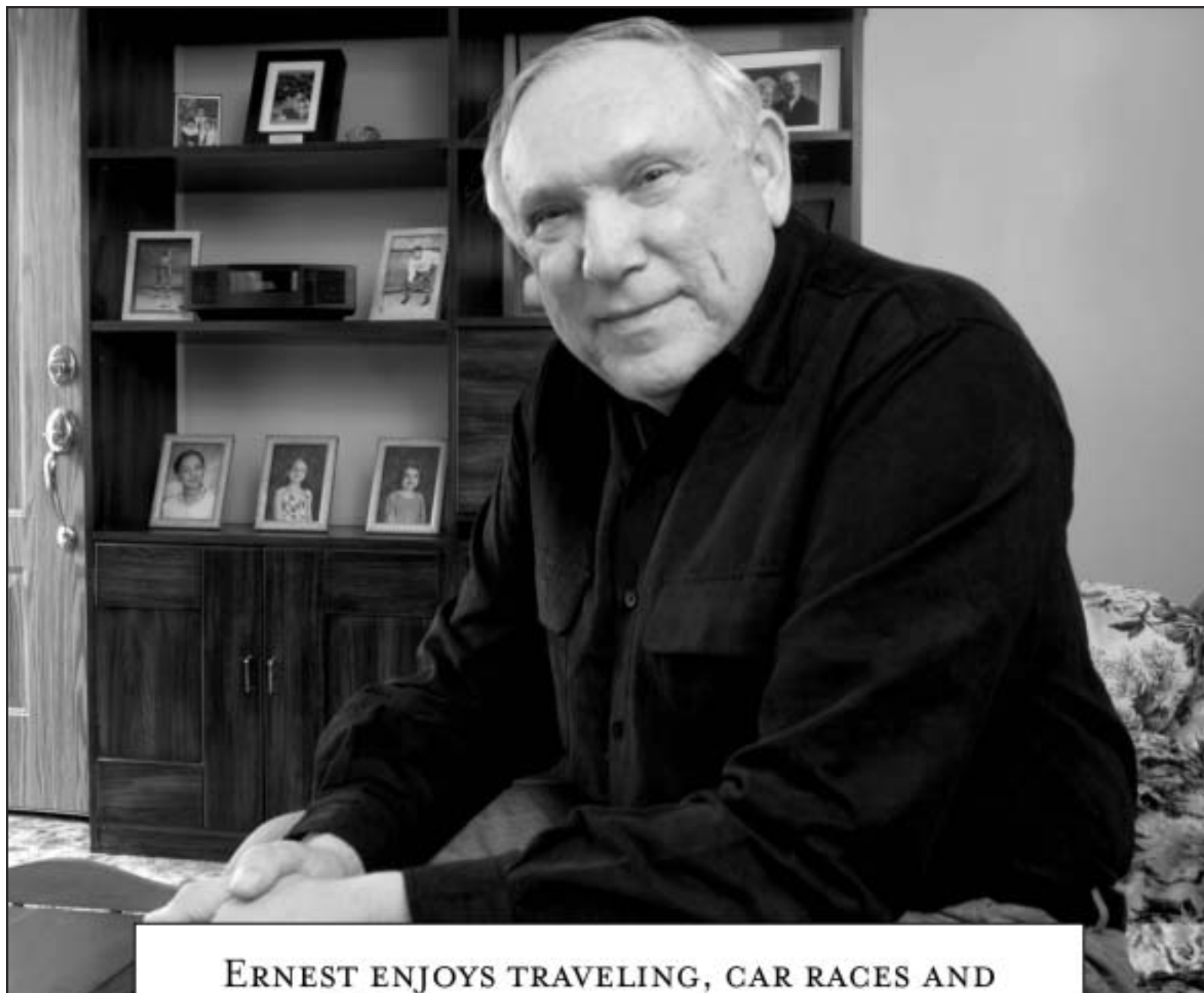
for levee construction now awaits the approval of the President. This is not the first time that people have attempted to fight nature and save a vital piece of their history. It

is happening now in Venice and Amsterdam. If a disaster like this occurred in St. Paul, we would hope for this kind of assistance to get us on our way to helping our-

selves. I think of St. Paul, at the north end of the great river, as a sister city to my hometown. I hope that the people of this country will support the rebuilding efforts be-

cause New Orleans is a unique and important city, but, moreover, to demonstrate that we do not turn our backs, for any reason, on 500,000 American citizens in need.

*(Editor's note: Sharon LaCour grew up in New Orleans and spent most of her life there. She moved to Minnesota in 1993 to work at the MacPhail Center for Music. She has lived in Midway with her two sons since 1998 and continues to serve red beans and rice on Monday nights, a New Orleans tradition.)*



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One of the rites of spring in our neighborhood is the yearly grand re-opening of the community ice cream haven, Conny's Creamy Cone. This particular slice of ice cream heaven happens to be about a one-minute walk around the corner from my house (on the busy corner of Maryland and Dale Streets). I must confess many an attempt at an evening jog has been interrupted by a stop off instead at this sweet treat sanctuary. In fact, in writing this article I had to stop into Conny's no fewer than 3 times. Once, the employees were busy loading in a shipment of supplies. The other two, well, I was too busy loading up on Conny's soft serve.

The Creamy Cone celebrated its reopening this past March 10th. Conny informs me that they had a steady stream of their



## New to the Neighborhood

By NATE HAMILTON

Conny's is open! Conny's is open!

regular customers throughout the day. "Some people had the day marked on their calendars," she laughs. "That makes us feel really good that The Cone means as much to other people as it does to us."

The Creamy Cone has been locally owned and operated by Conny McCullough for 11 years. But the humble ice cream hut/palace passed its tenth anniversary without fanfare. Instead they intend to just keep doing

what they do best, which is serve the best ice cream around.

"The Cone" boasts 24 different flavors of soft serve ice cream. They also serve food – burgers, fries, and a fine basket of cheese curds. They are open seven days a week. I asked Conny about their signature – the giant ice cream cone on top of the building. "The previous owner made that himself," Conny informs me. "People always notice that."

On the evening I stop in, I

met a few local youngsters who have worked at The Creamy Cone for a couple years. Katie, who insisted I mention that she has worked at Conny's one day longer than Bryan, pleasantly takes my order. Bryan is washing windows, but eagerly stops to chat. He tells me that Conny employs about 16 other local kids just like he and Katie.

"There's always been a waiting list to work here." Conny informs me later. "But kids enjoy

working here. They can ride their bike or walk to work. I am awfully proud of all my kids," she says. "For most of them this is their first job." She says many of her high school employees come back even after they go on to college. "We work hard – but we have fun; that's our motto."

Conny's father also pitches in around the shop. Jack is the self-titled maintenance man. He can be seen cleaning picnic tables, painting, tending flower beds, and joking and talking with customers.

I order a small twist cone for Jonah. "And I'll have whatever you think is good." I say to Katie. Jack, another employee quips, "The dip of the week is really good. It's black raspberry." He hands me my cones. The raspberry is delicious—just as he promised.

## Midway in a minute

Continued from page 2

White said there are concerns that the scale and complexity of the transit project would prevent people from being heard during Central Corridor planning.

All St. Paul district councils have been invited to join and more are expected to do so soon. The emphasis is beyond the neighborhoods adjacent to University Avenue because of the potential spillover effects of commuter parking and changes to bus lines that could be reconfigured to feed into Central Corridor. When the councils began meeting last year, they heard from a Highland District Council representative who explained how commuters are parking on that neighborhood's residential streets to catch buses that connect with Hiawatha light rail.

For information on the collaborative contact [info@district-councilscollaborative.org](mailto:info@district-councilscollaborative.org)

### HRA Board approves building demolition

A large, Colonial-style building on University Avenue will be torn down to make way for new housing and a grocery store. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, voted unan-

imously March 22 to approve the demolition of 2700 University Av.

