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## Midway Como

# Monitor



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## Two small parking lots approved next to the soccer stadium

*MN United wins again; City Council approves 5-year permit despite objection by both local community councils*

By JANE MCCLURE

Two interim parking lots, with fewer than 200 spaces in all, can be built for the Allianz Field Major League Soccer stadium. On Aug. 15 the St. Paul City Council granted an interim use permit to Minnesota United Soccer Club Holdings LLC for the lots. The lots east of Snelling Ave. can remain in place for up to five years.

The creation of interim surface parking for the stadium, which opens in 2019, is a point of debate. Some stadium neighbors fear being overrun with soccer fan parking and question whether the spaces would be enough to even make a dent in the parking need. Others contend that more needs to be done to encourage transit use, walking and biking to games, and sharing of existing ramps and lots. They believe that building even small interim parking lots sends the wrong message.

### Councils wanted more time

Approval was despite a request from Hamline Midway Coalition and United Park District Council seeking more time to discuss the issue. In a letter from both councils, Megan Conley stated, "While we appreciate the need for addi-

tional parking on the roughly 20 soccer event days, this space resides in a neighborhood of people who interact with the location 365 days per year. We believe it is possible to create a dual use for this space that can meet the needs of the team and the community."

Representatives of the district councils met with Minnesota United lead owner Bill McGuire in March and July to discuss ideas to make the space aesthetically pleasing, potentially as space where neighbors could gather and connect with one another. McGuire rejected that suggestion and told the council representatives that the space would be developed in a short time. In the meantime, it will only be used for parking.

"The team's request for permission to use the space for parking for five years indicates that imminent development is less likely than first anticipated, and that the suggestions made by the community representatives should receive serious consideration. Also, because these parking lots will be paid lots on game day we believe this revenue will offset the modest expenses incurred in creating a dual use," Conley wrote. "With that in mind, we respectfully re-

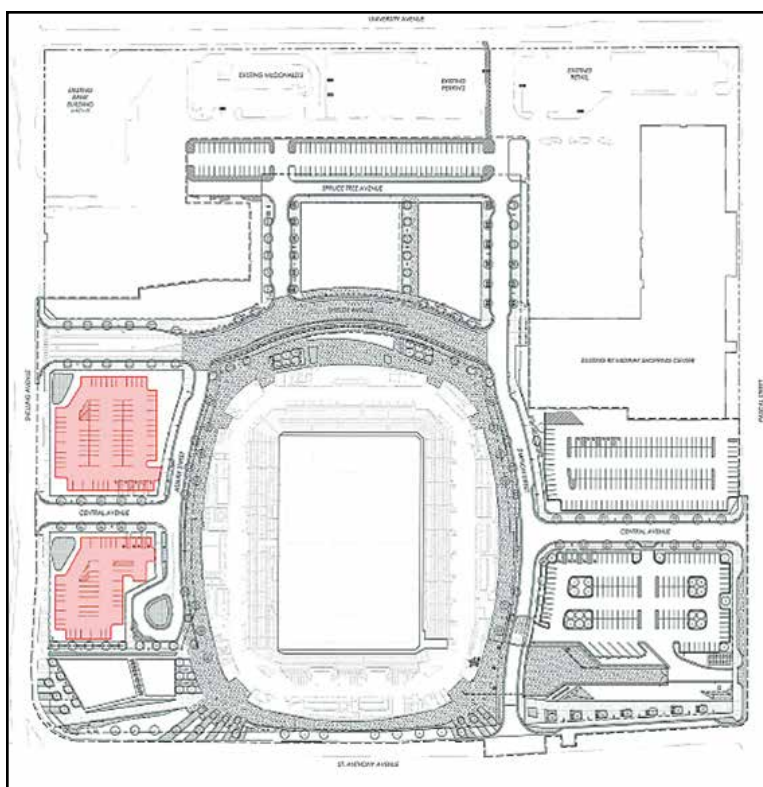


Illustration left: Two small parking lots west of the stadium and east of Snelling Ave. can be built. (Illustration provided)

quest that you delay approval of this interim permit ... We believe it is reasonable to delay this decision because the team will not need parking until spring 2019, which leaves adequate time to cre-

ate and implement a shared vision for the space."

Recently the district councils formed a community benefits task force to work on stadium-related issues. What form any stadium-re-

lated community benefits would take hasn't been determined.

Ward Four Council Member Samantha Henningson said she shares the district councils' frustration as to how the interim use permit request was brought forward. But she also acknowledged that "there are a lot of moving parts" with stadium development. She planned to set up a meeting between Mayor Melvin Carter III's office and the two district councils to discuss their concerns.

Ward One Council Member Dai Thao said he'll continue to work with the team and community members on potential shared use.

No one appeared at the public hearing on the interim use. City staff recommended approval. Senior City Planner Kady Dadlez said that interim use permits are allowed under state law if they met a set of specific conditions. Interim uses under state law must conform

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## Newly elected council member to focus on renters and affordable housing

By STEPHANIE FOX

Mitra Jalali Nelson has been an organizer for grassroots issues most of her adult life. Now, as the newly elected member of St. Paul's City Council, she says she wants to start organizing from within the power structure. Nelson plans on focusing her efforts toward transit sustainability, police accountability, and finding ways to advance economic equity in the local economy.

But, at the top of her list is affordable housing.

Her diverse ethnic background—her parents are both immigrants, one from Korea and the other from Iran—has given Nelson unique insight, she says. Her family, who ran a small business, moved all around the Twin Cities.

After attending Mounds View High School, she expanded her horizons, moving to Madison for a degree in political science and then to post-Katrina New Orleans, working at a high school for two years with Teach for America. From there she returned home to St. Paul, becoming an organizer with the St. Paul Federation of Teachers. She



Mitra Jalali Nelson, Ward 4 City Council member. (Photo provided)

joined Rep. Keith Ellison's local office as his public safety and immigration outreach director, where she spent the last three years.

During the 2012 election, she worked to pass a \$39 million annual St. Paul Public School funding levy, which, she says, helped her sharpen her negotiation skills,

something she now hopes will serve her as a council member.

Nelson, now 32, didn't grow up dreaming of a seat on the city council. But, when St. Paul Council Member Russ Stark resigned his office to work with newly elected Mayor Melvin Carter, and a special election was called in her Ward 4

neighborhood, Nelson decided that she could serve the public better as an elected official. Ward 4 includes Hamline Midway, Saint Anthony Park, Merriam Park and parts of Mac-Groveland and Como.

She started to campaign last winter and by spring was winning endorsements from unions and progressive organizations. She gained support from Mayor Carter and in April got the thumb's up from the DFL at their April convention.

Samantha Henningson, Stark's legislative aide, took over the seat when he left, but as part of her agreement to take the interim job, she pledged she would not run for the office.

Instead, three candidates—Nelson, Shirley Erstad, and David Martinez—were on the ballot and on Aug. 14, Nelson was elected with 54 percent of the vote. Erstad received 41 percent and Martinez, whose campaign was mired in controversy, received only 5 percent.

When she took office on Sept. 5, Nelson became the only renter on the Council. She says she hopes

to include other renters as an important part of her constituency, with housing affordability as one of her key issues.

Nelson says that her supporters reflect the changing younger face of her district in St. Paul. "Renters make up more than 50 percent of the city," she said. St. Paul has a large younger population, with a median age of only 31.7 years.

"I think the idea is that housing stability is important to community stability," Nelson says. "I want to work for housing affordability. The city can be an important part of that. Zoning can be used to create more value. Preservation and new housing don't have to be at odds."

While she supports the construction of new, affordable mixed-income housing, she says that the city should also work to preserve older housing, including landlord programs to fund repairs to existing properties, keeping the cost of rents down.

But, while Nelson hopes to

*Continued on page 3*



# Why not a parade and celebration of our country's diversity?

By JAN WILLMS

Retired mechanical engineer Peter Truitt, a Hamline Midway resident, has been concerned about the recent immigration policy of this country.

"For the last two months, the issues in the news in respect to immigration and the issues of families at the border have troubled me," Truitt said.

"I have mixed feelings about immigration," he said. "I don't think it should be open-ended as some people think, but the fact that people are being treated in the manner they are is something we don't need to do. We can do better."

"Most importantly," he continued, "I think once people come to our country, it is very important for those people to be welcomed and to integrate. That's what has made our country really what it is."

So instead of just feeling bad about the way immigration policy is developing, Truitt decided to take action. He found that Move-on.org had a place on its website for petitions.

Truitt created a petition. "About 10 minutes after I was thinking about it, I put it online and hit the enter button, and there it went," he explained.

His idea is to have a parade, an immigration parade and celebration. It would start at the State Capitol and go down to the new soccer stadium.

"What I mentioned in the petition was to do it powwow style, basically having a Native American powwow at the head," he said. He admitted that he is not so sure he would write the petition in quite the same way if he were to do it again.

"I think it should have been a little less precise," Truitt said, "and I should have left it more as a celebration of immigration. In addition to its being a celebration and parade, I stipulated where it started and ended, and I dictated it should be like a powwow."

Truitt said he did not think those were bad ideas, but he thinks there are a lot of potential approaches that could be even better. "And it is wrong for me, not being a Native American, to stipulate that it's going to be a powwow," he noted.

"I could only hope that Native Americans would be first in line and direct the event," Truitt said. "That would be my first wish. But I shouldn't be making those assumptions; it's not fair."

Truitt said he did receive over 60 names on his petition. "I advertised it on Facebook, and I sent email, but I'm not that well connected," he said.

He said he had attended several powwows, and generally, he considers them welcoming events. "They have a grand entry, which is sort of a parade," he noted. "The elders come in first, and people in the military, then other elders and members of their tribe, then other tribes are welcomed. All come successively, and then it is open to the general public."

He said the primary reason for his idea is to welcome new immigrants but also to bring a real visual picture of what immigration has looked like over the years because he feels it has been very different for different groups. "Especially for American Blacks, coming as slaves," he added. "So in a sense, this parade would be a combination of a re-enactment that demonstrates



Hamline Midway resident Peter Truitt proposed a parade and celebration of our country's diversity. (Photo by Jan Willms)

both joyousness and troubles."

This attempt at creating a parade and celebration has been Truitt's first real experience at activism. "I have helped some political parties, and I have done some door knocking to get out the vote and written letters to newspapers. My wife was a mentor to some Hmong women some time ago," he said. "I thought it would be a great idea to get some Hmong to attend a powwow, but that never happened. Perhaps it has happened naturally by now."

Truitt said he has not yet spoken directly to Native American leaders about his idea, and he is concerned whether they would think his idea a good thing. "I did not get as much response as I thought I would, so I am letting the petition sit and waiting for some other ideas," Truitt said. "I am a believer of getting an idea out, as crazy as it might be, because it often stimulates some other ideas. That comes from my training as a mechanical designer. We would get a lot of wild ideas, but if you don't put them out there, you don't get improvements. Maybe this will generate some better idea, whether it be a parade or something else."

"I could keep pushing this along, but I need to meet face-to-face with some people," he said. "Right now I am busy, but after November I think time will be more

available. It's not the sort of thing I have done in the past, so I need a lot of help."

"The event will have a lot of potential for action."

Truitt questioned why this had not been done before. "We certainly have individual celebrations, one at a time, but that does not necessarily bring us all together."

Truitt said he had done some traveling, to Mexico and the Philippines and a couple of other places in Asia. "I am quite convinced we are all the same species. I run into the same sort of human interactions with people everywhere I go, good people and people who I find myself angry with. One group is not better than the next."

"There are some cultural differences," Truitt stated, "but in the end, we are all the same species. I think we have to work harder; it could be that our survival depends on it."

"I wonder what was being preached from the pulpits in the 1930s in Germany," Truitt mused. "And I wonder what they wished they had preached."

Truitt is not giving up on his idea. He said that as well as talking to individuals, he hopes to contact some organizations.

"We are always talking about being a nation of immigrants," he said. "So why not celebrate that?"

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A soaring number of car thefts and car break-ins drove up crime in District 10 by 25 percent in the first six months of 2018, according to preliminary data from the Saint Paul Police Department.

More than five times as many vehicles were stolen in the first six months of 2018 than in the same period 2017: 67 vs. 12 in raw numbers. Theft from vehicles also soared: 98 between January and the end of June 2018, compared with 61 during the same period of 2017.

As too many social media posts remind us, a lot of this theft occurs when people leave their car running, leave their car unlocked, or leave valuables in plain sight inside their vehicle.

Another trend of note: Home burglaries declined 25 percent. However, home burglaries where there was no forced entry rose. They now account for more than half of all home burglaries in the district. Police say these burglaries typically are the easiest to prevent. Instead, residents who leave doors, windows, or garages open, create crimes waiting to happen.

Get more details, and charts of year-to-year comparisons, on District 10's website: [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org).

### What's with those scooters and bikes?

Dockless bicycles and electric scooters are showing up and zipping around all over Como. They are part of new contracts the City Council approved in August.

A primary advantage of the dockless vehicles is that you can find them—and leave them—just about anywhere. But riders are

# Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

## Auto break-ins drive increase in area crime rate



Dockless bicycles and electric scooters are showing up and zipping around all over Como. (Photo provided)

not supposed to park them on sidewalks, at bus stops, or other places where they are in the way. That isn't always happening. Nor are scooter riders always sticking to streets and bike lanes, as they are supposed to. Specifically, scooters are not supposed to ride on trails in Saint Paul parks, which includes Como Park and

Wheelock Pkwy. That isn't always happening either.

Find out more about this new era of getting around (including where to send your comments—good, bad, or mixed) in a detailed story on District 10's website, [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org).

### Trash pick-up changes

Six different haulers will handle trash pickup in Como once Saint Paul's coordinated collection system begins in October. Trash day for most of District 10 will be Friday (beginning Oct. 5), the same day as recycling. For District 10 residents west of Hamline, however, trash day will be Monday (starting Oct. 1) but recycling day will remain Friday.

Some basics:

- The new trash carts are scheduled to be delivered in Como in mid- to late September, which means we should see them any day now. (Don't use the carts, however, until new service starts Oct. 1.)
- Our new haulers are supposed to send us our bill this month for service between October-December.
- If you don't like your cart size, you'll have to live with it until January. Then you can switch it out for a larger or smaller option.
- Get full information on the city's website: [www.stpaul.gov/garbage](http://www.stpaul.gov/garbage).

### Resource Fair is Oct. 13

Como Connect—a free resource fair connecting residents with local organizations that provide a range of services and opportunities—is Sat., Oct. 13. The fair runs 10am-2pm at Bethel Church, 670 Wheelock Pkwy. W. Watch for more details next month.

### Upcoming District 10 Meetings

- Neighborhood Relations and Safety Committee: Tues., Sept. 11
- Como Community Council Monthly Meeting: Tues., Sept. 18
- Environment Committee: Wed., Sept. 26
- Neighborhood Relations and Safety Committee: Tues., Oct. 2
- Land Use Committee: Wed., Oct. 3

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

**Office closed:** District 10's office in the Como Park Streetcar Station will be closed Sept. 17-29. However, board members will hold office hours as usual on Sundays from noon-4pm on Sept. 16, 23, and 30.

## Parking lots

Continued from page 1

with a city's zoning regulations, must have a set end date, cannot impose additional public costs if the property is restored in the future, and must follow any condi-

tions the city sets.

The city, in turn, can put limits on an interim use permit. The City Council approval Aug. 15 allows the stadium's parking lots to be in place through Nov. 2023. The lots will need to be paved and striped, with rain gardens, curbs and gutter, and lighting. If the interim use period ends without redevelopment, the pavement must be removed and replaced with grass. Rain gardens must be maintained in good working condition. Handicapped

parking must be placed close to the stadium. A city site plan on the file for the lots must be followed when the lots are built.

### What the master plan says

A master plan for the superblock bounded by St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues and Pascal St. was approved by the City Council two years ago. The plan calls for office/retail uses in the area along Snelling where the parking lots are to be located, with structured or

ramp parking.

The master plan outlines the possibility of short-term parking use. But because the interim parking isn't part of the approved plan, an interim use permit is needed.

St. Paul doesn't grant many interim uses. One controversial permit is for a parking lot near the University of St. Thomas. Its site was supposed to be developed several years ago, but has had its interim use permit extended twice.

## New city council member

Continued from page 1

support younger and single people who are not ready to buy, she thinks that there are ways the city

can help those ready to transition to home ownership.

"For those trying to buy a home for the first time, the city runs programs to help people with down payment assistance, responsible lease to own programs, and homeowner classes," she said.

Nelson says that for existing

homeowners, rising property taxes can sometimes become a problem. "We have to be thoughtful on property tax increases and how we spend our money. On a macro level, there is a group who pay no property taxes," she said, mentioning St. Paul's many hospitals, clinics, and parking areas. "The idea is if we can engage smart development in industrial and commercial areas, people won't feel that they are picking up the bill. In the past, we have not developed our community. We have lost opportunities."

"I think we need to make the best possible use of our land everywhere and can, across our city, meet the needs of our community," she said. "I would like to see a mix of industrial and residential across our ward to sustain our tax base and meet our growing housing needs."

Since the election was to fill a vacated seat, Nelson will have to run again in the general election next year, along with the other seven members of the council. If she wins, she will represent her district for four more years.

For now, Nelson is ready to get to work. "The special election was a whirlwind. But, I want to get to work right away. It's exciting to live in our city, and I am excited to do this job differently. I want to attend community events, have forums and meet people. People want to get involved locally and I want to engage with them."

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• Como Academy of Finance (AOF) students were busy over the summer. 60 AOF students had professional internships, an accomplishment made possible by students' initiative, and the AOF program's relationships with a variety of businesses and organizations. Seven students were placed with Brand Lab for marketing positions. Seventeen students worked 120 hours with Optum using business information technology skills to gather data, address challenges, and present possible solutions to meet Optum's needs as a health service company.

Four students completed training with Genesys Works and will continue to work at Genesys Works placement sites throughout the school year. 20 students were placed at job sites around the Twin Cities for the summer through Right Track. Seven others were gainfully employed through the Ramsey County Workforce. Two students were paid by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis to collaborate and develop a professional student manual. Three AOF students held positions at the Hiway Credit Union.

• Como Park High School's "Link Crew" is composed of 60 juniors and seniors that volunteer to be positive leaders and mentors for freshmen. The Link Crew welcomed Como's incoming class of 2022 by hosting an orientation session on the morning of Thur., Aug. 30. The Link Crew Leaders prepared for the event with training that focused on community and fellowship, leading up to the implementation of fun, inclusion activities. The event provided the new students with a chance to get comfortable and make connections before classes began on Sept. 4. The

# News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

## Summer internships, accomplishments, and new academic space



Cadets from the Marine Corps JROTC put in seven long days of labor doing garbage duty at the State Fair to raise funds for the program. (Photo provided)

faculty advisors for Como's Link Crew are Ms. Alisson Hartzell and Ms. Shelly Storelee.

• Cadets from Como's Marine Corps JROTC hauled a whole lot of garbage at the State Fair! Crews of between 40-50 cadets a day worked garbage duty from 9am to 9pm. for seven days at the Fair to raise funds for their program. The money earned goes to support participation in the drill competitions, equipment, retreats, and a big upcoming summer adventure to the Grand Canyon. The positive spirit of the cadets and the knowledge of exciting events ahead in the 2018-2019 school year helped them navigate the long days of labor.

• An innovative collaboration is occurring this year between Ms.

Gbolo's culinary arts classes at Como and Mr. Chase's science classes at Murray Middle School. Murray students planted vegetables last spring and have continued to be harvesting the gardens. Students at Como will be using the produce in the culinary labs as they prepare healthy meals.

• Construction of Como's new academic wing was still being completed during Labor Day weekend before the first day of school on Sept. 4. The Wenck Engineering and Construction Company worked feverishly to put the final touches on the new classrooms and get it ready for learning. Construction on other parts of the building, which are closed off and secured from teachers and students, will continue throughout

the academic year.