The building is owned by Wellington Management, which developed The Metro and Emerald Garden condominium projects near to the site. Wellington would like to build 85 new market-rate condominiums and a 17,500 square foot grocery store over structured parking at the 2700 University Av. location.

The building site will be placed in a tax increment finance (TIF) district. Additional property tax revenues generated by redevelopment of the property can be used to pay for infrastructure improvements such as utilities and streets through TIF designation. At this site TIF financing will help pay for structured parking and demolition expenses.

But putting the building in the TIF district requires making findings that the 2700 University building is substandard. The Colonial-style building, which has housed a number of businesses and professional offices over the years, was recently studied by an engineering firm. The building was found to be structurally substandard and should come down, according to information given to the HRA Board. That finding qualifies the property for TIF use.

Use of TIF on this property could help another Midway area project Wellington is developing, Lexington Park. Lexington Park is the retail-office-residential development under construction at the southwest corner of University and Lexington Parkway. Wellington has sought TIF assistance for

the southern half of Lexington Park, where two condominium buildings totaling 70 units would be built. This project would also involve about 7,000 square feet of retail space and structured parking.

Because the Lexington site would not produce sufficient TIF revenues to defray the redevelopment expenses, city staff would like to explore combining the 27090 University site and Lexington as a scattered site TIF district. Creation of the scattered-site district will be brought back to the HRA Board for action in the future.

### Como Park house can be used as duplex

A Como Park neighborhood

house can be used as a duplex, the St. Paul Planning Commission decided March 24. The commission voted to allow 15601 Asbury St. legal non-conforming use as a duplex, on condition that the property owners apply for a code compliance inspection and that all necessary improvements be made to bring the building up to code. This work must be done within 90 days.

The house at 1501 Asbury has been used as a duplex for about 45 years but has never been classified as such. From the outside it appears to be a single-family home. The need for a non-conforming use permit came up recently when owner Mary Sanders needed plumbing work done. Even though the Sanders family obtained city permits previously to replace the roof and put up a fence, the

property's non-conforming status didn't come until recently.

The Sanders or their son have lived in one of the two units of the house since 1992. They were able to provide real estate listing information from that time proving that the dwelling was sold as a duplex. A previous owner also supplied the city with a list of past renters.

While it is unusual for a property to be used with a non-conforming use permit. It's not unheard of in St. Paul, the Planning Commission typically sees a few such cases each year.

The property does meet the city's conditions for legal conversion to duplex use. District 10 (Como) Community Council supports the request.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

## Avalon

Continued from page 1

mission of the program," said Lisa Litke, State Coordinator for Minnesota Academic Decathlon.

Avalon won in the small school category for schools with less than 650 students. Avalon had the smallest school population and was the only charter

school in the competition. Avalon students won 35 medals for individual scores including Kraft and Ward who each took first in their division.


"Academic Decathlon was the big boost that gave David his confidence back," said Roberts. "There's really no ceiling on what can be learned at Avalon and David is an example of that."

### About Avalon:

Avalon School, located at 1745 University Avenue in Midway, is sponsored by Hamline University and is in its fifth year of operation. The school is a teacher cooperative made up of teachers that perform all functions of traditional school administration. Avalon currently serves 120 high school students and 40 in grades 7-12. Avalon curriculum focuses on college-preparation, individual learning plans and project based learning with independent thinking.

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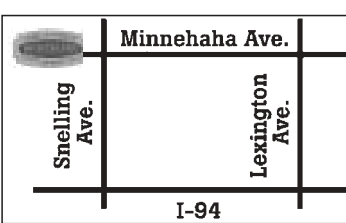
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# Central senior leads b-ball team to 3rd consecutive City championship

By TOM CONLON

Central High School senior and basketball teammate Cate Schafer wrapped up a successful season, leading the girl's basketball team to its third consecutive outright City Conference championship and a second consecutive third place finish in the state tournament—all with "small hands".

"This year's team was special in many ways," Schafer said. "We've made great improvements and have great talent in the younger classes that will make Central a powerhouse for the future."

Central finished undefeated in conference play (12-0), but lost 80-72 to Minneapolis South in the Twin Cities game, in a rematch over Central's 2005 Twin City championship. They rebounded to defeat Tartan 60-59 in the final six seconds after trailing by 10 five minutes earlier, capturing the Section 3AAAA title and earning a return to the state tournament. Central defeated Elk River, 58-48, in the opener on March 15th at the Target Center before losing a squeaker in the final 0.5 seconds to the Bloomington Kennedy Eagles 53-51 the next day. The Minutemaids (27-5) concluded their successful season with the Third Place state tournament title in a 71-52 win over Roseville Raiders at Concordia College on March 18.

As the team's tallest player at 6'1", it's no surprise that Schafer thrived playing center, (along with sophomore Megan Howard), but also played forward when both were on the court. Central's future looks bright, with its leading scorers of Angel Robinson and Kiara Buford (who scored 33 points in the 3rd place state title game) re-



Central High School senior and basketball teammate Cate Schafer (second from left) wrapped up a successful season, leading the girl's basketball team to its third consecutive outright City Conference championship and a second consecutive third place finish in the state tournament. From left to right, the four graduating seniors from Central girls basketball: Noelle Rzeszutek, Cate Schafer (holding basketball), Caitlin Conway, and Natalie Schneider. (Photo by Tom Conlon)

turning next season, plus possible new transfers.

Fellow seniors Natalie Schneider, Caitlin Conway and Noelle Rzeszutek played with Schafer all four years and have been mentors to her in different ways, she said. "My advice to any aspiring player is to simply work hard, be patient, stay focused and be passionate about your goals. Good things will come."

Fellow teammate Caitlin Conway praised Schafer as the glue that holds everyone together. "Cate is always positive and encouraging us all to do better," she

said. "We're a very close group, like a family almost, and Cate has been sort of the mother figure for the rest of the team. We have an on-going joke about how small her hands are—they are freakishly small. Every time she makes a mistake, we always say, 'oh, it's just the small hands.' But those 'small hands' have blocked many opponents' shots and protected the ball so we could score."

According to John Vosejпка's 2006 St. Paul City Conference Girls Basketball Statistical Report, Cate Schafer was the team's fourth-leading scorer with 89

points this season, averaging 8.1 points per game and tying for 17th out of 91 players who scored in the St. Paul City Conference during 2006. She was also a 61.1% free-throw shooter.

Schafer, a four-year, three-sport athlete who also plays volleyball (outside hitter) and track & field, was Central's 2006 nominee for the Triple A award, an honor bestowed to one girl and one boy from each Minnesota region high school who excels in three areas: athletics, academics and the arts, said Nate Galloway, Central's athletic director. "Cate is a hard worker at everything she's taken on, in and out of the classroom and the basketball court," he said. "She's very mature, a good student, very focused on excellence, and a great role model for her peers."

Schafer holds a 4.65/5.0 weighted grade point average, belongs to the National Honor Society, and sings soprano in (and is treasurer of) the Central High choir. Outside of school, Schafer loves horseback riding and traveling, which included a biking tour through France last summer. She's also an avid reader.

Her basketball team elected her, along with teammates Abby Gust and Angel Robinson, co-captain of this season's basketball team. Her other sibling, Taylor Schafer, plays on Central's football team.

This spring, Schafer is running hurdles, high jumping and shot putting for the track team and is likely to be elected a team captain. "Cate's real passion is basketball, but she also chose track because it's great cross-training for her and she loves a challenge," said Central's head track & field coach Art Payne. "She is not an extrovert, but teammates look up to her quiet leadership demonstrated through hard work, mentoring and accomplishment. I think she will have a great season."

Schafer grew up in an athletic family. In Sherburn, Minn., her father Bryan starred in high school football, basketball and baseball; mother Carol as a track runner. Schafer was born in St. Paul, attended J.J. Hill Elementary and then Ramsey Junior High, where she played volleyball, basketball and softball.

Schafer athletic abilities earned her a spot on the Hamilton College basketball team next year, a Clinton, N.Y.-based liberal arts college in the Division III Liberty League. The Hamilton Continentals play in a 10-school league of smaller New York-based colleges, but provide no scholarships at the Division III level, the smallest of the NCAA's competitive leagues.