The new addition is stunning with its airy design, natural light, high-tech science labs and unique features such as the Cougar Forum. "Both the new spaces and the renovated spaces are absolutely beautiful. It is what our students deserve," said Como Principal Stacy Theien-Collins.

• The freshmen class is scheduled to spend the school day of Sept. 26 outside on the Como turf field in team-building activities. The purpose is to develop strong relationships and build community through restorative practices as the 9th graders begin their high school journey. Como alumni, parents, and community members are invited to join for all or part of the day. Adult role models and mentors provide the support and encouragement that students need to be successful in and beyond the school walls. Those interested in helping may contact Andrew Ryan at [drc.schools@gmail.com](mailto:drc.schools@gmail.com).

• The 2013 Como boys' soccer team that went undefeated and won the city, section and state championships had a 5-year reunion on August 28. The current Cougars team took on Hill-Murray in the first-ever night game on

the new turf, which ended in a 1-1 tie. At halftime, the 2013 team took the field and was recognized for their accomplishments from five years ago. They were also celebrated for their positive contributions to society in the five years since. Seventeen of the team's 20 members were able to attend and be reunited around the game that they played so well together while forming enduring friendships.

• A talented trio of Como girls who played varsity basketball for the Cougars last year as Murray Middle School 8th graders took advantage of an awesome opportunity over the summer. Kaylenn Asbury, Jada Jones and Ronnie Porter, who are now all Como freshmen, were selected for the Fresh Faces All-American Camp in California. They each had an impressive showing and positive experience competing with some of the best talent from across the country.

• Homecoming at Como is set for Sat., Sept. 29. For the first time, the Como Cougars homecoming football game will be played—at HOME! The new turf field will be the site for the 1pm game versus Minneapolis South. Food trucks will provide fans with a variety of options to enjoy as they cheer on the Cougars. The annual parade will start from school at 10:15am and proceed north on Grotto and southeast on Wheelock Pkwy. back to the lake and school. A picnic and activities will follow beginning at 11am.

# Hamline Elementary School

By JESSICA KOPP

## All neighbors are invited to Fall Festival Oct. 6

Hello, neighbors, you are all invited to the 5th Annual Hamline Elementary Fall Festival on Sat., Oct. 6, from 12-4:30pm on the fields next to the school.

This free, family-friendly community event features live entertainment including performances by Siana Matuzungidi ([www.siamamusic.com](http://www.siamamusic.com)) and the Center for Irish Music Youth Ensemble, games and activities, community exhibitors and vendors, food for purchase, and a bake sale.

For more information about joining the event as a vendor or exhibitor, check out [www.hamlinemidway.org/fallfestivalrules](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/fallfestivalrules) or contact the Hamline PTA at [hamlineelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:hamlineelementarypta@gmail.com).

In case of rain, the event will take place inside the Hamline Elementary/Hancock Recreation Center gym.

Big thanks to our community partners Hamline University, Hamline Midway Coalition, and Hancock Recreation Center for your continued support of this event—we couldn't do it without you. We look forward to celebrating with our awesome neighbors again this year. Hope to see you there!

Hamline Elementary is located at 1599 Englewood Ave., in the heart of the Midway, and is a proud Saint Paul Public School. Learn more about us at [www.spps.org/hamline](http://www.spps.org/hamline).



Last year's rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm at the Fall Festival. It just moved indoors! (Photo provided)

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# Higher Ground Academy moving to Metro Deaf building

School shuffle means that 19-year-old charter school will open second campus in Como neighborhood next fall

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Higher Ground Academy (HGA) will open a second campus in the Como neighborhood in fall 2019.

The K-12 charter school currently at 1381 Marshall Ave. will be moving into the facility at Brewster and Pascal that Metro Deaf School intends to vacate at the end of 2018. Metro Deaf School is moving to 1125 Energy Park Dr.

"This is really an opportunity for us to serve our students better," said Principal Dr. Samuel Yigzaw.

Higher Ground will spend the spring and summer next year renovating the space, converting smaller, 1-on-1 spaces into about 18 larger classrooms suitable for grades seven and up, according to Yigzaw. There will also be



"Higher Ground is an environmentally-friendly school, and we want students to grow in sustainability towards the environment. Proximity to Como Park will be a very good opportunity for us," stated Principal Dr. Samuel Yigzaw. (Photo submitted)



Higher Ground Academy (HGA) will open a second campus in the Como neighborhood in fall 2019 at the facility at 1471 Brewster St. that Metro Deaf School is currently in. Metro Deaf intends to move at the end of 2018 to 1125 Energy Park Dr. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

smaller classrooms available for group work.

## 'Cramped' at current building

HGA initially applied with its authorizer in 2013 to expand its academic program to a second location, with the intention to move the younger grades.

Driving the move for the charter school is the desire for more space, and greater flexibility for programming, pointed out Yigzaw. The new location will offer this and the ability to add students. High on the list of desires is more labs and open space. The new facility has a gym that is not available at 1381 Marshall Ave.

"We are cramped here," stated Yigzaw. "Now with a larger space, we should be able to bring in more opportunities to our students."

He added, "Higher Ground is an environmentally friendly school, and we want students to grow in sustainability towards the environment. Proximity to Como Park will be a very good opportunity for us."

In the fall of 2019, about 300-350 students will move to the second campus. The plan is to eventually grow to 500 students there.

## K-12 Afro-centric school

Higher Ground Academy's mission to "create a socially committed, morally responsible and ethnically diverse learning envi-

ronment that values students individually and collectively."

The school currently serves 760 black and East African students. The school has a low teacher-student ratio of 18-1, and 95 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch. HGA is authorized by Audubon Center of the North Woods.

The vision and purpose of Higher Ground Academy is to encourage student's maximum intellectual and leadership development to meet 21st century educational standards of education. To graduate, all students must have evidence of acceptance for a college place.

The school bills itself as "Minnesota's preeminent K-12 Afro-centric charter school."

HGA emerged from Executive Director Bill Wilson's belief that charter schools offer greater flexibility to serve students struggling in the traditional public school system. The former St. Paul city council member and state Commissioner of Human Rights was joined early in the school's development by Dr. Samuel Yigzaw, then a University of Minnesota graduate student. Their shared passion for serving black students falling behind in traditional public schools has been the school's driving force throughout its history.

The school opened in the

fall of 1999 for kindergarten to ninth grade students. An additional grade year was added each year until it became a K-12 school in the fall of 2002. The school has almost a 100 percent graduation rate.

While HGA has always catered to black students, as time went on the demographics changed from being predominantly African-American to predominantly East African students.

Some of the school's students have recently immigrated, some are first-generation immigrants but have been in the United States for a period, and some were born in the United States but still share the culture of their immigrant family. In addition to English being new to many students, formal education itself is new.

HGA's leadership is not hierarchical but is instead vertical. Under the guidance of the principal and executive director, leadership is distributed to grade-level team leaders who take the place of an assistant principal.

The tenets of Higher Ground Academy are that all children can learn; that children learn all of the time; that experience teaches immediately; and that expectations are built on experience.

More information on the school can be found at [www.hg-academy.org](http://www.hg-academy.org).

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# Neighborhood involvement sought for Como Lake clean-up

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) held the first of three community meetings regarding the future of Como Lake on Aug. 9 at the Como Pavilion.

Community members are encouraged to attend the two remaining meetings and become part of this public advisory group. CRWD staffer Bob Fossum said, "It's crucial that we tap into the wealth of engaged neighbors, citizens, and users of Como Lake."

"Como Lake is a shallow, urban lake with a fully developed watershed," Fossum explained. "For the last 20 years, our organization has worked on installing projects to capture nutrient-laden runoff including rain gardens, stormwater ponds, and underground infiltration systems. Despite all this work, water quality improvement is still needed. Our emphasis has been on the watershed; now it's time for us to start looking directly at the lake."

The Como Lake Strategic Management Plan was created in 2002 and has been the blueprint for efforts to protect, manage and im-



Shoreline buffers help to capture stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways, and parking lots in the fully built-out watershed that feeds Como Lake. The tall-growing native plants reduce shoreline erosion by holding the soil in place and discourage geese from congregating on the water's edge. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

prove the lake ever since. The plan is being updated to reflect the latest science, innovations in stormwater management, and community goals for the lake. CRWD intends to use input from their citizen advisory group, as well as agency input, to help create a more balanced eco-system.

Como Lake has been a St. Paul

destination spot since the mid-1800's and has gone through many changes in that time. Its current size is 72 acres, some 50 acres smaller than it was before the Como Golf Course was built.

In 1925, a significant dredging project added more depth to the lake.

By 1998, Como Lake was suf-

fering from shoreline erosion, water pollution, accumulated litter, and runoff from unfiltered stormwater. The District 10 Council petitioned the State of Minnesota to create the CRWD; its members knew that help was needed to restore the health of Como Lake.

All lakes contain a mixture of nutrients, but the water in this lake is out of balance. Como Lake contains three times as much phosphorous as it should for a lake of its size, which causes an overgrowth of algae to bloom throughout the season. There are three main reasons why this happens: stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, decomposing plants (especially the invasive species Curly Pond Weed), and the process of lake-bottom sediment breaking down.

Each of these events releases phosphorous into the lake, which results in spontaneous algae blooms.

In addition, Como Lake suffers from an unbalanced food web. It holds too many panfish because the larger predator species don't thrive there. Panfish eat zooplankton

which, in a healthy lake, can help to keep the growth of algae in check.

The goal of the updated Como Lake Strategic Management Plan is to identify a holistic, adaptive strategy for in-lake management, to complement the many improvements they've made in watershed management over the last two decades.

Consider becoming part of the public advisory group to make your voice heard. CRWD is partnering with the Fresh Water Society and LimnoTech, a nationally recognized expert on clean water and healthy ecosystems. This is an opportunity for people who care about Como Lake to help shape its future.

The next two public advisory group meetings will be held in November 2018 and February 2019. Contact CRWD's Britta Belden at 651-644-8888 or [britta@capitolregionwd.org](mailto:britta@capitolregionwd.org) with questions about upcoming meetings.

Learn more about the Como Lake management planning process at [capitolregionwd.org/comolake](http://capitolregionwd.org/comolake).

## Different parts of the city see different property tax trends

By JANE MCCLURE

As area neighborhoods' residential home values continue to bounce back from the 2008 recession, St. Paul neighborhoods are seeing mixed results as the 2019 property tax picture takes shape. The highest projected increases in residential market values will be seen in neighborhoods where recovery from the 2008 recession continues—namely Frogtown, Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen and the West Side. Hamline Midway, Como, St. Anthony Park, and Merriam Park saw more modest gains.

In the Midway, Hamline Midway homeowners can expect the highest median home value increases, followed by Como and Merriam Park homeowners. On Aug. 15 City Council members discussed the property tax trends with Ramsey County Auditor/Treasurer Chris Samuel. Samuel presented a neighborhood by neighborhood look at market rate trends, as well as a first look at where property taxes are headed.

"We continue to see good market value growth in the city of St. Paul," Samuel said. "The values

in St. Paul are higher than they've ever been." Properties in St. Paul increased slightly more in value than the suburbs.

Overall in St. Paul, estimated market values are up 7.6% from the prior year. Values are now above the 2008 peak when the nation plunged into a recession.

How levies translate into amounts on property tax statements hinge on several issues, including state actions to set property tax policies and class rates, and various state aids. The county assessor determines market values and assigns property classes. Improvements to properties and sale of comparable properties play roles. Shifts and changes in the tax system also affect what is paid. People won't know what they're paying in 2019 until they get property tax notices in November, said Samuel.

The median value home in St. Paul has an estimated market value of \$186,200 for 2019. That's a value increase of 7.1%. That homeowner paid \$2,156 in property taxes for 2018, based on an estimated market value of \$173,900.

A \$24 decrease would be seen

due to shifts and changes in the property tax system, including a gain of 22.7% or \$5.7 million from the metro area's fiscal disparities pool, changes to the homestead exclusion benefit, and other tax shifts.

The median value home's owner would see a \$153 increase due to the hikes in city, county and regional rail levies. Thus far the levy increase is at \$129 or 5.1%, for a total levy of \$2,645 for 2019. That doesn't include the St. Paul Public Schools and any levy increase planned. The school district must set its maximum levy by Sept. 30.

Neighborhoods that have seen the slowest post-recession recovery will see the highest increases in market value in 2019, said Samuel. Frogtown leads the pack with a 16.3% increase in median estimated residential market value, with values climbing from \$111,700 in 2018 to \$129,900 in 2019. This homeowner paid \$1,416 in 2018 and would pay \$1,682 in 2019. That's a \$266 or 18.8% tax increase.

Tax estimates for 2019 don't include St. Paul Public Schools.

The neighborhood with the lowest median value increase is St.

Anthony Park, at 3.4%. That reflects a market value change that went from \$285,600 in 2018 to \$295,350 for 2019, and tax changes that would go from \$4,491 in 2018 to \$4,514 in 2019. That's a \$23 or .5% increase.

In Hamline Midway, the median value home's market value went up 6.6%, from \$167,700 in 2018 to \$178,800 in 2019. Taxes would increase from \$2,407 in 2018 to \$2,519 in 2019 for a jump of \$112 or 4.7%.

Como's median value home went up 6.4%, from \$204,700 in 2018 to \$217,700 in 2019. Taxes were \$3,061 for 2018 and would be \$3,185 in 2019, for an increase of \$124 or 4.1%.

The neighborhoods of Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, and Lexington-Hamline saw a median home value increase of 4.7%, from \$287,600 to \$301,200. Property taxes would increase from \$4,525

in 2018 to \$4,615 in 2019, up \$90 or 2%.

But remember, these are median values. Individual property owners' values and taxes hinge on a case-by-case basis of home values.

One issue council members noted is confusion over an increase in what local governments levy, and how that translates to property tax bills. People sometimes assume that a levy increase translates automatically into the level of property tax increase.

The city has proposed an 11.5% property tax increase for 2019. Ramsey County has proposed a 4.3% increase for general operations and a 7.8% hike for regional rail. St. Paul Public Schools hasn't set its 2019 levy rates but plans a referendum this fall to raise \$18.6 million. The school district must also wait for information from the state Department of Education every fall to set its levy.

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# St. Paul Ballet's Project Plie at work to reduce barriers to dance

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

For the second year in a row, Hamline Midway's St. Paul Ballet offered a community master class in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of America.

The annual summer class, called Project Plie, is part of a national initiative to increase participation in ballet to promising students of color. Project Plie was launched in New York City by its own American Ballet Theatre in 2013, and master classes like the one held at Mt. Airy Boys and Girls Club in St. Paul happened in 27 cities across the country this summer.

Laura Greenwall is an instructor with the St. Paul Ballet (SPB) and the school director. She is also the only American Ballet Theatre Certified Teacher in the state of Minnesota, and the only teacher who has been invited to offer the Project Plie class here.

Greenwall said, "This project means so much to me because there have historically been barriers to participating in classical ballet: financial barriers, racial barriers, and barriers around body type. Project Plie is perfectly aligned with the mission of SPB, which aims to reduce barriers and improve access to participation."

In mid-August, more than 20 children ages 7-12 took a



45-minute introductory ballet class from Greenwall in the Mt. Airy gym. Project Plie is named for a foundational movement in the ballet vocabulary. The plie is a movement in which a dancer bends his/her knees and straightens them again, usually with the feet turned out and heels placed firmly on the ground.

The students weren't told in advance, but there was a chance that one of them would be selected for an SPB scholarship in their pre-professional division (four hours of training per week). As it turned out, one student demonstrated what Greenwall was looking for: innate musicality, natural coordination, and a strong sense of focus.

"We can't disclose who the student is until we have a commitment from the family," Greenwall said. "We hope that the

student will accept our scholarship, which includes funding from American Ballet Theatre for dancewear and supplies. Depending on how the student develops, financial assistance on our end will be reviewed on a

Project Plie instructor Laura Greenwall (seated left, facing camera) is the school director at St. Paul Ballet and an accomplished teacher. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

yearly basis. There is the potential for this scholarship to be ongoing."

Project Plie was inspired by Misty Copeland, the one and only female African American principal dancer of the American Ballet Theatre in its 75-year history. Copeland is quick to credit her success to the Boys and Girls Club of San Pedro, CA, where she took her first ballet class. She was sitting in the bleachers of the gym where the class was offered, but was too shy to

participate. The volunteer dance teacher took her by the hand and encouraged her to try. She was 13 at the time and living in a motel room with her mother and five siblings.

Copeland quickly made up for lost time. Displaying remarkable athleticism and musicality, as well as a tremendous work ethic, she was performing professionally in just over a year. In 2000, she was invited to join American Ballet Theatre's studio company, and in 2015, she became a principal dancer.

Through Project Plie and other outreach activities, St. Paul Ballet hopes to keep opening doors for dancers who face barriers to participation in the world of classical ballet.

## Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

### Neighborhood parking funds repurposed for pedestrians

Four years after Green Line light rail began operations, dollars once eyed for commercial parking will be redirected to pay for pedestrian safety and public realm improvements. On Aug. 22 the St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Rede-

velopment Authority (HRA) Board, approved the transfer and use of tax increment financing (TIF) dollars needed for the new project.

About \$200,000 in unspent TIF will be used along Snelling Ave. between University and Englewood avenues. The St. Paul Department of Public Works will use the funds in the public right-of-way along Snelling.

Longtime area residents and business owners might remember the outcry when it was learned that space needed for light rail would take out about 85 percent of the parking spaces along University. City officials responded in 2009 with the Neighborhood Commercial Parking Pilot Program. The \$2.1 million program was meant to be split equally between businesses in Ward One and Ward Four along University. Twenty-six projects, ranging from shared parking agreements to the creation of new off-street spaces, were funded through the program.

Most of the funding came from the Snelling-University TIF district, with Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) funds and a scattered-site TIF district also chipping in.

The remaining \$200,000 will be used for various pedestrian safety and public realm improvements along N. Snelling Ave. The top priority identified is at Snelling and Englewood avenues, where Hamline University and Hamline Elementary are across the street from each other. Another spot suggested is at Snelling and Sherburne avenues. Both intersections each have several businesses around them.

Other places along Snelling could also be considered for improvements. But that depends on

costs for the priority areas and if there are funds left over.

Pedestrian safety improvements could include median extensions, enhanced signage, and/or a rapid rectangular flashing beacon. Public Works will look at the costs. The current estimate is \$100,000.

Unspent funding could be allocated to improvements in the Little Africa business district along Snelling. Businesses and other community stakeholders would have input on proposed projects.

### Grants support several projects

Metropolitan Council grants for several development projects, including some in the Midway area, were accepted by St. Paul city officials in August. The grants are sought by developers, but the city must apply on their behalf and then formally accept grants if they are approved.

More than a dozen projects across St. Paul have sought funding in the past year. Not all were funded. Contamination Cleanup and Investigation grants were awarded to two area projects, \$389,136.00 for Legends at Berry Apartments and \$306,800.00 for Metro Deaf School. The apartments are part of a larger complex planned on the former Weyerhaeuser Lumber property at the west city limits. Metro Deaf is moving its school to a new Energy Park Dr. location.

A pre-development grant of \$28,924 was approved for University and Dale. Neighborhood Development Center is leading work on a mixed-use project at the northwest corner of that intersection.

In total, the city received more than \$1.32 million in grants.

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## Pawn America can return

Pawn America can return to its former location, the St. Paul City Council decided Aug. 1. That's despite objections from several neighbors who think the business is a blighting influence on University Ave.

Pawn America had operated at 1636 University Ave. since a conditional use permit was approved in 1997. The business closed less than a year ago. Pawn America had contacted city officials in Sept. 2017 about canceling their pawn shop license. Because the pawn shop use was discontinued less than one year ago, a new conditional use permit doesn't have to be sought, according to city staff.

Rixmann Companies, which owns Pawn America, told city officials at a July licensing hearing that the store was closed during bankruptcy and reorganization of Pawn America. The store will have 15-18 workers when it reopens.