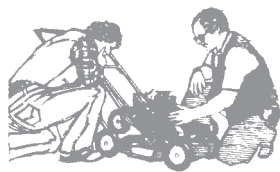
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# Midway Target site plan sparks debate on redevelopment, transit issues

By JANE MCCLURE

How University Avenue is redeveloped with future transit improvements in mind is sparking a battle over the site plan for the proposed Midway SuperTarget. University UNITED and Lexington-Hamline Community Council are appealing a Planning Commission decision approving the new store's site plan. Other groups concerned with development along University, the proposed route for the Central Corridor transit project, are likely to join in. Central Corridor is a proposed light rail or busway along University Avenue.

No date for a City Council public hearing has been set. Midway Target is at 1300 University Av. W.

Advocates for transit-oriented development are tired of city officials touting transit-oriented development, and then approving redevelopment plans that don't reflect such principles.

"This is not transit-oriented development and I have some real concerns about that," said Hamline-Midway resident and United Food and Commercial Works Local 789 organizer Bernie Hesse. Hesse is also concerned that a SuperTarget, which contains a large grocery section, would bring non-union jobs and hurt other grocery stores.

University UNITED Executive Director Brian McMahon said neighborhood residents are weary of going to the city again and again to plead for dense, transit-oriented development that better complements the Central Corridor plans. He urged Target to consider a multi-story building, possibly with a rooftop parking deck or underground parking.

"We've been here over the past five years on the same issues," McMahon said. "Just change the name of the national chain." He said area organizations "urge reduction of wasteful surface parking lots," which generate little property tax income and encourage more motor vehicle use.

"Let's get some more buildings in there, let's get some more property tax base in there, let's get some more jobs in there," McMahon said.

"We're going to be having these conversations for the next 10 to 15 years," said LHCC Board Member Jacqueline Fortier. "We need to totally put our foot down." Lexington-Hamline's district plan calls for development along University to be more oriented toward transit riders than motor vehicles.

If past battles over transit-oriented development are any indication, the Target debate could draw a crowd. "I think there's a lot of energy behind this," said LHCC Executive Director Jessica Treat. She and others cite Mayor Chris Coleman's commitment to promoting transit-oriented development along University. Yet Target is building a one-level store similar to its suburban SuperTargets.

The Lexington-Hamline Community Council is among the groups that has asked the city to consider a development moratorium on University Avenue until after a city Central Corridor task force completes its work. The task force is to be appointed this month by the city's Planning Commission.

Target Corporation representatives said they did look at community plans and met with community members. But the corporation doesn't think a transit-oriented development for the new store itself is feasible, said Tom Carrico, manager of real estate development for new Target stores in Minnesota. "I'm not going to lie to you," he said. "It's a big box."

Carrico said Target does intend to be involved in land use planning along the central Corridor and to be supportive of those efforts. Target sees the demands for transit-oriented development are being addressed by the splitting off of three sites or outlots along University and Syndicate for future redevelopment.

Target representatives said

they have tried to address concerns raised by neighborhood groups. Carrico notes that Target is in multi-level stores in other communities. But there are no multi-level SuperTarget stores. "We haven't figured that one out," he said.

Target also looked at structured parking, but that could have added as much as \$12.8 million to the project.

Target is also bisecting the current parking lot with an east-west street, with sidewalks and bike paths. That is in keeping with a University UNITED proposal from several years ago, which calls for breaking up the "mega-blocks" of University between Syndicate and Snelling with east-west streets.

Target is also widening some of the sidewalks for safety reasons. The corporation rejected a reject for mid-block north-south sidewalks due to concerns about pedestrians mixing with motor vehicle traffic.

Target Corporation wants to tear down the old Sheraton hotel at Hamline and St. Anthony avenues, and build the new store on that site. Target bought the hotel and closed it last year.

Target wants to build a new, 186,000 square-foot SuperTarget on the former Sheraton property. The existing 141,000 square-foot store would remain open during most of the construction period, closing for two to three months before the new store opens in July 2007. The current store would be leveled to create parking for the new store. The current parking lot would be regraded and rebuilt.

The Planning Commission voted March 24 to approve the site plan and a parking variances. The appeals don't involve the parking variance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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# Nightmare of Iraq still tugs at Rep. John Lesch



The memories are still fresh for John Lesch, who returned about two months ago from a trip to Iraq. The self-funded trip, made without any formal entourage or security detail, drew controversy. (Photo by Terry Faust)

By JAN WILLMS

The beard is gone, and a stylish suit has replaced the casual attire. But the memories are still fresh for John Lesch, who returned about two months ago from a trip to Iraq.

The self-funded trip, made without any formal entourage or security detail, drew controversy. But Lesch, a DFL representative for House District 66A, had no doubts about what he intended to do.

"I had been thinking about the trip for five months prior to my going," he said. "I wanted to see the situation in Iraq for myself. Virtually no one is in Iraq without some kind of tether. They are there with a specific agenda, at the behest of an editor or a boss. I wanted to see it from the perspective of someone who had no agenda."

Lesch said that the second he accepted any kind of payment from anyone, his objectivity would be compromised. "Especially in Iraq," he said, "where opinions are so heated."

He said he wanted to be as anonymous as possible during his trip, so he did not tell anyone about his position as a legislator.

"This was a personal trip," Lesch added. "It had nothing to do with my job title, but with my own personal education. I had been wanting to make this trip for a long time, but I would probably never have made it while I was still married. When I went, I had been divorced for nearly a year, and I felt more free to make decisions on my own."

Lesch said he went over to Iraq with a belief that we had gone to war under false pretenses, and he wanted to see if there was an opportunity for a budding democracy to form.

"I wanted to know what the Iraqis themselves felt," he said. "I wanted to know if there were some level of safety in the streets, and if we were providing all the necessary ingredients for a democ-

racy to work."

When asked if those ingredients were present, Lesch said absolutely not. "We can't go in there and wave a stick and expect the people to govern themselves. There is a real lack of security," Lesch said.

Responding to concerns about the danger of his trip, Lesch said there are many parts of the world where dangerous things happen, but they are not reported. Lesch left the United States Jan. 29 and flew into Damascus, Syria. He said it is rare and difficult to get a flight directly to Iraq. Those flights are mostly chartered flights through Iraqi Airways.

"When I landed in Damascus, I ran into problems with Syrian officials," Lesch said. "I was detained for 28 hours, and then I hopped a charter flight to Baghdad."

Along the way, Lesch met various people headed for Iraq, most of them native Iraqis returning home. "I rarely met an American," he said.

He arrived in Baghdad in the middle of the day, secured a visa and arranged transport from the airport to a hotel in downtown Baghdad.

"I have enjoyed traveling by myself in the past," Lesch said, "not relying on contacts. I wanted to meet people on my own, and I couldn't do that with a pre-arranged agenda, so I developed an itinerary as I went."

Lesch took a cab along Route Irish, through some of the most dangerous Sunni neighborhoods in Baghdad.

"I was the only passenger, and the driver took me to my destination very fast," Lesch said. "He made me take off my hat and glasses, slink back in the seat and stare straight ahead."

The driver took him to a secure compound where the Baghdad Sheraton and Palestine Hotel were open for business, although both had been bombed and were in the red zone. He stayed at the Palestine.

"There were only 25 guests at the Palestine Hotel," Lesch said. "Journalists are wary of staying there. Most of the government officials, military contractors or press stay in hotels in the green zone."

"I made contact with an Iraqi reporter, and she set me up with interviews with a lot of people," Lesch said. "I was able to talk to American military, journalists and contractors; government staff; Iraqi citizens and journalists. I did not interview any Iraqi police, and I would have liked to."

Lesch said the most significant thing he found during his week in Iraq is that there are no opinions over there like the ones in this country regarding the war.