Although city officials got several letters and emails objecting to the pawn shop, no one appeared at a July legislative hearing to speak to the license request. Union Park District Council took no position.

License approval is with two conditions. One is that temporary window signs placed between the height of four to seven above grade shall not cover more than 30 percent of this window space area, and cannot block views into the clerk or cashier station. Also, Pawn America must comply with all federal, state and local laws.

## Big Top Liquors can move

Another change is coming to the evolving Midway Center property. The St. Paul City Council Aug. 1 approved a distance variance for the off-sale liquor store distance requirements for the Applebaum Company, doing business as Big Top Liquors. The approval allows the longtime Midway Center business to move its liquor store from a spot near Spruce Tree Dr. and N. Snelling Ave. to the former Midway Perkins building at 1544 University Ave.

The council also waived the 45-day waiting period for the liquor license change. The vote also approved the move of Big Top's tobacco sales license.

Earlier this year the City Council amended its longtime separation requirements for off-sale liquor stores. The city requires a one-half mile space between stores. Big Top and other area stores are grandfathered in, but a needed move for Big Top put it out of compliance. Its current building is being torn down to make way for an interim parking lot and ultimately redevelopment that will be north of the Allianz Field Major League Soccer stadium.

The move puts the new store with 300 feet of a protected use, so that distance requirement also had to be amended. Schools, places of worship, child care centers and residentially zoned properties are among protected uses in St. Paul. City staff agreed to waive that condition after no objections were raised by immediate neighbors.

Union Park District Council supported the Big Top requests. Business owners were able to obtain seven of nine possible signatures from nearby residential properties for seventy-eight percent support.

## Town House sold

August 22 was Holly Monnett Day in St. Paul. The longtime owner of the Town House bar and restaurant was honored at the St. Paul City Council meeting Aug. 15. Monnett recently sold the business. A large group attended the meeting to wish Monnett well.

Town House, 1415 University Ave., originally opened as the fine dining restaurant Tip Top Tap in 1941, became the Town House in 1949, and was rebranded in 1969 by then-owner Emmett Jewell as the city's first gay bar. It evolved into an LGBTQ-friendly establishment, hosting a wide variety of events and clientele.

The City Council resolution stated that "WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the drinking age being 18, a softball player with the well-known slow-pitch team, Avantis, named Hollis (Holly) Monnett began frequenting the Town House; and WHEREAS, on August 1, 1974, after being laid off from her day-job at a factory, Holly began working at the Town House; starting as a dishwasher and quickly being promoted to bar back and then bartender, requiring her to give up her softball career."

Monnett became Town House manager and then seven years later bought the business in Aug. 1987. In 1990 Monnett and her friend Steve Anderson successfully rebranded the Town House as a gay country western bar named Town House Country, complete with line dancing and two-step lessons, DJs, and a piano lounge in the back room. That changed in 2000 when Town House merged staff and clientele with popular gay bar Over the Rainbow/Foxy's on West 7th when the Over the Rainbow lease was not renewed. The Town House was reborn as a "dive" bar focused on entertainment including karaoke and drag shows.

The Town House was known for supporting a wide range of causes over the years through fundraisers and special events. It has stayed open 365 days a year. The business hung on through Green Line light rail construction thanks to savings Monnett set aside for the construction period.

The council congratulated Monnett on her many years of business and wished her success in the future.

Monnett earlier this year sold the business to Wes Burdine, a Midway resident and co-owner of the Minnesota soccer website FiftyFiveOne. Now named Black Hart, it is being rebranded with a soccer focus, sitting in the shadow of the new soccer stadium across the street. The Black Hart



The logo for Black Hart, the new name of the old Town House on University Ave. (Photo capture from Black Hart website)

is "a neighborhood, LGBTQ+, and soccer bar in the Midway neighborhood of Saint Paul." It is marketing itself as "the new spiritual home for soccer in the Twin Cities, a place to catch matches from around the world of soccer."

## Hooved animals go green

Hooved animals at the Como Zoo will enjoy energy savings. On Aug. 8 the St. Paul City council earmarked funds to make improvements to the 35-year-old heating system in the animals' building, through a city energy conservation loan.

The project is anticipated to result in energy efficiencies and utility cost savings. It had been identified as an eligible project for funding through the City's Energy Conservation Loan Program. The Department of Parks and Recreation Department will use the funds to install two high-efficiency hot water boilers and associated pumps, piping, and valves to improve the heat distribution. This will save money and make the hooved animals more comfortable.

The city has had the program in place since 2007. It helps city departments retrofit city-owned facilities to reduce energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions. Some loans are paid back to the program in five years; the loan for what is dubbed the 'hoofstock' building was granted a waiver.

The \$425,000 renovation project is to be completed yet this year. The city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee recommended approval of the project.

## Landlords get a new task

St. Paul landlords are now required to give tenants voter registration information. With a 5-1 vote, on Aug. 8, the St. Paul City Council adopted an ordinance requiring that all landlords provide new tenants with voter registration information. The ordinance, which goes into effect 30 days after publication, is hailed by voting advocates as reaching renters and helping them to vote.

But is it potentially setting up situations where landlords tell tenants whom to vote for? About a dozen landlords have weighed in against the ordinance, saying it's just another city mandate. Several have said they'd rather post voting information, instead of being told they must provide information on a tenant-by-tenant basis.

Council members Amy Brendmoen, Samantha Henningson, Rebecca Noecker, Dai Thao, and Chris Tolbert voted for the regulation. Jane Prince voted against, and Dan Bostrom was absent.

While she fully supports efforts to encourage renters to vote, Prince said she sees the requirement as potentially affecting the balance of power between landlords and tenants. She said there are other ways to reach renters to encourage them to vote.

"There are other things we should be asking landlords to do," Prince said. She also questioned the enforceability of the ordinance.

Other council members said the measure is needed and will give tenants an incentive to register and vote. Anyone who moves



'Of course, we want to go green!' African Kudus at the Como Zoo would certainly approve the St. Paul City Council earmarking funds, through a city energy conservation loan, to make improvements to the 35-year-old heating system in the animals' building. (Photo courtesy of the Como Zoo website)

needs to register or change their registration to vote at their current address. Noecker said the additional burden on landlords is "minimal." Brendmoen called it a "small request."

The regulations will affect about 15,000 landlords. Landlords will be notified via mail about the regulation.

Failure to comply with the regulation is a petty misdemeanor, with a fine of up to \$300.

Minneapolis has had a similar regulation on its books since 2015. Since March 2016, all Minneapolis landlords must provide voter registration information to their tenants.

The St. Paul measure has the support of Ramsey County officials, who run elections in St. Paul. Joe Mansky, who manages county elections, told the City Council at an Aug. 1 public hearing that "certain parts of the community are chronically underrepresented" in voting. Younger people and renters tend to not vote as often as older people and homeowners.

While Minnesotans can register to vote at the polls, Mansky said that preregistration would be helpful. Preregistration for the Nov. 6 general election ends Oct. 16.

Prince asked Mansky if there are other ways to reach voters. He described how the county uses posters in public places as well as social media to encourage voter registration.

Mansky said registration information had been sent with water bills, but that water is often paid by landlords and not tenants.

Others who spoke and wrote the council in support said the new requirement will add to voter participation. But landlords, more than a dozen of whom have contacted the City Council, said such a program should be voluntary.

"What's going to be next?" asked 27-year landlord Richard Grogan. He and other landlords said that despite their best efforts to give tenants as much information as possible, some tenants don't even read their leases.

## Soccer stadium gets another ordinance change

The Allianz Field Major League Soccer stadium reached its goal, but the downtown Treasure Island Center Tria Rink complex is on the sidelines. On Aug. 22 the St. Paul City Council approved a package of sign ordinance

amendments, including some that allow entrance and pylon signs at the soccer stadium under construction at Snelling and University avenues.

Before the 5-0 vote, Ward Four Council Member Samantha Henningson removed ordinance language specific to Treasure Island-Tria. "There are concerns with the regulations proposed for downtown, and some questions about whether those have broader implications," she said. "So, they need to wait."

Henningson, who ended her tenure as interim council member Aug. 22, said the rest of the changes could move ahead in the future. Other council members agreed that they need more time to review the issue before voting on it.

The Midway and downtown facilities' sign needs were wrapped into an ordinance with several other technical sign regulation changes. The curve thrown into the current debate is how St. Paul regulates advertising signs at sports facilities, ranging from Dunning Field to Xcel Energy Center. St. Paul allows advertising signs at specific sports facilities, in the form of features including outfield fences, dasher boards or golf hole sponsor signs.

The Aug. 22 vote allows the technical changes to go ahead, along with provisions that allow pylon signs and entrance signs at Allianz Field.

Most of the controversy centered on the downtown facility, which is in the former Macy's/Dayton's department store building. Part of the proposal for that facility is to allow dynamic signage, which can change messages or pictures. It also can be used to show video clips.

The St. Paul Port Authority, which developed Treasure Island-Tria, sought the changes for its facility. But before the council's Aug. 1 public hearing, a move to drop the minimum 300-foot distance between dynamic signs and residences, places of worship and schools was shut down. Port officials have said they may rent space at Treasure Island to a school and need the distance requirement eliminated. But council members pushed back and dropped the amendment on a 4-2 vote, at the behest of Scenic St. Paul and others concerned about excessive signage.



# In Our Community

## Monitor

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for the next print edition of the Monitor. You can also go to our website, [MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://MonitorSaintPaul.com) and enter your information in the online Event Calendar.

### Hamline Fall Festival scheduled Oct. 6

Family, friends, and neighbors are invited to the 5th Annual Hamline Elementary Fall Festival on Sat., Oct. 6, from 12-4:30pm. This free, family-friendly event features live entertainment, games and activities, community exhibitors and vendors, food for purchase, and a bake sale. All are welcome to the grounds of the school, 1599 Englewood Ave.

### Painting dedicated at Jehovah Lutheran

A painting commissioned by the family of Edna Reasoner was dedicated Sept. 9 at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave. Reasoner, who died in 2015 at age 98, became a member of the church in 1931 and was a regular library volunteer at Central Lutheran School.

The Reasoner family provided a memorial gift to the congregation to be used for an original work of art for the church building. Keith Williams, long-time chair of the department of art and art history at Concordia University-St. Paul, was commissioned to do the painting, which will hang in the entry to the church's Drews Chapel.

The theme of the painting is Christian education, "which Edna Reasoner valued a great deal," explains artist Williams. "The scene is a slightly abstract or surreal church library setting in which a diverse group of people responds to the teachings of Jesus in different ways.

"Edna is depicted in the scene, but as one of many. She is not the feature of the painting, as she understood it is the Word of God that is of key importance."

### 'A Timeless Love' to be screened Oct. 5

Many have experienced the impact of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia on someone in their life. The film "A Timeless Love" captures that impact in an honest and compassionate depiction, which Lyngblomsten would like to share with the community.

Lyngblomsten will host a special screening of the film at 6:30pm on Fri., Oct. 5, in the Newman-Benson Chapel on its campus at 1415 Almond Ave. The free event is open to the public, including people with dementia, their family members and caregivers, and anyone committed to supporting them on their journey.

"The challenges regarding dementia shown in "A Timeless Love" are similar to ones that are playing out in many families across the country," said Carolyn Klaver, a registered nurse who is the community dementia special-



The Midway YMCA sent a team to play in the World Handball Tournament. (Photo provided)

### Midway YMCA sponsors six at tournament

The Midway YMCA sent six very qualified Youth Handball players, ages 14 to 18, to play in the World Handball Tournament, where ten countries were represented. On the last day of the tournament, Joseph Lallier played eight games back to back to win Fourth Place in the World for the Midway Y program.

The East Side of Saint Paul had three of the six players; they were Antonio Flores, David Flores and Jose Flores. All players representing the East Side played well. Antonio Flores played Lallier in three games.

This fall 2018 free handball programs will be offered at the University of Minnesota and at the Midway YMCA, 1761 University Ave. W. Call the Y at 651-646-4557 for more information.

ist for Lyngblomsten. "We'd like to take the opportunity to show this film and get people talking about dementia and its impact on their community, their family and friends, and their own life."

A question-and-answer session featuring Klaver and Lori La Bey, CEO and founder of Alzheimer's Speaks, will follow the film showing.

Released in January 2016, "A Timeless Love"—formerly titled "His Neighbor Phil"—focuses on married couple Harvey and Mary. Mary develops early-onset Alzheimer's, and Harvey finds himself doing anything he can to keep her memories from fading. It shows the effects of the disease not only on Mary but also on the entire family and community as it focuses mostly on the tireless work of her caregivers. The movie was filmed south of the Twin Cities in Zumbrota, Minn.

### PCs for People gets \$100,000 grant

PCs for People, 1481 Marshall Ave., will significantly expand its computer and internet training classes thanks to a \$100,000 digital literacy grant from the Otto Bremer Trust (OBT). "Digital literacy"—knowing how to use technology to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information—is necessary to fully participate in society today.

The Digital Training Department at PCs for People will begin offering new classes starting Sept. 17, including Google Drive Basics, Fact Checking on the internet, and Microsoft Office. "Students will receive professional

quality technology training from the twelve classes, media offerings, employment resources, and language assistance available in partnership with other local nonprofits," according to Digital Training Manager George Xenos. All classes will be hands-on and small so learners can get individualized instruction.

The average PCs for People customer is a three-person household making \$12,500 a year. The OBT grant enables PCs for People to greatly expand the effectiveness of its services.

### Luncheon program restarts Sept. 25

Episcopal Homes is renewing its monthly Lunch, Learn and Laugh program on Tues., Sept. 25, 11:30am-1pm, at Seabury senior Housing, 1830 University Ave. The cost is \$8 (cash or check only). They request RSVPs by Sept. 21 to [KMeyer@Episcopal-Homes.org](mailto:KMeyer@Episcopal-Homes.org) or call 651-379-5102.

"Your Brain Matters: Prevention and Resources for Memory Loss" is the scheduled program as presented by Mabel Rohr, Geriatric Nurse Practitioner with Health Partners. She will educate on memory loss prevention and available resources.

The lunch will include chicken wild rice soup, garden salad, breadsticks, light dessert, with coffee and water.

### New novel penned by local author

David Bailey, a longtime mem-



In July, Old National Bank visited Tech Dump's St. Paul office, 698 Prior Ave. N., to present the organization with a grant for its workforce development efforts. (Photo provided)

### Tech Dump gets bank foundation grant

During the last week of July, the Old National Bank Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Old National Bank, presented a check for \$7,500 to Tech Dump, 698 Prior Ave. N., a nonprofit that provides job training and transitional work for adults in need.

"We are grateful for this generous grant to support our important job readiness work," said Tech Dump CEO Amanda LaGrange. "With the current workforce shortage within the Twin Cities, we know our trainees are an important pool of untapped talent for local employers."

Three times a year, the foundation presents grants to organizations throughout its footprint that fit the following strategic initiatives: affordable housing, early education, economic development, financial literacy, and workforce development.

Before joining Tech Dump, trainees have had a history of experiencing barriers to finding a job—many have been homeless, are recovering from an addiction, or have a criminal history.

This isn't the first partnership between Tech Dump and the bank (formerly known in Minnesota as Anchor Bank). The bank would send its retired IT assets to Tech Dump to process.

"We hope every business will find ways to support our work, either through financial donations or selecting us to process their retired IT assets," said LaGrange.

ber at Jehovah Lutheran Church, is the author of "Barley Corn John," published earlier this year (Page Publishing Inc., 2018, 241 pages, \$17). Fiction with a tinge of memoir, it outlines the exploits of its namesake character.

Set in St. Paul and points north, it reflects author Bailey's youth, when he lived near the State Fairgrounds and University of Minnesota agriculture campus. The book's promotional language touts its "dreamy humor and youthful adventure."

Bailey, a retired insurance agent who turns 80 in September, was also a commissioned U.S. Army infantry officer and is a licensed pilot. The book is available by asking for it on a print-on-demand basis at bookstores; or from [pagepublishing.com/books/?book=barley-corn-john](http://pagepublishing.com/books/?book=barley-corn-john) and other websites.

### Adopt-A-Drain expands reach

More people will be able to protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers through Hamline University's Adopt-A-Drain program expansion after launching it at the Minnesota State Fair.

Through the program, every resident of the seven-county metro area can adopt a storm drain.

By adopting a drain, participants make a year-long commitment to keeping it clear of leaves, trash and sediment. These simple

steps keep debris from washing down the storm drain and becoming pollution in local waterways.

Last winter and spring, Saint Paul participants diverted more than 40,000 pounds of debris from metro area lakes and rivers.

In preparation for the expansion, a new website was launched in mid-August. So, if you did not sign up at the fair, you can still do so at [www.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.adopt-a-drain.org).

### Bible study group meets at Jehovah

A women's Bible study on 2 Corinthians will meet at 6:30pm on select Wednesdays in the lounge at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave. Sessions are free, refreshments are provided, and all are welcome.

The basis for the sessions will be "All Things New" by Christian author Kelly Minter. According to promotional material, the book and eight-part DVD explore issues including "opening wide your heart in the midst of hurtful relationships" and "what it means to embrace the lost and lonely as ministers of the new covenant."

Although the group first met Sept. 12, you are invited to attend any or all of the sessions at the church at 6:30pm. Meetings are planned for Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10 and 24; Nov. 7 and 28; and Dec. 12.

Continued on page 10



## In Our Community

Continued from page 9

### Annual TC Book Festival set Oct. 13

The Twin Cities Book Festival—sponsored by the local literary organization Rain Taxi—is planned for Sat., Oct. 13, 10am-5pm at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

The festival is an annual get-together for the Twin Cities' devoted book community. The free, day-long festival presents internationally renowned visiting authors, local literary heroes, activities for kids, plus a giant book fair which offers both a snapshot of the publishing scene and great deals on books (new and used), magazines, book art, and more. Between 6,000 and 7,000 people have attended this one-day event in recent years.

Both the Progress Center and the Fine Arts Center at the Fairgrounds are used for festival activities.

The Progress Center houses the Festival's popular Book Fair, where over 140 literary organizations, publishers, book dealers, authors, magazines, and more display their bookish wares, as well as the Children's Pavilion and Youth Stages, where children of all ages will be entertained by activities and presentations.

The Fine Arts Center is home to conversations, readings, panels, and book launches by visiting and local authors. There are already almost 20 children's and YA authors scheduled to appear at the festival.

Keep up to date on all information about the festival online at [www.raintaxi.com/twin-cities-book-festival](http://www.raintaxi.com/twin-cities-book-festival).

### Beginners hand drum class scheduled

There will be a Hand Drum

for Beginners class on Tues., Sept. 18, 5:30-6:30pm at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. Participants will learn hand drum technique using West African Drums. Basic technique will be taught using patterns and rhythms to build the skills to play layered pieces. No experience necessary and the cost is \$10 at the door with drums provided. Info and registration can be found at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

### Central Lutheran closed permanently

Central Lutheran School held their Farewell Celebration Potluck and Reunion on Aug. 23. The school, which was located at 775 Lexington Pkwy. N., has closed its doors after many years of service to the community.

### Frogtown Harvest Fest slated Sept. 22

Frogtown Park & Farm, 946 Milton Ave., will hold its fun-filled Harvest Fest on Sat., Sept. 22, 11am-2pm. This is a FREE event featuring horse-drawn wagon rides, food, music and activities for all ages. Enjoy the fresh bread and warm harvest stew served in Frogtown Farm's outdoor kitchen. Say hello to neighbors, friends, and fall! The park is accessible on foot, bike, bus, and Greenline. Parking is limited. Harvest Fest is hosted by Frogtown Farm and Frogtown Green.

### Hope for Recovery Workshop scheduled

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold a free, interactive workshop that provides families and

individuals with information on mental illnesses, practical coping strategies, and hope for recovery. The workshop will be held in St. Paul at Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St., on Sat., Sept. 29, from 9am to 3pm. For information or to register call 651-645-2948 or see "classes" at [namimn.org](http://namimn.org). Free, but a donation is requested.