"It's easy to have a static opinion when you're in the United States," Lesch said. "The Americans over here have a much more sober opinion. They don't say simply that we need to stay or we need to get out. It's more complex than that."

Lesch said he found the Iraqi people to be quite friendly towards him. Some were very concerned about what might happen if the U.S. troops left.

He quoted one young man, who said "There will be civil war if they leave, but they have to leave anyway. England didn't hold your hand when you developed the United States—similarly, you can't hold ours."

Lesch said Iraqis were very thoughtful in their responses to questions about the war.

"A few had bought the Bush administration rhetoric, some opposed it," he said. "They were more circumspect about ultimate outcomes."

Lesch said Al Jazeera television covers the war pretty thoroughly, but local papers are more tabloidish. He said the Iraqis are pretty well informed and are well aware of George Bush's sagging popularity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



## The Food Snob

What does India Palace restaurant have in common with the motley crew who review restaurants for the *Midway Como Monitor*?

India is arguably the most diverse country on earth, with dozens of ethnic groups and religions jammed together. Mostly the center holds, but the disparate viewpoints occasionally escalate into bitter strife. That in a nutshell reflects the dynamics inherent in the churning relationship between me, the Bachelor and the Cheapskate.

Splitting up our partnership is unthinkable, but togetherness sometimes chafes a little. Or it used to, anyway, when we all worked together. Last summer I moved on to a new workplace in Minneapolis. Soon, the Bachelor decided the grass was greener across the river, and came to work with me. Now the triumvirate is complete again, with the Cheapskate ensconced in a cozy workspace just down the hall. We're like three peas in a pod again, and the bickering has begun anew.

Speaking of peas, I loved the way the little green gems studded a murky beef curry at India Palace. And the way a silky tomato butter sauce swathed bits of white meat in the chicken tika masala. And the contrasting textures of cauliflower and potatoes in the aloo gobi. These three dishes are examples of how the cuisines of India harmonize beautifully in a single buffet line. The Bachelor will no doubt describe his recent trip to India in the space below, but my armchair travels reveal that Indians generally stay true to their cultural heritage when they eat. Some dishes are definitely Punjabi, others Goan, and still others reflect the dietary preferences of Hindu sects. Some groups eat no meat and others are even stricter — refusing root vegetables because of concern about killing plants. Some groups feel that onions and garlic are too stimulating and therefore dangerous to serenity.

India Palace ignores all of the those constraints and puts out tasty, plentiful food that is no more threatening to Minnesotans than the burgers that used to emerge from this former Happy Chef site. For about \$8 (\$9 on weekends) the lunch buffet offers all the rice, mildly spiced stews, salad and creamy pudding that you wish. We gleefully devoured three or four plates apiece as we gloried at the prospects of working together again — driving each other crazy in this lifetime and perhaps beyond. I'd call that karma.

## The Bachelor

Yes, as the Snob noted (thunder stealer!), I recently returned from three weeks of explosive diarrhea, bone-crushing jet lag, rivers of cow manure, burning corpses, and complete and total insanity. In other words, I was in India. As is always the case with the Snobista (and I'm sure it will be in the next life as well ... dang this karma!) she is pitifully misinformed and confused.

To so casually use terms such as "serenity" and "harmonize" within 9,000 words of any mention of India is cause for a spanking by any and all of the many arms of Vishnu.



# Without Reservations

India Palace offers diverse taste of regional delights

Now before I come across as some spoiled, Strawberry Quikweaned, Midwestern, closed-minded, ethnocentric college boy (which I am, of course), let me just say I went to India of my own free will ... and I'm so glad I did. No, the subcontinent is not an easy, relaxing place to visit (nor did I expect it to be). What it is: incredibly fascinating, devastating, inspiring, and bewildering. I guess it is life. And like any life well-lived, India is a shotgun blast to the senses.

Speaking of sensory assault ... While the Food Snob is (for once) quite right about the food at India Palace, which is indeed quite tasty and palatable to Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Wiccans for all I know, the atmosphere is even more authentically Indian. Let me explain. It is a former Happy Chef in Roseville stocked with convention center furniture, exotic Indian art, and a steady stream of portly, pale-faced lunch patrons. It's a jumble of contradictions. It makes no sense. It is so India.

I was mesmerized by — and had my retinas scarred by — the giant, garishly colored quilt-like awning thingy [the Cheapskate interjects: some might call it a canopy] hanging above our table. A bit like a big cloth kaleidoscope. I half-expected (and sort of wished) it would flutter down and smother us in absurdity. Trapped and overstimulated, we would be helpless to escape — simply another addition to the menagerie of contradictions that is India Palace.

Knowing now that the Snob, Cheapy and myself will again be spending our workdays within a few short cubicles of one another, day after day after day after endless day ... I rather wish such an end had befallen us.

## The Cheapskate

Whoa Nellie! Back the truck up,

Snob. You can't just go tossing around terms like tandoori, curry, vindaloo, and masala and expect the average Minnesotan to knowingly stroke his or her whiskered chin. All right, we might do that just to be polite and avoid a lecture from you, but we are not all fully immersed in the various schools of Indian cuisine.

So I will step forward to be the responsible adult (I should be used to this by now) who actually considers the reader's interests, not just the sound of my own genius.

The following information is plagiarized, that is to say adapted, from [www.epicurious.com](http://www.epicurious.com). This is my go-to source for all things culinary — that is, when the Snob's 24/7 hotline is down for routine maintenance. ("911, what is the nature of your gourmet emergency? If it involves take-out, please press 1; for snappy comebacks to snippy waitstaff, press 2; for overcooking issues, press 3; in a seasoning emergency, please press 0 for immediate personal assistance.")

Back to definitions. Here's the elevator speech: Tandoori is about an oven, and the other three categories are about secret spice blends.

Tandoori refers to food made in a tandoor oven, made of brick and clay and kept at about the temperature of the "Clean" cycle on my kitchen range. Therefore, foods cook fast. Meat, vegetables, and the crispy-moist flatbread called naan are cooked in tandoor-style ovens.

Curry is probably at least vaguely familiar to many of my fellow Midway-Comopolitans. It comes from the word kari, which apparently means "sauce." It's a hot and spicy, gravy-based dish. Just about anything can actually be swimming in the gravy, analogous to the tradition-steeped cream of mushroom soup of my own heritage — only tastier.

Vindaloo is like curry only

more so. It is the "most mouth-searing" of the curries, according to [epicurious.com](http://epicurious.com). I say no more.

Masala is a spice blend with anywhere from three to three thousand secret ingredients. Cardamom, coriander, and mace often make an appearance, according to my source.

Now I've used most of my allotted space, so I hope I haven't just told you things that you've known since I was a fishstick-eating toddler.

Next stop: Cheap Street. The India Palace gets the Faux-Golden Cheapy award for its unusual combination of modest cost, excellent food, tasteful ambience (pay no attention to the Bachelor behind the curtain), fast and unobtrusive service, real table-

cloths, and acres of free parking in front of and behind the building. All this with an \$8 lunch buffet (\$9 on weekends), and dinner entrées starting at \$7.95.

For a special night out, try one of the more-than-ample "Dinners for Two" — Tandoori, Biryani, or Vegetarian. That way you get the official sanction to try other people's food. Not that I need permission, but the Bachelor tends to swat at unauthorized hands in the no-fly zone around his plate.

Final note: India Palace is a great choice for groups, especially for lunch outings when you need to move things along and get back to the office for your post-buffet torpor, I mean productivity spike. Plus, if your group includes a mix of vegetarians and carnivores (and what group doesn't anymore, for pete's sake), everybody will leave feeling they got not a token but a first-class entrée.

Contact the Without Reservations writers to demand better capitalization, punctuation, or use of transitional sentences: [withoutres@yahoo.com](mailto:withoutres@yahoo.com)

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# In Our Community

## Bedtime Storytimes at Hamline Midway Library

The Hamline Midway Branch of the St. Paul Public Library will offer spring Bedtime storytimes for preschool and elementary-aged children, beginning on Tuesday, April 18. The storytimes will be on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., through May 23. The sessions will include stories, songs, fingerplays, and much more. All children are encouraged to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite bear or blanket to storytime.