### Spruce Tree takes LEED Gold

1600 Spruce Tree, formerly Spruce Tree Centre has been awarded LEED® Gold. The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is the foremost program for buildings, homes, and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained for improved environmental and human health performance.

The iconic, five-story, 145,000 square foot office building located in the Midway area, boasts numerous amenities that designate the building as "green." Aside from its distinctive green-tile exterior and tree-like shape, solar panels and water saving devices aid in energy conservation and reduced waste.

### Book Talk with MN Author Sept. 30

Minnesota author Donna Gingery will talk about her book series, "Red's Adventures," on Sun., Sept. 30, 2-3pm, at Can Can Wonderland, 755 Prior Ave. N. Gingery's hilarious book, "Red's Adventures: The Egg Pie," is geared for children ages 4 to 8, and finds the main character, Red, in many predicaments that she responds to with grit, wit, and a wild imagination.

Red is a precocious African-American girl, growing up in

Selma, Alabama. Under the watchful eye of her "Granny," Red meets everyday challenges with creative expression, humor and a gift for storytelling. In this first book, Red is warned by her Granny not to be eating up everybody's food, but Red only remembers what her Granny says when it is too late.

### Refugees need winter clothes

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., is collecting winter items for refugees from the troubled nation of Congo, including warm clothes, bedsheets, blankets, and kitchen wares.

Among recent arrivals are families of 12, 10 and six individuals, according to CEEDS, the Center for Employment and Education Development Services. CEEDS maintains an office at the church to help refugees from Congo, which has endured years of fighting factions' armed violence.

Donors can leave items at the church's Donation Center, indoors to the left of the entry at 1566 Thomas before or after worship at 10:15am Sundays. Or, call or email the church (651-644-1421, [jehovahlutheran@msn.com](mailto:jehovahlutheran@msn.com)) to set up another time. Place items in shopping carts provided. Tax vouchers for donors are available as well.

CEEDS also accepts monetary donations. Checks can be made out to CEEDS and left at the church office or mailed to the church, 1566 Thomas, St. Paul MM 55104. Contacts include Pastor Justin Byakweli, 651-230-8957, [justin.byakweli@ceedsusa.org](mailto:justin.byakweli@ceedsusa.org); and church member Shirley Dorow, [dorow@csp.edu](mailto:dorow@csp.edu).

### Clovia Marketplace slated Oct. 12-13

Mark your calendars now for the

Clovia Marketplace, Fri., Oct. 12 from 9am-6:30pm, and Sat., Oct. 13 from 10am-1pm at the Continuing Education Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota-St. Paul.

All items are handcrafted or repurposed by Clovia members and alumni. Shop items like specialty foods, woven rugs, holiday items, nature crafts, home decor, tot shop, accessories, antiques, and collectibles.

The Beta of Clovia Marketplace is held every other year in October to raise money to support cooperative living by the members of the Beta of Clovia Sorority.

### Reading volunteers needed at Chelsea

Chelsea Heights Elementary, 1557 Huron St., is looking for weekly Reading Volunteers for the 2018-2019 school year.

Reading Volunteers meet Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30-9:15am to read one-on-one with three different students in 1st-3rd grade for 15 minutes. Chelsea provides the books, the students, and the coffee.

If you are interested, please contact Maura Thompson at [maura.thompson@spps.org](mailto:maura.thompson@spps.org) or call Chelsea Heights at 651-293-8790. The new season begins the week of Oct. 1.

### NAMI holds partner support group

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners and Spouses Support Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at

Continued on page 11

# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by October 1 for the October 11 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Oct. 1 for the Oct. 11 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

### ATTORNEY

Creative Solutions With a Personal Touch. Legal Services in the areas of: Small Business, Wills and Trusts, Probate, Real Estate, and Family. Kirsten Libby, 855 Rice Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN, 651-487-1208 [www.libby-lawoffice.com](http://www.libby-lawoffice.com). B-18

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### AUTO STORAGE

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### LAWN CARE

Lawn/Snow Service, Yard/Gutter Cleaning, Roof Snow/Ice.. 651-688-9977. B-18

### OFFICE SPACE

Quiet, professional office space with free, attached parking. Single offices up to 10,000 sf. Building information available at [hamlinepp.com](http://hamlinepp.com). Contact Eric with Colliers at 952-837-3087. 9-18

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### PAINTING

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### NEXT DEADLINE:

October 1

### NEXT PUBLICATION:

October 11

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Midway Pop Up Shop is accepting applications for vendors for the Nov. 24 Small Business Saturday Event. Each year local vendors come together in one spot on Small Business Saturday, 10am-4pm, Sat., Nov. 24—making it easy to shop local for the holidays. Apply to be a vendor today! Vendor application closes on Sept. 15. To learn more or sign up visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/popupshop](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/popupshop).

### Clayland Park handball court open house

Join us for an open house to review and discuss plans for a proposed handball court at Clayland Park, 5:30-6:30pm, Thur., Sept. 19 at Clayland Park, 901 Fairview Ave. N. Meet with representatives from the Minnesota State Handball Association, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, and Hamline Midway Coalition.

The months of September and October offer plenty of reasons to stop by the Hamline Midway Library at 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. You can find great programs, Internet access, portable WiFi hotspots, books, CDs, DVDs, and more at our neighborhood gathering place, all free with your library card.

### Programs for Families and Kids

**Preschool Storytimes** in English happen Fridays, 10:30-11am, with upcoming events on Sept. 14, 21, and 28 and Oct. 5 and 12. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. They're a great way for caregivers to bond with children and build social skills, listening comprehension, and letter and number recognition while creating a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Children of all activity levels are welcome!

**Evening Storytimes** happen Tuesdays from 6-6:30pm on Sept.

# Hamline Midway Coalition

By MELISSA CORTES, Community Organizer

## Register now for Small Business Saturday on Nov. 24

### Fall Festival

All are welcome at the annual Hamline Elementary Fall Festival, 12-4:30pm, Sat., Oct. 6 at the Hancock Recreation Center, 1610 Hubbard Ave. For more information, visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/fallfestival](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/fallfestival) or contact Pete McCauley with the Hamline Elementary PTA at [HamlineElementaryPTA@gmail.com](mailto:HamlineElementaryPTA@gmail.com) or 651-558-6290.

### Adopt-a-storm drain

Help protect the Mississippi River

today! By adopting a storm drain in the Hamline Midway, you can improve water quality by preventing unwanted materials from entering the Mississippi.

Learn more at [www.hamlinemidway.org/adoptadrain](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/adoptadrain) or contact the HMC Environment Committee at [environment@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:environment@hamlinemidway.org).

### Engagement Committee

The HMC Community Engagement Committee has been continuing to collect information

from meet-ups and events in the community. The main questions are: 'What are your concerns in the neighborhood?' and 'What are your ideas for the neighborhood?'

HMC visited 16 National Night Out gatherings to connect with neighbors and hear their ideas. Thank you to everyone who hosted and gathered with your neighbors. CEC also visited Hamline Elementary, Galtier Community School, and LEAP High School during their Back to

School Open Houses.

We will continue to expand out in community and grow our connection to each other. Our next CEC meeting is at Hamline Library on Tues., Oct. 2, at 6:30pm. Have a great September!

### Coalition committee meetings

**Board of Directors:** 3rd Tuesday of each month

**Community Engagement:** 1st Tuesday of each month

**Development:** 2nd Thursday of each month

**Environment:** 4th Monday of each month

**Transportation:** 1st Monday of each month

Meetings are held at the Hamline Library at 630pm. For more information visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/work/committees](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/work/committees).

# News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

## Celebrate at the library with activities for the whole family

18 and 25 and Oct. 2, 9, and 16.

The **Show and Tell Book Club** for grades 1-4 meets on Sat., Sept. 22, 1:30-2:15pm, to share books and do fun literacy activities together.

Sat., Oct. 13 from 11:30am-5pm is **Math and Science Day** at the library. School-age children and their families are invited to explore math and science with fun crafts and hands-on activities. As part of the fun that day, the Science Saturday series of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities will feature the theme

"Spooky Shadows" from 1:30-3pm. How spooky can you make a shadow? What kinds of shadows can you make? Participants can also paint a glow-in-the-dark mask.

### For Adults

On Wed., Sept. 26, 1-3pm, **Jody's Documentary Film Series** will show the film "Nowhere to Hide" by Zaradasht Ahmed. The film follows Iraqi nurse Nori Sharif and his family as they are forced to leave their home to outrun conflicts between government militias and

ISIS. The filmmaker does a frighteningly good job of making viewers feel as if they're right there in the family car, barely able to stay one step ahead of violence. Watch the film, enjoy snacks, and stay for the discussion afterward facilitated by Jody. The film series is a collaboration of the award-winning PBS POV series, the Hamline Midway Library, the Hamline Midway Coalition, and the Hamline Midway Elders.

The **Novels at Night Book Club** meets on Thur., Sept. 27, 6:30-7:30pm. This book club

aimed at adult fiction enthusiasts will discuss M.L. Stedman's "The Light Between Oceans," the story of a couple who move to an isolated Australian light-house and claim a baby washed up on shore—with devastating consequences.

On Wed., Oct. 3, 7-8pm, **Park Square Theater presents "Behind the Curtain,"** a look at their production of The Agitators, a play about the 45-year friendship between Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. Enjoy a behind-the-scenes peek at the play with cast members Mikell Sapp and Emily Gunyou Halaas.

The **Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club** meets on Sat., Oct. 6, 1-2pm, to discuss good mystery novels. Contact volunteer G. Balter for book list or more information at [gerribalter@gmail.com](mailto:gerribalter@gmail.com) or 651-224-5570.

## In Our Community

Continued from page 10

6:30pm, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or Sara at 763-350-6502.

## La Leche League meets Oct. 9

The next meeting of the La Leche League of St. Paul Como-Midway will be held on Tues., Oct. 9, from 7-8:45pm. The discussion will focus on breastfeeding-related issues. Please contact Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more details.

## Emotions Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Emotions Anonymous (EA) meets each Wednesday, 7pm, at the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Use the rear entrance and ring the bell to gain admittance. The meeting is upstairs in Room 7.

## Events at Merriam Park Library

The Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., is planning several events in the coming weeks.

"¡Adiós, Mariposas Monarcas! - Farewell, Monarch Butterflies!" is planned for Tues., Sept. 18, 10:30-11:30am. The monarch butterflies are headed to Mexico for the

winter! Come and celebrate their amazing migration journey with a storytime featuring these amazing insects. Listen to stories about how a monarch transforms from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. We'll share the book "A Butterfly is Born" by Melvin Berger; dance the "Life of a Butterfly" together; and meet an enterprising little caterpillar puppet. A craft activity follows the performance. For preschool and early elementary age children.

Board at the Library will be held Wednesdays, 2-4:30pm. Join others for board games such as Apples to Apples Jr., Clue, Chess, Checkers, and more. Or, bring your own board games.

"You Can Make It!" takes place at the library on Mondays, 3-5pm, with hands-on crafts and activities for kids ages 7 to 11.

Paw Pals with Katie and Kerrie is planned for Thur., Oct. 4, 6-7pm. Read to a friendly dog who loves to sit and listen to stories. For young readers ages 6-12. Please register by calling 651-642-0385 or stopping by the library's service desk.

Open Lab for Writers meets every Thursday, 10:30am-noon. There is no instructor. This is an opportunity to meet, discuss, or work on whatever you're writing. All styles welcome!

Tech Help Clinics are scheduled for Thursdays, 11:30-12:30pm, Fridays, noon-2pm, and Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. The clinics are for all tablets smartphones. Bring your questions and, problems, and concerns. If we can't answer the question, we'll find resources or organizations that can! No regis-

tration required.

Merriam Park Book Club meets Mon., Sept. 24, 6:30-7:30pm. The book this month is "Graveyard" by Neil Gaiman.

## News from Hamline Midway Elders

The Annual Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction will be held Fri., Sept. 21 from 5-7pm at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. People of all ages are invited to the annual fundraising and community building event. Tickets are \$5 for seniors and children under 10, \$10 for all others in advance, and \$12 for others at the door.

Exercise Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Sept. 18 from 1:30-2:30pm at Hamline Church United Methodist.

A Defensive Driving Refresher Class (four hours) is scheduled for Wed., Sept. 19, 6pm at Hamline Church United Methodist. Older adult participants should have previously taken the initial 8-hour class, and need the 4-hour refresher every three years. Certificates will be provided which should help participants get or maintain a discount on their auto insurance premiums. Registration is required for this class so there are enough materials for each class participant. Contact Tom Fitzpatrick of Hamline Midway Elders, 651-209-6542, or email [tom@hmelders.org](mailto:tom@hmelders.org).

Reading Buddies are wanted the first and third Wednesdays starting Sept. 19 at 10:45 am at

Hamline Elementary School, 1599 Englewood Ave. HME partnership with Hamline Elementary School and the Reading Buddy Program returns with the start of a new school year. Third-grade students enjoy reading to neighborhood elders, so we're hoping to recruit even more older adults to participate. No experience is necessary, just a desire to interact with children. And you don't have to attend every session, just come when your schedule permits.

Knitting Group meets Mondays, 1-3pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist. Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. New participants are always welcome.

Jody's Documentary Film Series will screen the film "Nowhere to Hide" on Wed., Sept. 26, 1pm at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. The film follows an Iraqi hospital nurse and his family who are forced to leave their home. Snacks are provided and people of all ages are welcome to attend these free last Wednesday of the month events.

Tai Chi Classes will begin on Mondays starting Oct. 1, 11:30am-12:30pm at Hamline Church United Methodist. Kathy Carlson leads an eight-week series each spring and fall. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise that increases flexibility and strength; reduces the pain and stiffness of arthritis, and improves balance. Older adults who have never participated in a Tai Chi class are encouraged to give this a try.

For more information, con-

tact Tom Fitzpatrick at Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or [tom@hmelders.org](mailto:tom@hmelders.org).

## Epilepsy Walk scheduled Sept. 22

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN), 1600 University Ave. W., is hosting its annual Rise Above Seizures Walk to raise awareness of epilepsy and support people with seizures. The event helps raise funds that are used to support programs and services for the 200,000 people EFMN serves annually.

The Twin Cities Metro Rise Above Seizures Walk will be held at 8:30am on Sat., Sept. 22 at Wolfe Park, 3700 Monterey Dr, St. Louis Park. Walkers from across the Twin Cities Metro area will come together on this one day to support the 1 in 26 people that will develop epilepsy during their lifetime. 100% of the funds raised in each city will be reinvested back into that community.

"The EFMN walks provide an opportunity to celebrate community while at the same time honoring those affected by epilepsy. Every year I am touched by the personal stories I hear from our walkers and the passion they display in raising awareness," said Heidi Fisher, Executive Director at EFMN.

Visit [efmn.org/walk](http://efmn.org/walk) for more details or to sign-up for the event. Event sponsors: Greenwich Biosciences, Lundbeck, Minnesota Epilepsy Group, MINCEP Epilepsy Care, Sanford Health, UCB, and Upsher-Smith Laboratories.



# Hamline professor writes book on cancer, trauma, and ministry

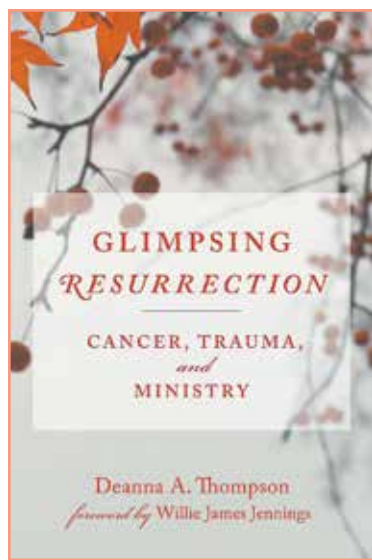
By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Dr. Deanna Thompson, a professor of religion at Hamline University for 22 years, released her fifth book last month, entitled "Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry." The launch party in August drew together colleagues, university administrators, cancer patients, religious leaders, chaplains, health care professionals, family, and friends.

Thompson said, "My new book explores what it's like to be undone by cancer, and how the lens of trauma enables us to better understand the long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual effects of illness."

In 2008, Thompson was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer, despite having up-to-date mammograms and lacking the gene for breast cancer. Stage IV, or metastatic breast cancer, are terms used to describe an advanced stage where cancer has spread from its original site in the breast to other tissues and organs in the body. Before receiving her diagnosis, Thompson's breast cancer had metastasized to her spine—mysteriously breaking not one, but two, of her vertebrae. She has spent the last ten years thinking, writing, and talking about how cancer and faith might co-exist.

"Eighty percent of people with metastatic breast cancer live only five years after diagnosis, and I'm on year 10," Thompson explained. "There's hope that, in the future, this will be experienced more as a



"Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry" can be purchased at the Hamline University Bookstore, and at Amazon.com. (Image from Amazon.com)

chronic condition, like diabetes. In the meantime, I'm passionate about helping those who are living with cancer and other serious illnesses expand the way they tell their stories."

While researching her book, Thomson learned that the vast majority of cancer patients display two or more persistent symptoms of trauma. Yet, the most recent mental health diagnostic manual (called the DSM-5) refers to serious illnesses like Thompson's as part of the "normal vicissitudes of life."

To hear Thompson tell it, there was nothing "normal" about what she experienced in



Dr. Deanna Thompson of Hamline University said, "In the future, there's hope that a Stage IV cancer diagnosis won't be a death sentence. As a patient with incurable cancer, the question for me is 'How do I live with cancer?' not 'How do I beat it?'" (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

the last ten years. "At the age of 42, I had to resign from my full and beautiful life: I was the Religion Department Chair at Hamline University, actively engaged in school activities with my two young daughters,

and suddenly I felt like a spectator in my own life. I couldn't imagine myself in a year, let alone five years. Going through the worst parts of the treatment, I was just trying to survive," she said.

Thompson is a researcher, an author, an educator, and a theologian. "I still have a lot of questions," she said, "many of which probably won't be answered in this life. I'm learning to live with those spaces of irresolution. I have a daily practice of reading the psalms now, even if I feel I can't talk to God sometimes. There are 150 psalms in the Bible, and 60 of them are laments. For people of faith who are turning to God in times of illness, there can be a sense of guilt for being angry at God. I believe that lament, argument, and protest are all faithful responses."

She concluded, "Initially, I felt like I had experienced a resurrection. I thought I was going to die, and then I lived. Now, I've been living this way for quite a while. As the science of medicine evolves, we're keeping people alive longer. If you're one of the lucky ones who survive, then what? One of the scariest things for me was signing up for my life a second time because I know that I might have to resign again. Medical professionals and people working in pastoral care could benefit from this understanding of trauma and serious illness."

For information on upcoming, local speaking engagements visit [www.deannaathompson.com](http://www.deannaathompson.com). "Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry" can be purchased at the Hamline University Bookstore, and at Amazon.com.

## Join us on October 13

for a full lineup of FREE Hamline Alumni Weekend events



### LEO LECTURES

Four hour-long hot topic talks from Hamline professors

- Anderson Center
- noon–5 p.m.



### PIZZA PALOOZA WITH HAMLIN CHURCH

Everyone's favorite food, right from the pizza oven

- Hamline Church
- 11 a.m.–1 p.m.



### THE FALL FEST

Lawn games, treats, a bounce house, balloon artists, and other fun for kids

- Anderson Center Patio
- 11 a.m.–2 p.m.



### BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS OF HAMLIN

Get a sneak peek into life at Hamline

- Various campus locations
- 2 p.m.–5 p.m. (tours begin on the hour)



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Please register to attend these and other Hamline Alumni Weekend events. Information and registration for all activities can be found at [hamline.edu/alumniwknd](http://hamline.edu/alumniwknd).

Questions? Contact Christine Weeks at [cweeks03@hamline.edu](mailto:cweeks03@hamline.edu).