The library is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue. For more information, please contact the Hamline Midway Branch Library at 651-642-0293, or access the Library's Website at: [www.sppl.org](http://www.sppl.org).

## Chelsea holds spring fundraiser in May

Chelsea Heights Elementary, 1557 Huron Street, on Hamline and Hoyt Ave are having their annual Spring Fundraiser. We are partnering up with Linder's greenhouse and selling gift cards. Students will be going through the neighborhood selling the gift cards and these cards will also be available at the front office.

Your purchase of the cards sends 15% to the school PTO. The school stands to benefit twice from this fundraiser when you go to any flowermarts or the main center and mention Chelsea Heights Elementary on the dates of May 26-29 (Memorial Day Weekend). If you have any questions, please call 651-293-8790.

## Pop Wagner, Dan Newton appear at Ginkgo Coffee

On May 4th (the day After the Minnesota premier of "Prairie Home"—the Robert Altman film about "A Prairie Home Companion" in which Pop Wagner and Dan Newton appear as extras) Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton and Pop Wagner will hold forth at the Ginkgo Coffeehouse with a program of jug band, western swing, country blues, old time and folk music with a little Cajun and Zydeco to spice the mix.

Needless to say when these two team up the good times will roll! Be on hand for their first performance following their big movie debut! Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$11. For more info call 651-645-2647.

## Planter Project holds Clean-Up April 29

The Hamline-Midway Environ-

mental Group is coordinating the Planter Project along Snelling Avenue north of University. In recent years some businesses and individuals have planted and maintained the planters and tree boxes, however, many have been left unattended.

The Planter Project is an effort to make sure all planters and tree boxes are cared for by individuals, businesses or volunteers. This will create a beautiful, welcoming, and well cared for environment on Snelling Avenue with potential for traffic calming. Volunteers are needed to help with these efforts.

The first step with the Planter Project is the Snelling Avenue Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 29. Please arrive at the Midway YMCA between 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. The dates for planting will be announced. Cash donations are also being accepted to pay for plants and watering. Please make check payable to Hamline-Midway Coalition with memo line: Planter Project.

For more information contact Mike Texler at [mike\\_texler@hotmail.com](mailto:mike_texler@hotmail.com)

## Boy Scouts of Troop 13 spaghetti dinner April 22

The Boy Scouts of Troop 13 are selling tickets for their annual spaghetti dinner to be held on Sat., April 22 from 3 to 7 pm. Adults - \$5.50/Children under 10 - \$3.50. Please help support our scouts by purchasing tickets. Where else can you get all the fixings for such a great price? Scouts will be selling tickets in the neighborhood on Monday nights or they are available at the door. St. Columba School Auditorium, 1330 Blair Ave.

## Saint Paul's annual spring cleanup April 15

For the 20th year, Saint Paul citizens, in partnership with the Division of Parks and Recreation, will join together to make a difference in their neighborhood parks to ensure a beautiful, safe and environmentally healthy city for future generations.

On Saturday, April 15, volunteers are invited to 7 neighborhood parks for a kickoff celebration from 8:30 to 9 a.m. Neighbors and local representatives will have an opportunity to mingle over breakfast refreshments provided by local sponsors. Door prizes and gift cards will be raffled off to registered participants. Following the kickoff celebrations, volunteers will be provided with gloves and trash bags and sent to parks throughout the city for a much-needed spring cleaning.

The kickoff celebrations will

be held at the following locations: Dunning Rec Center, Harriet Island Pavilion, Hidden Falls Regional Park, Midway Pavilion in Como Park, Lakeside Pavilion on Lake Como, Phalen Pavilion, and Indian Mounds Regional Park. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own reusable work gloves and reusable beverage container to minimize the amount of waste generated at this event.

To register, or to find out more information, volunteers are invited to visit our website at <http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks/environment/parkscleanup/index.html>, call our Environmental Volunteer Hotline at 651-266-6458, or email us at [environment@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:environment@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

## May 6 rummage sale at Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Av at Aldine, will be holding their annual rummage sale on Sat., May 6 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. A large variety of usable items will be offered for sale at bargain prices. Lunch and snacks will also be available. Proceeds of this sale help fund youth activities, projects, and camp opportunities. Matching funds applied for through Thrivent for Lutherans.

## Holy Childhood Rummage Sale held May 11, 12

The Holy Childhood Rummage Sale will be held May 11, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and May 12, 9 a.m. to noon. The church is located on the corner of Midway Parkway and Pascal Avenue in the Como neighborhood.

## Galtier Magnet School holds art exhibit May 4

Galtier Magnet Elementary School and J & S Bean Factory (located on the corner of Hamline and Thomas Avenues) would like to invite you to an art exhibit on Thursday, May 4th. (Not April 13th as originally planned).

This will be a multi-grade level showing of eclectic works of art. Please join us from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. to view and/or purchase some of this fine art. Proceeds will go to the betterment of the school and its art program, as well as the students that participated. Your support not only helps financially, but bolsters the confidence in participating students and inspires others to participate.

## Y Camps hold 'Fair' sale May 10 to May 13

A sale so big it's at the State Fairgrounds! YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord hold their annual Spring Garage Sale at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart building from Wednesday, May 10 to Saturday, May 13. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, and 9 to 2 p.m. for Saturday's bag sale. Free admission. More than 250 families contribute great clothing, household items, toys, books, antiques, furniture, sports equipment, etc. All proceeds go to the camps. For more information, call 651-645-6605.

## Events at Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew School

Kindergarten Visiting Day is Tuesday, April 18, from noon to 6 p.m. Incoming Kindergartners will have a chance to work on projects, visit with staff, and tour the school. Not registered yet? Call the school office at 651-489-1459. They can arrange a tour and give you the registration information.

"April in Paris" Live and Silent Auction is Saturday, April 22. The event includes a sit-down dinner, cash bar, raffles, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are just \$25 per person. The public is invited. Come and join the MMSA Community for a fun-filled evening. All proceeds benefit the school. Call the school at (651) 489-1459 for more information.

The Spring Sing is Tuesday, April 25, at 7 pm. Three choirs will perform including K, 1, 2 choir; 3, 4, 5 choir; and the Middle School choir. The choirs are under the direction of Mrs. Lundberg and Mrs. Sherman.

MMSA School is located at 592 West Arlington Avenue in St. Paul's Como Park area. MMSA is committed to academic excellence and prides itself on providing a quality, affordable, Catholic education for all children. The school serves children Preschool through grade 8.

## Program on Medicare planned April 30

Representatives from My Medicare Matters will be available for free, one-on-one consultation to answer questions about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit (Medical Part D) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 30 at Hamline Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Avenue.

No reservations are needed but seniors are asked to bring a current list of prescriptions including dosage strengths and instructions, their Medicare card and any correspondence received

from former employers, government agencies or a Medigap insurance provider. Transportation to and from the clinic will be provided by Hamline Midway Elders, 651-209-6542.

Elders who would like their yards raked or bushes pruned are asked to call Hamline Midway Elders, 651-209-6542. Volunteers will be available during the last week of April and first week of May.

## Cub Scout Pack 243 holds Pinewood Derby

Cub Scout Pack 243 had their annual Pinewood Derby. There were 28 racers with scouts and their siblings. Matthew Westpfahl\*, webelo, came in first place. David Kolar, Webelo, came in second with his brother Matthew Kolar, wolf, coming in third.

Other winners were: Mitchell Waugh\*, tiger, in fourth place; Christian Opheim\*, wolf, in fifth; Douglas Johnson\*, bear, in sixth; Nick Chute\*, bear, in seventh; Jesse Colvin\*\*, bear, in eighth; Mark Daigle, wolf, in ninth; and Jonathan Menke\*\*, bear, in tenth.

Those with \* will represent Pack 243 at the district level. Those with \*\* are alternates at the district level.

Other participants were Ian Simon, Nicholas Lentsch, Jon Culbert, Kaleb Seikmeier, Jay DeRoos, Jack Kelly, Isaiah Haupt, Sean Webb, Eric Webster, Caleb Lindquist, Destyn Land, William Swenson.

In our sibling race: Alexander Waugh was in first, Thomas Daigle was in second place and Delaree Johnson in third.

Our boys also voted on the following categories: "Coolest Looking" car went to Christian Opheim, "Most Colorful" went to Mark Daigle, "Fastest Looking" went to Matthew Kolar and "Best Overall" went to David Kolar.

Contact Sandy Kolar, Cub Master, if you are interested in scouting, at 651-644-6858.

## Como Golf Men's Club open to new members

The Como Golf Men's Club is open to new members ages 18 to 90. Membership application forms can be picked up at the Como Club House [651-488-9673] during business hours. Or, leave your name and phone number, attn: John Magnuson, and you will be contacted.

The spring organizational meeting is Friday April 21st at Como Club House, 1432 No. Lexington Ave, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Prospective members are welcome. New members can get help to find others to play with. Present handicaps range from -2 to 36. Membership costs \$100 for the 2006 season.



## Hausman welcomes page from Concordia Academy



State Representative Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) welcomed Elissa Cook to her post as a High School Page at the State Capitol. The Concordia Academy student served as a page for the House of Representatives during the week of March 20.



**Next deadline: May 1**  
**Next Issue: May 11**

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“Christ is Risen!”

10:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

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6:00-8:30 p.m. Youth (junior high and senior high)

6:30-8:00 p.m. Children's Program

6:30-8:00 p.m. Worship Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

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# Midway stakeholders discuss vision for Central Corridor

By JANE MCCLURE

As the long-awaited Central Corridor transit project is planned, so, too, could be changes that will transform area neighborhoods. How that transformation occurs and whom it impacts is a topic that drew more than 200 people to two transit-oriented development workshops March 20.

"If we just build tracks down University Avenue, we won't make it worth the almost \$1 billion we're putting into the project," said Mayor Chris Coleman. "You get an opportunity like this once in a lifetime." The mayor greeted participants at the workshops, titled Learning a Common Language: Creating a Vision for Transit-Oriented Development Along Central Corridor.

Coleman said the transit project, in the form of light rail or a bus line, provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform many areas along Central Corridor's 11-mile route. But without proper planning, it could be an opportunity lost.

"We will no longer tolerate mediocrity," said Coleman. "We will not tolerate one-story buildings in a sea of parking lots."

The city's role in the Central Corridor project is largely in land use planning around the corridor, and in how any transit improvements interface with city streets. A joint city-county-regional group, the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee, and the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority,

have the most say on what type of transit will be developed here.

The March 20 workshops featured Shelley Poticha of the California-based Center for Transit-Oriented Development/Reconnecting America, an organization that studies transit oriented development, and a panel of area business and community leaders. The sessions were a prelude to the mayor's upcoming appointments to a St. Paul Planning Commission Central Corridor planning task force. Nominations to that group, which will meet for a year, were due March 31. Appointments will be announced in April and the group will spend about a year hammering out a development strategy for Central Corridor. A final decision on light rail or bus as the transit mode will be made this summer.

Poticha said that transit-oriented development should be seen as using a public investment in transit as an opportunity to transform a community and improve quality of life for residents. The benefits of transit-oriented development she cited include making neighborhoods more walkable, providing better connections to jobs, offering more variety in housing opportunities and promoting more mixed-use development. In some neighborhoods developed around transit-oriented development principles, traffic and motor vehicle usage has actually decreased as residents and businesses take advantage of new transit opportunities.

But there are fears that Central Corridor and the push for redevelopment could threaten stable single-family neighborhoods. Panelists and speakers from the audience said redevelopment along Central Corridor should be transit-oriented but should not be done in a way that forces out existing businesses or threatens stable residential neighborhoods.

Hamline-Midway resident Benita Warns said she hasn't seen a strong commitment to preserving single-family neighborhoods. She said more should be done to strengthen such neighborhoods and to make improvements make it easier to get to and from the transit improvements.

Preserving and strengthening the single-family neighborhoods around University Avenue is important, speakers said. "You can't forget the neighborhoods and the people who live in the neighborhoods," said Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation Executive Director Kris Graham.

Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation Executive Director Nieeta Presley said any transit-oriented development needs to be done in a way that creates opportunities for people "who are already here." She and Ward One Council Member Debbie Montgomery said that planning should draw on the area's diversity and that that should be seen as a strength.

Montgomery recalled the con-

demnation and razing of homes and businesses in the old Rondo neighborhood, to make way for Interstate 94. African-American residents of that community found their options to relocate were limited due to racial prejudice. She said planners need to be sensitive and not exclude a neighborhood where people were displaced once.

Graham said those planning along the central Corridor shouldn't go in with the assumption that everything will be "six stories high." She said it's important not to displace people and businesses, and to accommodate businesses' parking needs during construction.

Parking could also be a problem in the neighborhoods along Central Corridor if there isn't adequate planning for commuter parking or connecting bus routes. Graham said one issue that embroiled neighborhoods along Minneapolis' Hiawatha Corridor is the use of neighborhood streets as park and ride areas.

Audience members Holly Breymer, a resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood, said there is a need for good planning and involvement of area residents. When Hiawatha Corridor was planned, neighborhood planning efforts extended less than a block around state sites. "Now LRT is there and we see the effects." She said there needs to be planning for a two to three-block area around stations, and that more needs to be done to address park-and-ride issues.

"I can't help but this is the right system in the wrong location," said Ramsey Hill resident and developer Kit Richardson. He asked why streetcars weren't being considered instead of light rail. But Poticha said streetcars are generally slower than rail. Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority Executive Director Kathy Despiegelaere said streetcars would not be able to accommodate the estimated 43,000 riders per day Central Corridor would carry.

One theme of the workshops was the need for Minnesotans to approve a dedicated source of transit funding, which will be on the November ballots.

Priscilla Zee, director of the business alliance Central Corridor Partnership, cautioned forum participants to not get too far ahead of themselves. Central Corridor has repeatedly run into funding delays and that has to be kept in mind. "This project keeps getting stalled," she said. As soon as we think (something) will happen, it doesn't. "Until Minnesota develops a dedicated stream of funding for transit, Zee said Central Corridor and other Minnesota projects will fall behind other projects in other states. The lack of transit improvements here will ultimately affect how the city and entire region develops.

"If we're left out of the development mix, the two core cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul) won't be two core cities anymore," said Zee.

## John Lesch

Continued from page 8

"People are mostly worried about kidnapping or becoming

collateral damage," Lesch said. "They usually aren't kidnapping targets unless their relatives have money. When I was in the airport, a family was there to post ransom for a kidnapping rela-

tive."

He said that improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were all over Iraq.

"The military were impressed with the ability of Iraqi

insurgents to build new explosive mechanisms," Lesch said.

He spoke to quite a few U.S. soldiers who expressed a mixture of feelings.

"A couple were gung ho, but

most were a lot more sober and serious about the situation," Lesch stated. "They had a different look in their eyes. Some had seen several friends die in front of them."

Lesch said the demeanor of the soldiers was almost palpable, and asking questions sometimes seemed inappropriate.

"It was like asking them to encapsulate a range of emotion that couldn't be described in a paragraph," Lesch said.

He said he was afraid twice. Once was in the airport in Damascus, when he was detained by the Syrian officials. The second time was enroute from the airport to his hotel. Once he was in Iraq, he said he mostly walked and got around that way.

"I went there without any specific expectations, and the trip exceeded my expectations in terms of the education I received," Lesch said. He kept a blog going while he was there, securing a satellite uplink and attaching it to a laptop he brought. In some areas he had Internet access.

He said some of his friends were concerned for him, others were intrigued. He said he had not expected the negative press he had received over the trip.

"It would be difficult to do the trip again because of the exposure, but if I could do it anonymously and discreetly, I would jump at the chance to do it again," he said.

Regarding Iraq, Lesch says, "There is nothing we can do... Things are far worse because of how we got in, and we can't change that. Our fate was sealed when we enjoyed the most expensive bait and switch in the history of western civilization."

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# Planning Commission approves variance, site plan changes for Wilder headquarters

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission has approved a variance and site plan changes that will allow the Amherst Wilder Foundation's new headquarters to be larger. Construction is expected to start soon on the building, which is part of the Lexington Park retail-office-residential development at Lexington Parkway and University Avenue.

The Planning Commission gave the changes the go-ahead April 7; its Zoning Committee March 30 unanimously recommended approval of a height variance and site plan changes for the project.

Of the retail and residential pieces of Lexington Park, Wilder is developing the largest site. The 3.2-acre Wilder site includes a three-story building and a detached parking ramp. It will also include a small courtyard. That will not be affected by changes to the project.

Lexington Park is on the former site of the Lexington shopping center, a 1950s strip mall that was torn down recently. An Aldi grocery store and TCF Bank have already been built and opened on the north and east sides of the property. South of Wilder are sites for Episcopal Homes senior housing and for Lexington Park de-

veloper Steve Wellington to develop condominium or a mixed retail-residential development.

Wilder's building as originally approved is ell-shaped, with 86,600 square feet of floor area. The site plan revision calls for enlarging the third floor of the building by 12,536 square feet. That would bring the total floor area to 99,136 square feet.

The originally planned parking ramp had 324 spaces. It now will have 80 more spaces, for a total of 404.

Wilder has about 370 full-time and part-time employees. The office space and ramp are being added to accommodate future growth.

Lexington-Hamline Community Council recommended approval of the variance and site plan changes as did a city task force, the Lexington Park Design Advisory Group. Wilder Foundation also has agreed to the conditions placed on the variance and site plan.

The original site plan for Wilder's new facilities won Planning Commission approval earlier this year. The changes to be considered April 7 would:

\*Add more office space by enlarging the building's third floor.

\*Add a floor to what is now a proposed 4-1/2 story parking ramp. This requires a variance

in height, as the ramp would now be 40 feet high instead of the 30 feet allowed under the site's business zoning.

The variance would be granted with the condition that the ramp appearance be improved. To be more attractive and compatible with planned residential development to the south and east. One suggestion city staff made is that there be more landscaping around the ramp. Wilder is asked to work with its neighbors on the ramp design. Final approval of any improvements would be left to city staff.

The Zoning Committee did raise concerns about the conditions on parking ramp appearance and the stipulation that an east-west street be built south of the ramp and north of a planned senior housing building that will be built by Episcopal Homes and Wellington's future development.

St. Paul Public Works has asked that the street be built to provide access in and out of the development, said Tom Beach. He oversees site plan reviews for the city. Without the east-west street, the only vehicle access points to Lexington Park are on University near Aldi and White Castle and on Lexington near TCF Bank.

Public Works traffic studies

of Lexington Park indicate it would be very difficult if not impossible for vehicles to make a left-hand, northbound turn onto Lexington Parkway during rush hour period. Vehicles would have to wait several minutes before trying to turn and impatient drivers may try to beat the odds, said Beach. "It's not only going to be inconvenient, it's going to be dangerous."

Some Zoning Committee members questioned putting construction of the street and its sidewalks as a condition on Wilder's site plan. One question was whether the road would have been proposed had Lexington Park been redeveloped with a master plan, instead of on a site-by-site basis. That's been a criticism community groups have raised for more than two years.

Zoning Committee members question who should pay for the street. That hasn't been worked out, according to city staff and the developers.

Committee members noted that other parts of the Lexington Park development would benefit from having the street there and that it shouldn't be implied that Wilder would pay all of the costs for the private street. City staff said that isn't the case.

"Who benefits from having the road?" said Commissioner

Steve Gordon. Beach said that although Wilder's parking ramp doesn't have a direct access point on the proposed road, its traffic would benefit from having the road there.

One concern with adding the street is that it squeezes Episcopal Homes' proposed building, said Beach. That building will already wind up having underground parking because of site constraints. Putting the street on Episcopal Church Homes' property would add more complications to that project, which hasn't had its site plan approved yet.

Zoning Committee members questioned what say they and the full Planning Commission would have on the private street and allocation of costs. Assistant City Attorney Rachel Gunderson said the cost decision is outside of the Planning Commission's purview, which is approval of a site plan and variance. The cost decision will be up to the property owners and Public Works.

"Generally, the city can build roads and assess property owners," Gunderson said.

Beach said one suggestion to hold down street costs is to have the street built privately, so it could be narrower than allowed by city street construction standards.



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Paid for by the Department of Neighborhood Housing and Property Improvement, Como Community Council, and the Hamline-Midway Coalition.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classifieds

Monitor Want Ads are now 80 cents per word. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. \$8.00 minimum on all classifieds. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classifieds are accepted over the phone with credit card payment only (\$16 minimum order). Want ads must be in the Monitor before May 1 for the May 11 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information.

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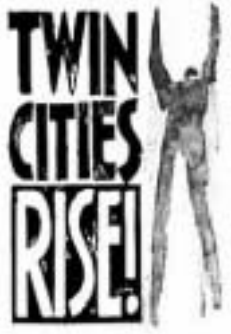
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### WRITING

Writing a paper for admission to Harvard? A resume for your company's web site? A journalist with 25 years experience is available for assisting folks who need help in writing. Reasonable rates. Call 651-486-9760. 12-02

## Target

Continued from page 7

The current store site and part of the current parking lot would provide the new SuperTarget with approximately 640 parking spaces. The zoning code requires there be 820 off-street parking spaces, so the Planning Commission was asked to approve a 180-space parking variance. The variance has support from neighborhood groups, including the Midway Transportation Management Organization. City staff recommend the variance, noting that there are few times when the existing Target lot is full.

But Planning Commissioners Jim Bellus and Gaius Nelson voted against the parking variance, ending up on the short end of a 12-2-1 vote. Nelson and Commissioner Jon Commers voted against the site plan, which passed 10-2-1.

Nelson and Bellus argued that there are no exceptional or mitigating circumstances that justify such a large variance. Each had a different reason for opposing the variance. Bellus said the lack of unique circumstances to justify a variance meant that either the variance is wrong or the city's calculations of parking needs are wrong.

Parking studies have been conducted that suggest reducing the amount of surface parking re-

quired for larger, "big box" retail stores, said Planning Commissioner Rich Kramer. A PED intern conducted one of the studies. Another was conducted by University UNITED.

"We do think the parking standards are clearly too high on University," said Planning Administrator Larry Soderholm. But changing the standards would require a separate study and city zoning code changes. Soderholm also pointed out that relaxing the parking standards along University could raise objections from other neighborhoods, such as those along Grand, where parking is at a premium.

Nelson, who is an architect, said that not requiring Target to add all of the needed parking has a benefit of as much as \$500,000 for the project.

He also said the Planning Commission should use the variance as leverage to get a better-designed site plan. "I'm very disappointed with what our hometown Target proposed for this site," Nelson said. "Essentially this is a proto-type SuperTarget store you could find in any suburb. . . I would like to see something more creative here."

Target officials contend that allowing for the variance frees up land along University and Syndicate Street for smaller, separate retail or mixed-use buildings close

to the streets. Those "outlots" are covered in the project site plan.

Target has no prospective new owners for those buildings. That prompted Commers to question why the Planning Commission would approve a site plan that includes the outlots, if it isn't known what will be built there.

Such an approval isn't typical in a site plan, said Planning Commissioner Chairperson Brian Alton. One reason he cited for approving the site plan with conditions on the outlots is to give more flexibility on how those parts of the property will be developed later.

Tom Beach, who oversees site plan reviews for the city, agreed that the city wants conditions on the outlots that would allow more flexibility in future development. City and Target officials disagreed as to whether infrastructure, such as drainage improvements, should be installed on the outlots before future development there is known. The city staff recommendation, which the Planning Commission upheld, is that the sites should be planted with grass but otherwise left unimproved. Target wanted to put in drainage improvements and more landscaping.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee approved Target's site plan and parking variance March 16.

Carol Buhl. "She's exceeded our own expectations in many way and we're obviously proud of her hard work. We look forward to making trips to New York to see her play next year."

Schafer said Coach Taylor supported and helped her reach her basketball potential. "I wouldn't have gotten the college playing opportunity without his help developing my skills, and without my teammates challenging me to play hard—those are the many benefits one gets playing on a team," she said. "You do your part, but others push you to reach higher goals that you might not necessarily do on your own."

Central Girls' Head Basketball Coach Willie Taylor said Cate is the type of player that coaches love. "Unlike most players, Cate

patiently watched and learned while former Central players Ashley Ellis-Milan, Marta Waalen and DeJurnett Prioleau started," he said. Ellis-Milan and Waalen both play Division One basketball at Minnesota and Missouri-Kansas City, respectively.

"Unlike our scoring leaders, Cate has a different set of strengths," Taylor said. "She's got excellent defensive and ball-handling skills, which are critical to the team's success. I can also proudly say that Cate is one of the smartest basketball players that I have ever coached. She is a great leader and a coach on the floor. She knows our system better than anyone. She is great with patience in teaching our system to younger players. She is truly a winner. She will be greatly missed."

## Central basketball

Continued from page 6

She also had offers to play for St. Olaf and Lake Forest (Ill.) Colleges but desired to study out East, where she has an uncle and bonded well with her future coach.

Schafer plans to study economics and hopes to one day to go into investment banking — perhaps on Wall Street. One of her favorite teachers, Ethan Cherin, teaches economics at Central and has also encouraged her to explore that as a career.

"Cate has always been a self-assured person and is very internally driven," said her mother

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As I write, there is a steady drizzle melting the last stubborn remnants of snow. The ground is still frozen about a foot down, but things could look and feel very different by the time this column runs.

During early April last year the high temperatures were in the 70s, migrant waterfowl quaked and yodeled from the middle of an ice-free Como Lake, a few dreaded dandelions bloomed on the south side of the house, queen bumblebees buzzed about during the warmer afternoons, and I'd pulled the first wood tick of the year off my terrier.

However, there are entries in my journal from previous Aprils, which speak of snowstorms and freezing temperatures. April may take a step backwards now and again, but there is no turning back once the earth is released from winter's deep-freeze. Like ice-out on the lake, the ground's thaw is a major spring event.

The definitive promise of milder days to come is the "cheer-up, cheerily" song of the first returning American robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Robins switch from their winter diets of dried fruit to higher protein diets in spring, and soon they'll be sprinting across our lawns hunting for earthworms. But the worms can't come to the surface to feed until the barrier of frozen ground has thawed out.

Although the American robin is a native species, they are much more common across the continent today than they were before European settlement. The landscape changes that we have made around our cities and towns are probably the prime



# Neighborhood Naturalist

By DEB ROBINSON

## As the worm turns

reasons for the robin's expansion across North America. The sight of a robin with a beak draped



Illustration by Deb Robinson

with earthworms looks completely natural to us. But what is out of place is the earthworm — there are no native earthworm species in Minnesota.

Every earthworm you see in your backyard, wiggling in the

gutters after a rainstorm or in the clots of soil after you cultivate the garden, is of European origins. There are over a dozen exotic species of earthworms that are now common throughout the North and Midwest with the familiar night crawler (*Laubricus terrestris*) being only one. Earthworms native to this northern region were killed off during the last ice age over 10,000 years ago.

The European earthworms came as stowaways (as eggs or adults) in potted plants, animal feed, and ship ballast. They settled into the gardens and fields alongside the human European immigrants. And in the compacted soils of our backyards and farm fields the earthworms perform the invaluable service of

aerating soils trodden down by our feet and machinery. In highly disturbed landscapes the earthworms are our friends.

On damp, warm evenings, my husband and I listen for the rustle of last year's maple leaves being pulled underground by a multitude of hungry night crawlers. Earthworm populations can reach densities of hundreds per square foot! Sometimes we can actually watch the leaves as they disappear down the worms' burrows.

I have often joked about never having to rake leaves, and for that I am thankful.

However, when the night crawlers in our yard run out of dead organic stuff to eat, they may resort to munching on tender living plants. Occasionally, I've found the tops of young seedlings pulled halfway down a night crawler's burrow while the plant is still rooted in the ground.

Earthworms are seldom destructive in our urban landscapes. On the other hand, their big appetites can denude the ground-level of a natural forest leaving it open to erosion. The gardener's friend is a fiend in Minnesota's hardwood forests — especially native maple-basswood forests where the leaf litter serves as a nursery bed for spring flowers, ferns, and tree seedlings.

While European earthworms have been present in our yards since the mid 1800s, there has been a relatively new invasion of earthworms into native Minnesota woodlands during the last few decades. The worst hit areas are near lakes and streams where people fish. Who would have thought that the innocent act of emptying your unused bait-worms on the ground next to the water's edge could lead to the disappearance of nearby native woodland plants like trilliums and animals like salamanders?

Gardeners and American robins can be reassured that earthworms are here to stay. But we can still help protect what is left of our native hardwood forests by not releasing our leftover bait-worms after fishing and by not transplanting plants from our urban yards to vacation properties. Luckily, it takes earthworms a very long time to wiggle their own way to new ground (5 yards a year according to Worm Watch), just don't give them a free ride.

Endnotes: \*For more information on the earthworm invasion - visit: [www.nrri.umn.edu/worms](http://www.nrri.umn.edu/worms)  
\*Bird Como Park with two local experts: meet Val Cunningham and Clay Christensen at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on May 2 at the Hamm Falls near the Como Lakeside Pavilion (a free Ramsey County Urban Birding Festival event) - register at 651-632-2457 or just show up.  
\*Como Park is in need of volunteers for trash clean-up, Saturday, April 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. We'll meet outside the Lakeside Pavilion - more info: 651-632-2458. To contact this writer: [dm-robinson@bitstream.net](mailto:dm-robinson@bitstream.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

### "Economic Security"

Part of the Hamline Dialogue series "Thinking Forward: Finding Future Direction for Today's Critical Issues." For more information and to register, [www.hamline.edu/news\\_events/dialogues/36623.html](http://www.hamline.edu/news_events/dialogues/36623.html)

Date: Thursday, April 20

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Location: Klas Center, Kay Fredericks Room

Cost: \$10

To Receive Credit: \$25 (for the Graduate School of Management, CEUs, or CLEs)

Contact: Kristen Norman-Major, 651-523-2814

### Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel

Twentieth anniversary concert featuring an all-Mozart program with Mr. Siegel collaborating with his guests, The Artaria String Quartet.

Date: Saturday, April 15

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Contact: 651-523-2459, for ticket information

### The Musical Offering

Featuring an all-Mozart program.

Date: Sunday, April 23

Time: 3 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Contact: 651-523-2459, for ticket information

### Hamline University's Jazz

#### Ensembles Spring Concert

Date: Thursday, May 4

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2197



### "Stopping Time"

The fifteenth annual Kay Malmstrom Lecture in Physics at Hamline University.

Speaker: Professor Eric Mazur, Harvard University

Date: Friday, May 5

Time: 12:40 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2216 or e-mail

[omc@hamline.edu](mailto:omc@hamline.edu)

### Ivan Konev Recital

The Hamline International Piano Institute's first graduate, Ivan Konev, will give a recital.

Date: Friday, May 5

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2197

### Hamline University's Winds and Women's Chorale Spring Concert

Date: Saturday, May 6

Time: 4 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2197

### Hamline University's A Cappella Choir Spring Concert

Date: Sunday, May 7

Time: 4 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

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### Hamline University's Orchestra Concert

Date: Sunday, May 14

Time: 4 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2197

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